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Train services from Colombo to Jaffna will resume after modernization of the railway track of Northern Line

The train operations to Jaffna from Colombo will resume from the 15th July, 2023 (Saturday) after modernization of the railway track between Anuradhapura and Omanthai under Maho-Omanthai Railway Development project.The train journeys from Colombo to Jaffna,which were stopped from 5th January, 2023 due to enhance the track condition of Northern Line from Maho to Omanthai in order to facilitate the safe,efficient and comfortable transportation for the passengers and freight transportation.

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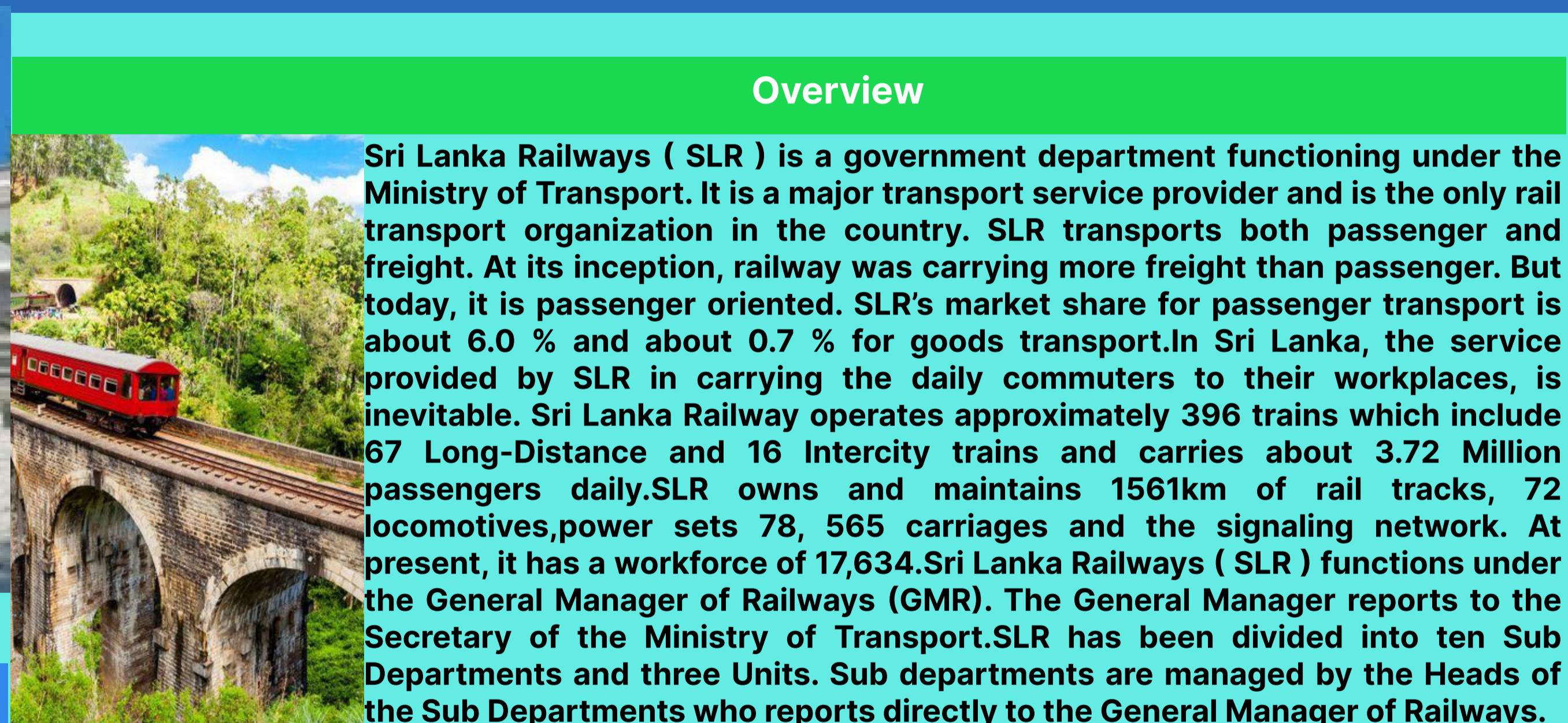
History



Rail was introduced in Sri Lanka in 1864 to transport coffee from plantations in the hill country district of Kandy to the port city of Colombo on its way to Europe and the world market. The coffee blight of 1871 destroyed many a fine plantation and tea replaced coffee. With the development of tea plantations in the 1880s, the joint stock companies swallowed up the former individual proprietorship of the coffee era. Under corporate ownership and management control by companies, the process of production of tea became more sophisticated and needed more and more railways built to the Kandyan highlands. To send tea to Colombo and to transport labour, machinery, manure, rice and foodstuff, etc to Kandy, another 100 miles of railways were constructed in the tea planting districts to serve the expanding tea domain. To serve the coconut plantations flourishing in the west, south west and north west coastal areas of the country, and the wet inland rubber plantations below the tea belt, railway lines were built in the wake of these agricultural developments. Thereafter, the need for cheap and safe travel in order to open up the hinterland of the country led to the expansion of the railway. An extension of the Main Line to Kandy was made north to the ancient city of Anuradhapura, going further north to Kankesanturai and west to Talaimannar to connect the island with South India by ferry, to bring Indian labour for the tea and rubber plantations, and also import rice and other food stuffs not indigenous produced in sufficient quantities.



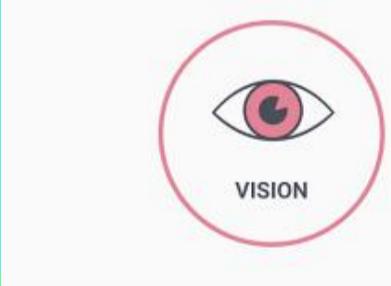
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Overview

Sri Lanka Railways (SLR) is a government department functioning under the Ministry of Transport. It is a major transport service provider and is the only rail transport organization in the country. SLR transports both passenger and freight. At its inception, railway was carrying more freight than passenger. But today, it is passenger oriented. SLR's market share for passenger transport is about 6.0 % and about 0.7 % for goods transport. In Sri Lanka, the service provided by SLR in carrying the daily commuters to their workplaces, is inevitable. Sri Lanka Railway operates approximately 396 trains which include 67 Long-Distance and 16 Intercity trains and carries about 3.72 Million passengers daily. SLR owns and maintains 1561km of rail tracks, 72 locomotives, power sets 78, 565 carriages and the signaling network. At present, it has a workforce of 17,634. Sri Lanka Railways (SLR) functions under the General Manager of Railways (GMR). The General Manager reports to the Secretary of the Ministry of Transport. SLR has been divided into ten Sub Departments and three Units. Sub departments are managed by the Heads of the Sub Departments who reports directly to the General Manager of Railways.

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Vision

To be the most sought after land transport provider in Sri Lanka, providing unsurpassed value to our stakeholder.



Mission

To provide a safety reliable and punctual all transport system for passenger and goods transportation.



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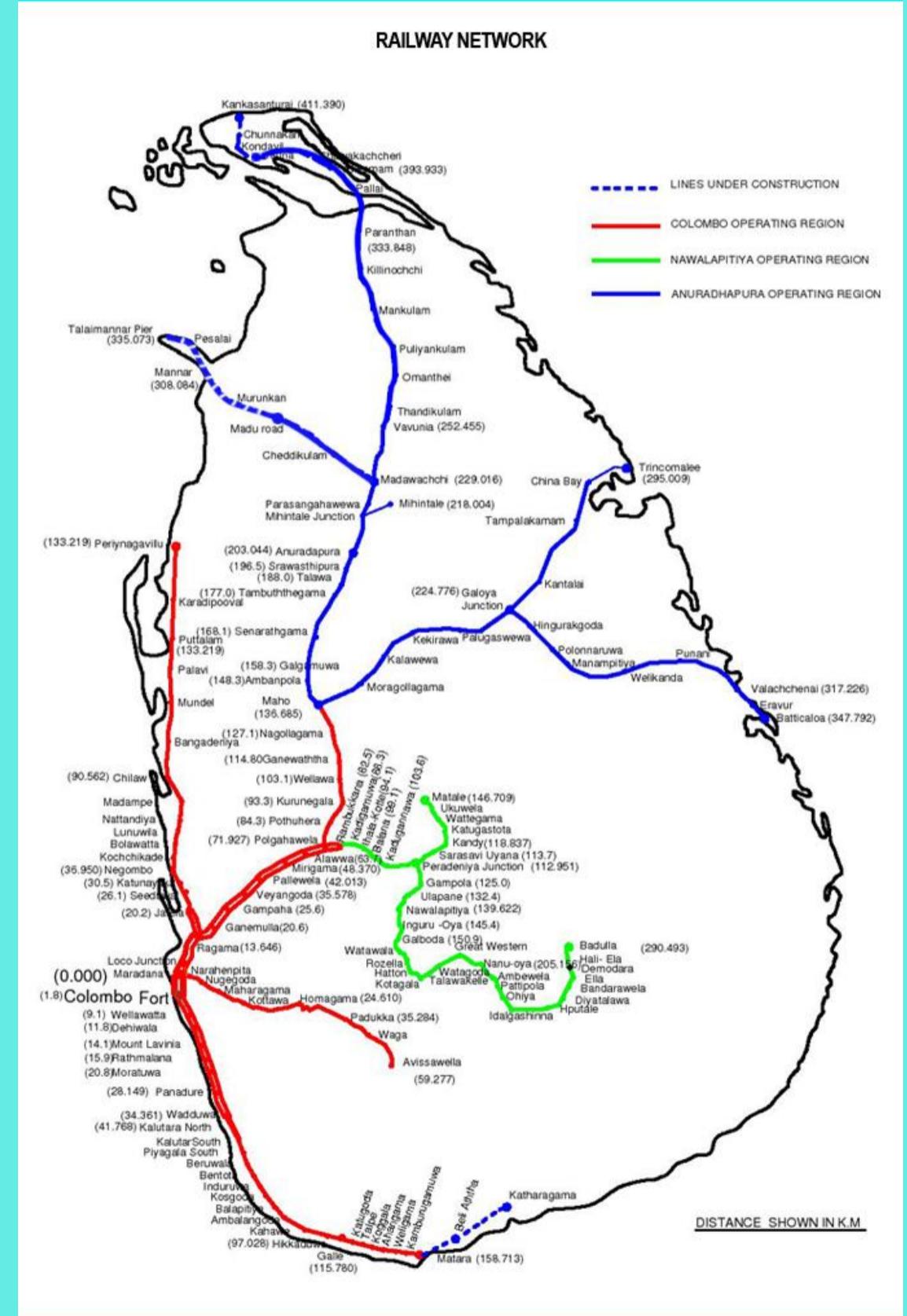
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Head of the Organization

General Manager of Railways

General Information

Telephones : +94 11 4 600 111

Fax No : +94 11 2 446 490

Email : gmr@railway.gov.lk

Railway Head Office Exchange Number = +94 11 4 600 111

Fort Railway Station Inquiries = +94 112 434215

Deputy Operating Superintendent = 1971(Hotline)

Assistant Transportation Superintendent (operation) = +94 112 692286



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