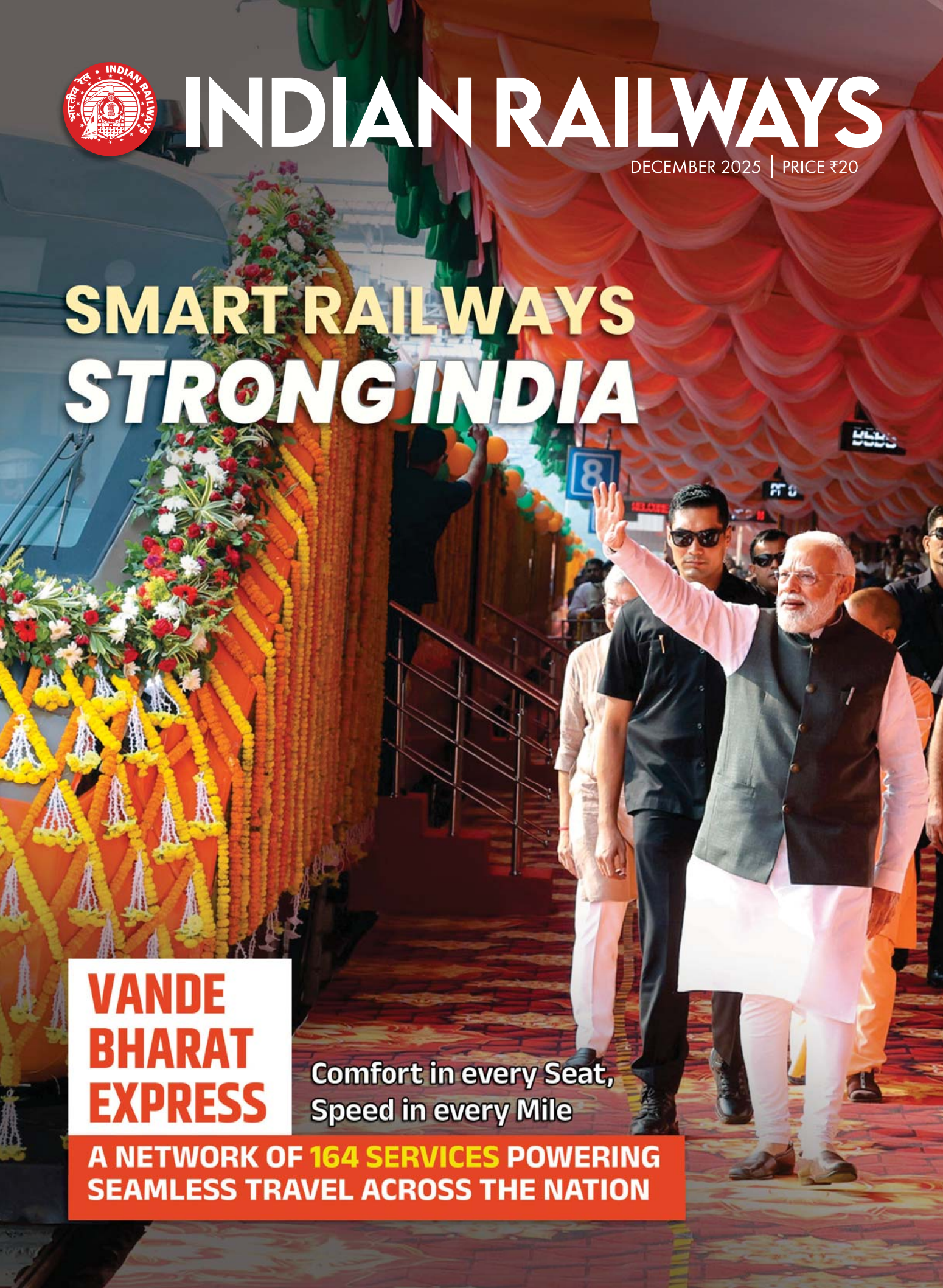
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DECEMBER 2025 | PRICE ₹20



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- All Welfare Schemes are subject to the Rules and Regulations applicable for each such Scheme/s, Bye Laws of the Society, as per MSCS Act 2002 and its rules and other relevant laws.
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For enquiry Contact

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N. MANIVANNAN
Chief Executive

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Editorial

New Railways, New Resolve, New India

Read the story of any developed nation and you will notice a defining constant—a modern, robust infrastructure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi often underscores this truth, noting that in regions where trains remained absent for decades and stations never existed, transformation begins the moment a whistle echoes and a station comes alive. This is not merely a statement, but a living reality reflected across countless regions of India.

Railways are driving India's infrastructure push, with new lines and capacity upgrades moving at record pace. Recent Cabinet approvals include the Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)–Kanalus doubling (141 km) and the Badlapur–Karjat third and fourth line (32 km). Together worth ₹2781 crore, they add nearly 224 km across four districts in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Kutch has received approval for four rail lines worth ₹3375 crore, adding 194 km of vital connectivity for border, coastal, and industrial development. The ₹764.19-crore Firozpur-Patti line—set to cut travel to Amritsar by 96 km—has also been sanctioned. At the same time, modernisation of more than 1300 stations is picking up momentum across India.

The world is witnessing the modern, dynamic face of Indian Railways through trains like Vande Bharat. Over 164 semi high-speed trains now run across the network, with four more recently flagged off by the Prime Minister. As he noted, Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat and Amrit Bharat are not just trains—they reflect India's growing confidence, technological strength and global aspirations. Vande Bharat is truly a train of Indians, by Indians and for Indians. As India moves toward becoming a developed nation, these trains will stand as key milestones in that journey.

On the logistics front, Indian Railways has introduced a historic reform by revising the bulk cement transport policy. The changes are expected to bring direct relief to households by reducing cement costs for home construction. By removing traditional distance- and weight-based slabs, the new policy makes rail-based cement transport more economical, giving a strong push to infrastructure growth nationwide.

The story of a rapidly transforming India is now being written on every railway track—new lines, new stations, new trains and new opportunities. Indian Railways is not just moving coaches; it is carrying the nation's aspirations forward.

Lastly, do let us know how you found this edition.

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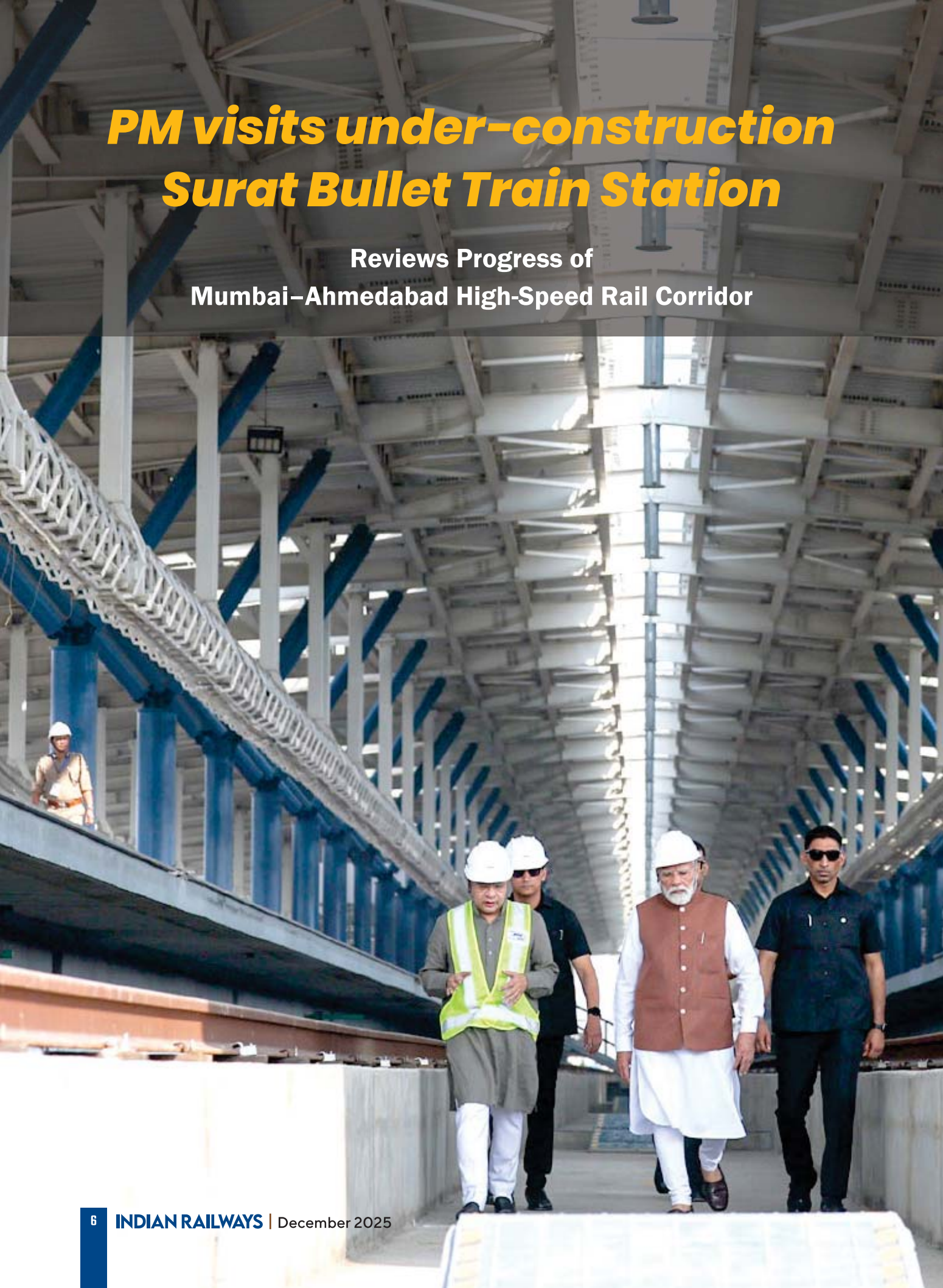
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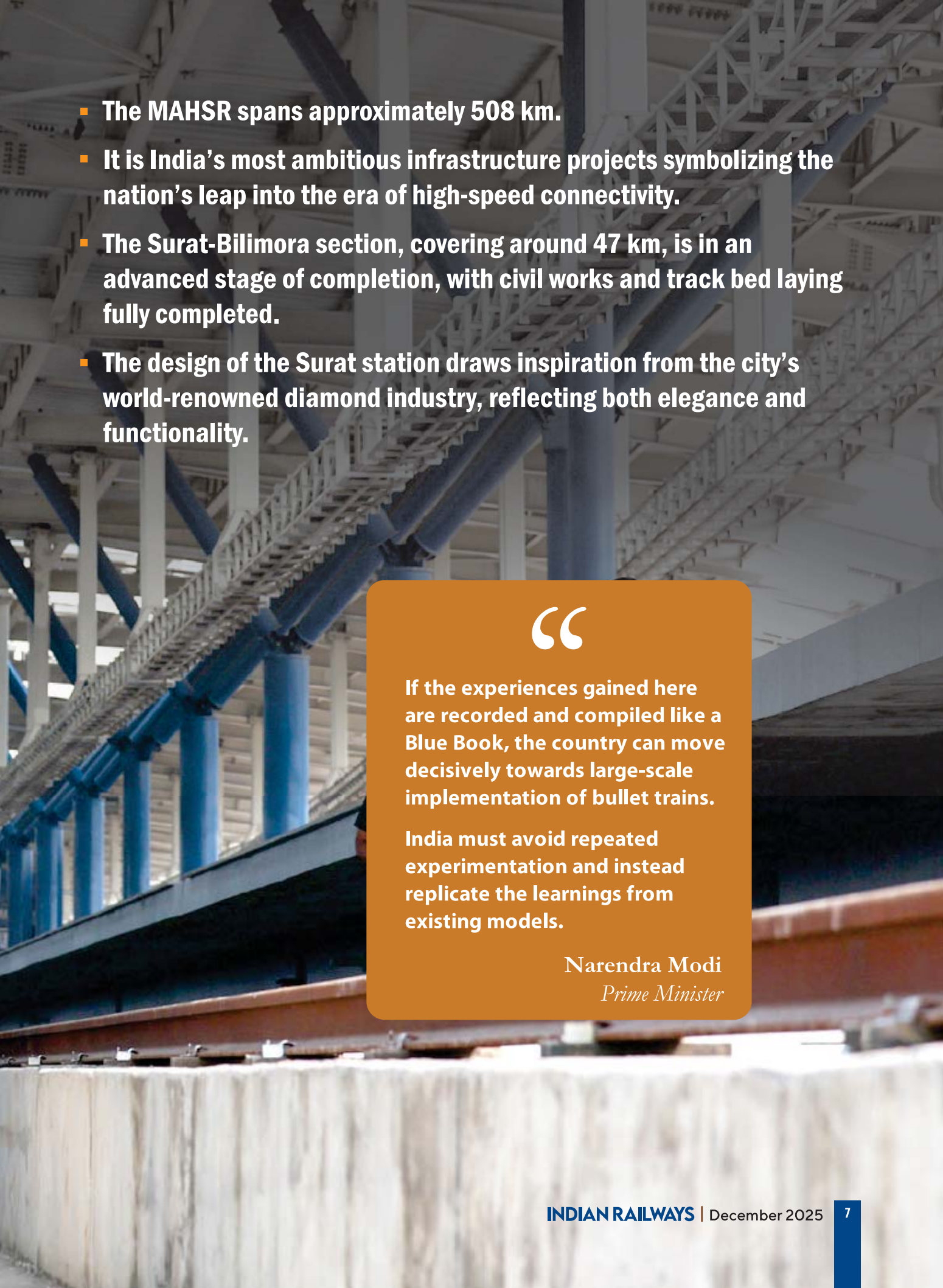
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PM visits under-construction Surat Bullet Train Station

Reviews Progress of Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor





- The MAHSR spans approximately 508 km.
- It is India's most ambitious infrastructure projects symbolizing the nation's leap into the era of high-speed connectivity.
- The Surat-Bilimora section, covering around 47 km, is in an advanced stage of completion, with civil works and track bed laying fully completed.
- The design of the Surat station draws inspiration from the city's world-renowned diamond industry, reflecting both elegance and functionality.

> "If the experiences gained here are recorded and compiled like a Blue Book, the country can move decisively towards large-scale implementation of bullet trains.
>
> India must avoid repeated experimentation and instead replicate the learnings from existing models.
>
> Narendra Modi
> *Prime Minister*

In a visit that added fresh momentum to the project, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the under-construction Bullet Train Station at Surat in Gujarat on 16th November, 2025 and reviewed the progress of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor. He also interacted with the team of India's first bullet train project and enquired about the progress of the project, including adherence to speed and timetable targets. Workers assured him that the project was advancing smoothly without any difficulties.

Putting the spotlight on the people behind the technology, an engineer from Kerala shared her experience of working at the Noise Barrier Factory in Navsari, Gujarat, where robotic units are being deployed for welding rebar cages. PM Modi asked her how she personally perceived the experience of building India's first bullet train and what they share with their families about this historic achievement. She expressed pride in contributing to the nation's first bullet train, describing it as a "dream project" and a "proud moment" for her family.

Reflecting on the spirit of national service, the Prime Minister emphasised that when the feeling arises of working for the nation and contributing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewing the project

something new, it becomes a source of immense motivation. He drew a parallel with India's space journey, recalling how the scientists who launched the country's first satellite must have felt and how today hundreds of satellites are being launched.

Another employee, Shruti from Bengaluru, serving as Lead Engineering Manager, explained the rigorous design and engineering control processes. She highlighted that at every stage of execution, her team evaluates pros and cons, identifies solutions and explores alternatives to ensure flawless implementation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with the team of India's first Bullet Train project

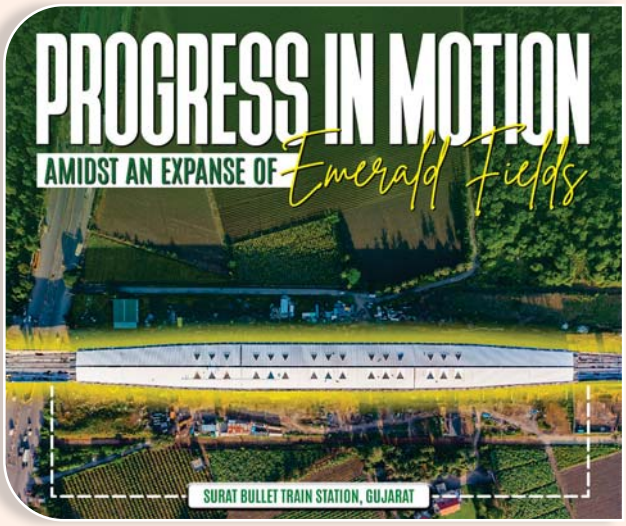


The Prime Minister remarked that if the experiences gained here are recorded and compiled like a 'Blue Book', the country can move decisively towards large-scale implementation of bullet trains. He emphasized that India must avoid repeated experimentation and instead replicate the learnings from existing models. PM highlighted that replication will only be meaningful if there is a clear understanding of why certain actions were taken. Otherwise, he cautioned, replication may occur without purpose or direction. He suggested that maintaining such records could benefit future students and contribute to nation-building. "We will dedicate our lives here and leave behind something valuable for the country," the Prime Minister affirmed.

An employee expressed his commitment in heartfelt words through a poem, to which the Prime Minister lauded his dedication and responded with appreciation. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was present during the PM's visit.■

MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR PROGRESS

- The Prime Minister visited the under-construction Bullet Train Station in Surat to review the progress of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR)—one of India's most ambitious infrastructure projects symbolizing the nation's leap into the era of high-speed connectivity.
- The MAHSR spans approximately ***508*** km, covering ***352*** km in Gujarat and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and ***156*** km in Maharashtra. The corridor will connect major cities including Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, Anand, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Bilimora, Vapi, Boisar, Virar, Thane and Mumbai, marking a transformative step in India's transportation infrastructure.
- Built with advanced engineering techniques on par with international standards, the project features ***465*** km (about ***85%*** of the route) on viaducts, ensuring minimal land disturbance and enhanced safety. So far, ***326*** km of viaduct work has been completed and ***17*** out of ***25*** river bridges have already been constructed.
- Upon completion, the bullet train will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to nearly two hours, revolutionizing inter-city travel by making it faster, easier and more comfortable. The project is expected to boost business, tourism and economic activity along the entire corridor, catalyzing regional development.



- The Surat-Bilimora section, covering around ***47*** km, is in an advanced stage of completion, with civil works and track bed laying fully completed. The design of the Surat station draws inspiration from the city's world-renowned diamond industry, reflecting both elegance and functionality. The station has been designed with a strong focus on passenger comfort, featuring spacious waiting lounges, restrooms and retail outlets. It will also offer seamless multimodal connectivity with the Surat Metro, city buses and the Indian Railways network.

Four New Vande Bharat Express Dedicated to Public Service

PM Flags Off New State-of-the-Art Express Services From Varanasi

Banaras – Khajuraho Vande Bharat Express



Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat Express



Ernakulam – Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express



Lucknow – Saharanpur Vande Bharat Express

> Trains like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat, and Amrit Bharat are laying the foundation for the next generation of Indian Railways.
>
> Vande Bharat is a train made in Bharat, by Indians, for Indians, and every Indian feels proud of it. India has embarked on a mission to enhance its resources for a developed India, and these trains are poised to become milestones in that journey.
>
> **Narendra Modi**
> *Prime Minister*

Marking another proud moment for India's advancing railway system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off four new Vande Bharat trains—Banaras-Khajuraho, Firozpur-Delhi, Lucknow-Saharanpur and Ernakulam-Bengaluru—from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on 8th November, 2025. By significantly reducing travel time between major destinations, these trains will enhance regional mobility, promote tourism and support economic activity across the country. The flagging off of four new Vande Bharat trains stands as another milestone in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of offering citizens easier, faster and more comfortable travel through world-class railway services.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion PM said, "In developed countries around the world, a major reason behind their economic progress has been their strong infrastructure. In every nation that has achieved significant growth and development, the driving force

164 **Vande Bharat in operational**



behind their progress has been infrastructure development. For example, imagine a region that has not had a railway line for years, no tracks, no trains, no station. But as soon as the tracks are laid and a station is built, the development of that town begins automatically.

"The number of airports being built, the number of Vande Bharat trains running and the increasing number of international flights connecting Bharat to the world—all these are now linked with development. Today, Bharat too is moving rapidly on this path. In this very spirit, new Vande Bharat trains are being inaugurated in different parts of the country. Along with the Kashi-Khajuraho Vande Bharat, the Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat, Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat and Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat have also been flagged off. With these four new trains, more than 164 Vande Bharat trains are now operational across the country. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the people of Kashi and to all citizens of the country for this achievement.

"Today, trains like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat and Amrit Bharat are laying the foundation for the next generation of Indian Railways. This is a complete campaign to transform the Indian Railways. Vande Bharat is a train made in Bharat, by Indians, for Indians and every Indian feels proud of it. Earlier, it was like, 'Can we really do this? Isn't this something that only happens abroad? Can it happen here?' Now it's happening! Isn't it? Is it happening in our country or not? Is it being made in our own country, by our own people, or not? This is the strength of our country. Today, even foreign travellers are amazed when they see the Vande Bharat train. The way Bharat has begun its mission to enhance its capabilities for a Viksit Bharat (Developed India), these trains are becoming a milestone in that journey.

"For centuries, pilgrimages in Bharat have been seen as a medium of the nation's consciousness. These journeys are not merely paths to divine darshan but sacred traditions that connect the soul of Bharat. Places like Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Chitrakoot and Kurukshetra and countless other pilgrimage sites, are the centres of our spiritual heritage. Now, as these holy places are getting connected through the Vande Bharat network, it is also connecting Bharat's culture, faith and development. It marks a significant step in making Bharat's heritage cities symbols of the nation's progress.



Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu traveling on the Delhi-bound Vande Bharat Express from Firozpur in Punjab

PM MEETS SCHOOL STUDENTS, SAYS THEIR CREATIVITY REFLECTS NEW INDIA







"Just a while ago, I was speaking with some students inside the Vande Bharat train. I congratulate Ashwini ji (Minister of Railways), who has started a wonderful tradition, and that is—wherever a Vande Bharat train is inaugurated, competitions are held among schoolchildren on various themes related to development, Vande Bharat, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat through paintings and poems. Although the children had only a few days to prepare, I was deeply impressed by their creativity. They had made drawings depicting a Viksit Kashi, a Viksit Bharat, and a Surakshit Bharat (Safe India). I also heard poems written by 12 to 14 years old boys and girls—such beautiful and thoughtful verses! As the Member of Parliament for Kashi, I felt immense pride that such talented children belong to my Kashi. I met a few of them here, and one child, despite having a hand disability, made an extraordinary painting. It filled me with great joy. I wholeheartedly congratulate the teachers of these schools for inspiring and guiding the children, and I also extend my wishes to the parents, who must have played a role in nurturing their talent and enthusiasm. In fact, I got the idea that we should organize a 'Kavi Sammelan' (Poetry Gathering) for these children here, and select 8–10 of the best young poets to share their poems across the country. It was such a moving and inspiring experience for me that, as the MP of Kashi, I felt truly delighted today. I heartily commend and congratulate these children.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepting a replica of Vande Bharat Express from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in the presence of Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw at Varanasi Railway Station

FOUR NEW VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

Banaras–Khajuraho Vande Bharat Express

The Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat will establish direct connectivity on this route and save about 2 hours and 40 minutes compared to the special trains currently in operation. The Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat Express will connect some of India's most revered religious and cultural destinations, including Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot and Khajuraho. This link will not only strengthen religious and cultural tourism but also provide pilgrims and travellers with a fast, modern and comfortable journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Khajuraho.

Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat Express

This Vande Bharat will cover the journey in approximately 7 hours and 45 minutes, saving nearly one hour of travel time. This Express train will greatly benefit passengers from Lucknow, Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor and Saharanpur, while also improving access to the holy city of Haridwar via Roorkee.

By ensuring smoother and faster intercity travel across central and western Uttar Pradesh, this service will play a key role in enhancing connectivity and regional development.

Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat Express

The Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat will be the fastest train on this route, completing the journey in just 6 hours and 40 minutes. This Express train will strengthen connectivity between the national capital and key cities in Punjab, including Firozpur, Bathinda and Patiala.

The train is expected to boost trade, tourism and employment opportunities, contributing to the socio-economic development of border regions and fostering greater integration with national markets.

Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express

In southern India, this Vande Bharat will reduce travel time by over two hours, completing the journey in 8 hours and 40 minutes.

This Express train will connect major IT and commercial hubs, providing professionals, students and tourists with a faster and more comfortable travel option. The route will promote greater economic activities and tourism between Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, supporting regional growth and collaboration.■

NFR DELIVERS BIG CONNECTIVITY BOOST WITH NEWLY COMMISSIONED CHAPARMUKH ROB

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved another major milestone in its infrastructure upgrade by completing a major Road over Bridge (RoB) replacing Level Crossing Gate No. ST-33 at Chaparmukh. The RoB was inaugurated on 11th November, 2025 by Assam, Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, along with senior railway officials. With its commissioning, Level Crossing ST-33 has been permanently closed. With this RoB, five of the targeted eight-level crossings have been closed in the Lumding Division.■



MINISTER OF RAILWAYS RECOGNISES TEAMS BEHIND BAIRABI-SAIRANG AND ARARIA-GALGALIA RAIL LINE



Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw honoured the teams behind the landmark Bairabi-Sairang and Araria-Galgalia rail line projects at a felicitation ceremony held on 29th October, 2025 in New Delhi, in the presence of senior Railway Board and NFR (Construction) officials. The Bairabi-Sairang project, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th September, 2025, has connected Aizawl to the national railway network for the first time. Spanning 51.38 km with 45 tunnels, 143 bridges and 4 stations, it represents a major engineering feat and is expected to significantly boost trade, tourism and socio-economic development in Mizoram.

The 110.75 km Araria-Galgalia project in Bihar was fully completed after CRS inspection in July 2025, with train services inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 15th September, 2025. Featuring 64 major bridges, 264 minor bridges and 15 stations, the line, cleared for operations at 100 kmph, will strengthen connectivity and foster regional growth. The felicitation recognised the dedication, innovation and teamwork of Railway officials whose efforts made both landmark projects a reality.■

RAILWAYS REWARDS WORLD CUP-WINNING TRIO WITH GROUP 'B' OFFICER PROMOTIONS

Exceptional performances by Pratiksha Rawal, Renuka Singh Thakur and Sneh Rana were recognised by the Railway Minister



ICC Women's World Cup 2025 champions Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana and Renuka Singh presenting an autographed team jersey to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during their courtesy visit at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi

Three stars of India's triumphant campaign in the recently concluded ICC Women's World Cup 2025—a batter, Pratika Rawal; a bowler, Renuka Singh Thakur; and an all-rounder, Sneh Rana—who played pivotal roles in bringing glory to the nation, met Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on 13th November, 2025, at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi. All three players, representing every facet of the game, are proud employees of Indian Railways. The Minister congratulated them for their outstanding contributions to India's historic World Cup victory.

The Minister said he was happy to meet the World Cup–winning champions. He added that the Indian women stars shared inspiring stories from their journey and their on-field experiences over the years.

Indian Railways has long been a powerhouse in nurturing India's sporting talent, with its athletes bringing glory to the nation at the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Railway sportspersons have earned prestigious national honours, including the Arjuna Award, Padma Shri and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, for their outstanding achievements.

In recognition of their key roles in India's 2025 ICC Women's World Cup victory, Indian Railways has promoted distinguished women cricketers Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana and Renuka Singh Thakur to the Group 'B' Officer-grade post of Officer on Special Duty (Sports) through an Out-of-Turn Promotion.

All three players will be entitled to the pay and benefits of a Group 'B' Gazetted Officer, under Level-8 of the Pay Matrix as per the 7th CPC. This initiative of the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) will not only provide financial security to the three women cricketers but also entrust them with administrative responsibilities.

Pratika Rawal
Opening Batter



Rawal, an opening batter from Delhi, representing the Delhi Division of NR, joined Indian Railways in April 2023 and was recently promoted to Senior Clerk. Despite sustaining an injury during the early stages of the World Cup, she remained a constant source of motivation and support for her teammates throughout the tournament. Known for her composed batting and ability to construct an innings with precision, Rawal combines this skill with a deep understanding of the game. Since making her One Day International debut late last year, she has been one of India's most consistent performers in the format.

Thakur, a right-arm medium-fast bowler from Himachal Pradesh, representing the Ambala Division of Northern Railway, joined Indian Railways in December 2020 and has since been a consistent match-winner with the ball, playing a crucial role in many of India's victories. During the recent World Cup, she made a significant impact by claiming three important wickets that proved vital to India's successful campaign. Following the team's historic triumph, Thakur was warmly felicitated by her villagers and local authorities in a ceremony that celebrated her contribution to India's maiden Women's World Cup win.



Renuka Singh Thakur
Bowler

Sneh Rana
All-Rounder



Rana, an all-rounder from Uttarakhand, representing the Moradabad Division of Northern Railway, has been associated with Indian Railways since 2018.

Known for her right-arm off-spin and dependable middle-order batting, she played a key role in India's early matches of the tournament.

She wrapped up her World Cup campaign with seven wickets in six matches, including her best figures of 2/32, and contributed valuable runs with the bat, scoring 99 runs at an impressive average of 49.50.

Kind Attention

AUTHORS/WRITERS contributing articles for the magazine are requested to restrict their articles to a reasonable size. Ideally an article should not exceed 1000 WORDS.

In view of the space constraints of the magazine, sometimes it becomes difficult to include longer articles. All are requested to appreciate our problem and co-operate.

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RAILWAY MINISTER VISITS AHMEDABAD TO REVIEW REDEVELOPMENT AND BULLET TRAIN WORKS

Marking another step in Ahmedabad's journey towards a next-generation transport hub, Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, visited Ahmedabad station on 3rd November, 2025. He reviewed both the station's massive redevelopment works and the progress of the High-Speed Rail (bullet train) project, underscoring the pace at which the city's rail landscape is being reshaped.

While interacting with the media there, the minister said that, keeping passengers' needs in mind, a comprehensive redevelopment of railway stations is underway across the country. Currently, redevelopment work is in progress at over 1300 railway stations, with Ahmedabad station being a key location.

Minister stated that a 16-storey modern building is being constructed at Ahmedabad station. Work on the bullet train project on the Sarsana side (Surat) is progressing rapidly and the Ahmedabad high-speed rail station is nearing completion. The bullet train station and Ahmedabad railway station are being developed in an integrated manner. The Sarsana-side metro station has been completed and opened for passengers.

The minister further stated that Ahmedabad station will receive three additional platforms, which will increase the station's train-handling capacity. The station is being developed in a modern form on both sides of the city, Kalupur and Sarsana. All platforms will be covered with a concourse roof plaza and work on the elevated road at the station is also progressing rapidly. In this way, both ends of the city will be connected through concourses, the elevated road and foot overbridges. The minister added that during his last inspection of the project, the basement work was in progress; now, the work on the two underground basements and the ground floor has been completed and the structural frame up to the fourth floor has been prepared.

There is a high demand for new trains from the country's major 20 stations, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad. In Gujarat, demand is particularly high from



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspecting the redevelopment works at Ahmedabad Station



A model view of how Ahmedabad Station will look after redevelopment

Ahmedabad and Surat. To meet this growing demand and increase train-handling capacity, a mega terminal will be developed at Vatva in Ahmedabad, which will feature 10 pit lines. Through this, the capacity for approximately 45 additional trains will be created, enabling the operation of around 150 trains from Ahmedabad.

The redevelopment of Ahmedabad station is based on the concept of integrating heritage monuments with a modern urban centre. This project will create a modern Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH), featuring ample parking, an elevated road network connecting Kalupur RoB and Sarangpur RoB, landscaped plazas, concourse areas and advanced passenger amenities.

The architectural design of the station is inspired by the Modhera Sun Temple, reflecting a beautiful blend of cultural heritage and modern aesthetics. The iconic MMTH tower on the Kalupur side will become a new landmark in Ahmedabad's architectural landscape. The ASI-protected 'Int (Bricks) Minaret' and 'Jhulta Minar' will also be incorporated into the redevelopment plan.

This station will be seamlessly connected to the National High-Speed Rail Terminal, metro and BRTS through an elevated network, ensuring smooth multimodal integration and reducing congestion in the city. The redeveloped station will be designed as a green building, focusing on energy efficiency, water conservation and the use of renewable energy. The station will feature state-of-the-art security technologies, an automated parcel depot system and a disabled-friendly infrastructure, including lifts and escalators.



Ongoing redevelopment works at Ahmedabad Station

The redevelopment project of Ahmedabad railway station will not only symbolize modern infrastructure but will also preserve the city's cultural heritage, helping establish Ahmedabad as a major global metropolis.

VANDE MATARAM'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED NATIONWIDE ACROSS INDIAN RAILWAYS

Railways Minister described the song as the proclamation of India's consciousness for 150th years, noting its enduring power to evoke patriotism across generations



On the occasion of the glorious completion of 150th years of the national song 'Vande Mataram', the Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw participated in the event organized at Rail Bhawan New Delhi. On this occasion, a collective singing of the full version of Vande Mataram was also held

On the occasion of the historic 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram', a special function, organised in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Culture, was held at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi on 7th November, 2025. The event was graced by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw; Member (T&RS), R. Rajagopal; Secretary, Railway Board, Aruna Nayar; along with other senior officials.

As part of the programme, a mass singing of 'Vande Mataram' was conducted by all officials, in synchronization with the live streaming of the main event organized by the Ministry of Culture.

Following the mass singing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation. The Minister, senior officials and other dignitaries present at the event listened to the PM's address. The Minister described 'Vande Mataram' as 'the proclamation of India's consciousness for the past 150 years.'

Commemorative programmes of a similar kind were conducted in other railway zones and divisions. A grand event was organized at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus to mark the 150-years legacy of 'Vande Mataram', in the presence of General Manager Vijay Kumar.

The timeless rhythm of 'Vande Mataram' echoed through the historic halls of Rail Nilayam as South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, accompanied by the Additional General Manager, senior officers and staff, participated in the rendition of the national song that has inspired generations.

On the occasion of the glorious completion of 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', a programme was also organized at the office of the Chief Public Relations Officer, Northern Railway, where officers and staff collectively sang the song 'Vande Mataram'.

The year 2025 marks the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankimchandra Chatterjee. This timeless national song, which inspired India's freedom struggle, continues to stir profound feelings of patriotism, pride and unity among the people.

The celebrations served as a heartfelt tribute to a song deeply woven into the fabric of India's national consciousness. Through diverse events, the Ministry of Railways demonstrated its unwavering commitment to celebrating India's cultural identity and fostering a spirit of unity and service among all.

RAILWAYS SLASHES BULK CEMENT FREIGHT, EASING HOME-BUILDING COSTS FOR POOR AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

Unveiling the new pricing system, Minister of Railways underscored that India's World No. 2 freight rank now comes with major reforms in cement logistics



MR Ashwini Vaishnaw launching the rationalization of Freight for Bulk Cement in Tank Containers and policy for Bulk Cement Terminals at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. Railway Board Chairman and CEO Satish Kumar can also be seen in the picture

Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, unveiled the rationalization of rates for bulk cement in containers and policy for bulk cement terminals on 18th November, 2025. The policy is part of Railways' Reforms for Cement Transportation.

Unveiling the Policy at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, the Union Minister described this moment as a game changer. He said that these reforms will bring down the cost of cement for middle and poor families as they build their dream homes. As per the new policy, distance and weight slabs have been removed. The new rate has been rationalized to ₹0.90 per tonne per kilometre at a flat Gross Tonne km (GTKM), he said.

The Minister further said that tank containers will be an end-to-end, pollution-free logistics solution for bulk cement transportation. India is now the world's second-largest freight carrier, having surpassed the US. The rail network expansion has increased from 4 km per day (during 2004-14) to 12-14 km per day, making it over three times faster. The broad-gauge rail network is now almost 100% electrified. More than 1300 Amrit Stations are currently being developed across the country, he added.

Features

- **Bulk cement terminals to be developed**
- **Reduce carbon footprint and promote environmental conservation**
- **Facilities like hoppers, silos and bagging plants to be set up**
- **Lower the cost of transportation of cement**
- **Simplified rate structure with removal of distance and weight slabs for ease of doing business**
- **Uniform rate with flat charge of ₹0.90 per tonne per km for actual distance**
- **Encourages use of tank containers for seamless multi-modal bulk cement logistics**
- **Haulage now based on actual tonnage (Gross Tonne Kilometre - GTKM)**

Rationalization of Freight for Bulk Cement in Tank Containers

The new rate structure has been simplified and rationalized by introducing charges based on

Tank Container: An E2E Logistics Solution for Bulk Cement

Features:

- A "Make in India" Product
- Dimensions: 20ft x 8ft x 8.5ft
- Payload: 26T
- Gross weight: 31T
- Loading/Unloading time 25-30 min per container.
- Suitable for Multi-modal transportation (train-trailers-train) from point of production to point of consumption.



the actual tonnage, calculated as the GTKM of the train. To enhance Ease of Doing Business, the previous distance and weight slabs have been removed. Under the revised system, freight is charged at a flat rate of ₹0.90 per tonne per kilometre for the actual distance covered.

The policy promotes the use of tank containers to support efficient multimodal, end-to-end logistics for bulk cement. The tank container is an effective end-to-end logistics solution for bulk cement transportation and is a proud 'Make in India' product. It is designed with standard dimensions of 20 ft × 8 ft × 8.5 ft, offering a payload capacity of 26 tonnes and a gross weight of 31 tonnes. Each container allows efficient operations with a loading and unloading time of just 25-30 minutes. Its design makes it ideal for seamless multimodal transportation—moving easily from train to trailer and back to train—enabling smooth delivery from the point of production to the point of consumption.

Policy for Bulk Cement Terminals

The transportation of bulk cement from manufacturing plants to terminals near consumption centers using specialized wagons is both cost-effective and environmental-friendly. To further support this shift towards efficient logistics, Indian Railways will facilitate the development of bulk cement terminals across the country under the 'Bulk Cement Terminal' policy, enabling smoother handling, storage and distribution of cement.

> "The previous freight rate was in slabs. That is, for placing a plant terminal at 200 km, one rate would apply, and if placed at 210 km, it would be a different rate. Now it is a completely flat rate. 90 paise/GTKM whether the terminal is placed at 10 km, 50 km, 225 km or 228 km
>
> **Ashwini Vaishnaw**
> *Minister of Railways*



The bulk cement terminals will be constructed, operated and maintained with direct connectivity to the railway network to ensure seamless logistics. These terminals will be equipped with essential facilities such as hoppers, silos, bagging plants and other related infrastructure to support efficient handling, storage and distribution of bulk cement.

The policy offers several key benefits, including a substantial reduction in cement transportation costs and a significantly smaller carbon footprint compared to road transport, thereby supporting environmental sustainability and reducing road congestion. It enables the movement of large volumes of cement in a single consignment and minimizes packaging requirements while reducing material losses from spillage. Additionally, the policy ensures faster turnaround times through mechanized loading and unloading, enhancing overall efficiency in cement logistics.■

RAILWAY MINISTER INSPECTS VARANASI STATIONS AND BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

He commends employees, encourages innovation and highlights Railways' self-reliance



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with Railway Board Chairman and CEO Satish Kumar, inspecting Loco Assembly Shop at Banaras Locomotive Works

Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on 8th November, 2025, visited various railway stations in Varanasi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off four newly manufactured Vande Bharat trains in the country. During the visit, the Railway Minister reviewed the ongoing construction works and passenger amenities at the stations.

As part of his visit, the minister inspected Kashi Railway Station, Varanasi Cantt Railway Station and Banaras Railway Station. He noted that around 150 trains currently operate through Varanasi's various stations. Indian Railways is now working to expand this capacity to 400–500 trains through a comprehensive master plan aimed at the integrated development of Kashi, Varanasi Cantt and Banaras stations.

Following this, Minister also visited the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) in the city. He conducted a detailed inspection of the Loco Frame Shop, Loco Assembly Shop and Loco Test Shop and obtained technical information related to the manufacturing processes. During the inspection, he also interacted with employees, discussed various aspects of locomotive manufacturing and especially met with women employees to encourage and motivate them.

He also sought suggestions from employees on ways to further strengthen the quality and efficiency of locomotive construction. Appreciating all the insightful suggestions, he said, "Quality is paramount in locomotive production. BLW must continue to stand for exceptional standards and continuous innovation."

The Railway Minister lauded BLW for its impressive production capacity, stringent cleanliness standards, environmental initiatives and efficient material management systems. He said that the factory is a benchmark of Indian Railways' self-reliant technological prowess, integrating innovation and modern technology effectively. He also praised the facility's locomotive output, sanitation measures and technical advancements.

He congratulated the team for their remarkable work and urged them to continue enhancing the engine of the nation's growth.■

TWO NEW MEMU TRAINS START DAILY RUNS BETWEEN DELHI AND SHAMLI

The MR announces that Shamli station is set for a ₹25 crore redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Marking a proud achievement for Indian Railways, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Jayant Chaudhary, inaugurated and flagged off two new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train services between Delhi and Shamli (Delhi Junction–Shamli–Delhi Junction and Delhi Shahdara–Shamli–Delhi Shahdara) at Baraut railway station on 24th November 2025.

Addressing the large gathering, Railway Minister said that under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indian Railways is continuously working to provide better services to passengers. He stated that with the commencement of the two new MEMU services between Delhi and Shamli, daily passengers, students, farmers and professionals in the region would benefit from improved mobility. He informed that Shamli station is being developed under the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' at a cost of ₹25 crore to make it modern and world-class. He added that a long-pending demand of the Shamli–Baghpat region was being fulfilled with the inauguration of these two MEMU trains, which would make travel significantly easier for people in the area.

The large gathering at Baraut station applauded Minister's announcement of the doubling of the Delhi–Shamli section. Leaders present on the dais also formally expressed their gratitude to him for addressing this long-standing regional demand.

> "Two new MEMU daily passengers, students, farmers and professionals in the region would benefit from improved mobility



Ashwini Vaishnaw
Minister of Railways

The Minister said that in the period after 2014, Uttar Pradesh has seen the construction of 5272 kilometres of new tracks—equivalent to the entire rail network of Switzerland. The state's railway lines have also achieved 100% electrification. After 2014, 1460 flyovers and road underbridges have been built across Uttar Pradesh. For passenger convenience, 154 lifts and 156 escalators have been installed at various stations and Wi-Fi facilities are now available at 771 stations. Currently, 34 Vande Bharat Express and 26 Amrit Bharat Express trains are operating in the state.

On this occasion, Baghpat MP Rajkumar Sangwan, former MP Dr Satyapal Singh, MLC Mohit Beniwal, MLA Krishan Pal Malik and Baghpat Nagar Palika Chairperson Babita Tomar were present.





Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw flagging off two new MEMU train services at Baraut Railway Station

GORAKHPUR-PILIBHIT EXPRESS REACHES BAREILLY, BOOSTS CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH IN UP'S TERAI BELT



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister Jitin Prasada flagging off the extended Gorakhpur-Pilibhit Express up to Izzatnagar

In a commendable move, Indian Railways has fulfilled a long-standing public demand by extending the Gorakhpur–Pilibhit Express to Izzatnagar (Bareilly). The new service was jointly flagged off by Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Commerce & Industry Jitin Prasada, through video conferencing from Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, on 27th November, 2025.

The train earlier operated between Lakhimpur and Gorakhpur and a few months ago, its route was expanded up to Pilibhit. With the latest decision, the service now reaches Izzatnagar (Bareilly), marking a significant step by Indian Railways in strengthening connectivity across Uttar Pradesh's Terai region and integrating it more effectively with the mainstream of development.

The extension of the service to Izzatnagar (Bareilly) fulfills a long-standing demand of local residents and is expected to generate far-reaching benefits for the region. It will enable better market access for agricultural and forest produce, meet the mobility needs of the population and accelerate the social and economic development of the Terai belt. The enhanced connectivity is also set to promote tourism and create new employment opportunities, thereby supporting overall regional growth.

Speaking on the occasion, Railway Minister highlighted the unprecedented scale of railway development in Uttar Pradesh since 2014. He stated that 5272 km of new tracks have been constructed in the state—more than the entire rail network of Switzerland—and the state has achieved 100% electrification of its railway routes. He further informed that 1660 flyovers and road underbridges have been built across Uttar Pradesh during this period.

For enhanced passenger convenience, the Railway Minister noted that Indian Railways has installed 154 lifts and 156 escalators at various stations and Wi-Fi facilities are now available at

771 stations across Uttar Pradesh. He highlighted that the state currently operates 34 Vande Bharat Express services and 26 Amrit Bharat Express services, significantly improving high-quality travel options for passengers. He added that over the past 11 years, 48 long-pending projects have been completed, including the Lucknow-Pilibhit gauge conversion, Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur gauge conversion and Bareilly-Tanakpur gauge conversion, all of which had been awaiting progress for many years.

MR also underscored the dramatic increase in railway investment in the state. The budget allocation to Uttar Pradesh, which stood at ₹1109 crore before 2014, has now risen 18-fold to ₹19,858 crore. Additionally, 157 stations across Uttar Pradesh are being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. This includes 48 stations in west and north Uttar Pradesh alone—such as Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Shamli, Bulandshahr, Garhmukteshwar, Ghaziabad, Meerut City, Modinagar, Ramghat, Bijnor, Dhampur, Moradabad, Najibabad, Pilibhit and Bareilly, among others. Among these 157 stations in Uttar Pradesh, 10 have already been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while work on the remaining stations is progressing rapidly. This extensive redevelopment drive is ushering in a new era of modern and passenger-friendly railway infrastructure across the state.

Expressing gratitude to he for prioritising the Pilibhit, Minister Prasada noted that students, farmers and tourists will be the biggest beneficiaries of the extension of these railway services. The programme witnessed the esteemed presence of public representatives, including MP (Bareilly) Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar, Member of Legislative Council Dr. Sudhir Gupta and Member of Legislative Assembly (Puranpur) Baburam, who thanked Vaishnaw on behalf of the people.

By expanding the Gorakhpur-Pilibhit Express to Izzatnagar (Bareilly), Indian Railways continues its commitment to enhancing passenger convenience, expanding transport options and ensuring that the Terai belt receives improved, reliable and sustainable rail services.■

RAILWAY MINISTER PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTE TO BHAGWAN BIRSA MUNDA AMID JANJATIYA GAURAV PAKHWADA CELEBRATION

The fortnight-long nationwide celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada began on 13th November, 2025 with Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, paying floral tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi, highlighting the government's commitment to honouring the sacrifices and legacy of India's tribal heroes.

In a spirited tribute to the valour, vision and contributions of tribal heroes, Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada was celebrated across the nation from 1st to 15th November, 2025. The fortnight-long celebration forms part of the year-long Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh observance marking the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda—one of India's most revered tribal freedom fighters and an enduring symbol of resistance against colonial oppression.

PM Narendra Modi had announced the observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to honour the sacrifices,



culture and heritage of India's tribal communities, and to bring their stories of courage and nation-building into the national consciousness. Under his visionary leadership, the Government of India institutionalized Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15th November each year, ensuring that the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters continues to inspire future generations.■

JAISALMER-DELHI (SHAKUR BASTI) NEW TRAIN SERVICE STARTS

Named Swarna Nagari Express, the new service also serves Ramdevra, Jodhpur, Makrana, Jaipur and Alwar

Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Union Minister of Culture & Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, flagged off the inaugural special train of the new Jaisalmer-Delhi (Shakur Basti) rail service from Jaisalmer station on 29th November, 2025. He announced that the Jaisalmer-Delhi Express will be named Swarn Nagari Express.

The Jaisalmer-Delhi (Shakur Basti) Express will significantly enhance rail connectivity between the national capital and the western region of Rajasthan. Cities such as Ramdevra, Jodhpur, Makrana, Jaipur and Alwar will now be connected to the national capital with greater ease and convenience.

The new service will provide easier access to advanced medical and educational facilities, improve connectivity to major tourist destinations, and support economic growth in the surrounding regions. By offering a reliable and convenient travel option, the train will benefit residents, tourists, students and businesses alike, thus strengthening regional mobility and development.

MR, said that Indian Railways is progressing rapidly and is establishing new milestones every day. He said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indian Railways is committed to taking its developmental journey to new heights. He stated that unprecedented work is being undertaken for railway development in Rajasthan, with projects worth about ₹55,000 crore currently in progress. As part of expanding the railway network in border areas, the proposal for a new line from Anupgarh to Khajuwala, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer and up to Bhabhar is progressing through various stages. The construction of these lines will not only benefit the general public but will also play an important role in strategic support for the armed forces.

MR informed that prior to 2014, the annual budget allocation for Rajasthan was only around ₹680 crore, which has now increased to nearly ₹10,000



crore. Speaking about railway facilities at Pokaran station, he said that once the construction of the new Ramdevra-Pokaran via Bhairav Gufa and Kailash Tekri rail line is completed, all trains will stop at this station. He also directed officials to carry out this line's work on a war footing.

He also announced the construction of a second entry gate at Jaisalmer station. He instructed officials to expedite the completion of the coaching depot so that more trains can operate from Jaisalmer.

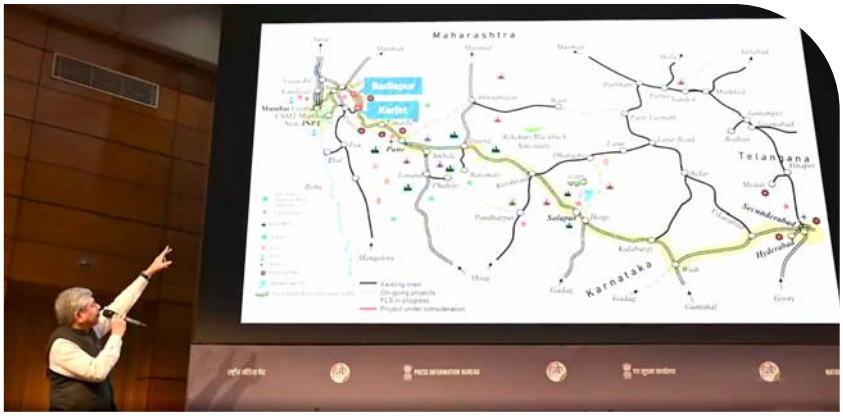
Speaking about the redevelopment of Jaisalmer station, he said that its transformation has been completed at a cost of ₹140 crore. He added that redevelopment work on 85 stations in Rajasthan, with an investment of about ₹4000 crore, is underway. He added that due to the strengthening of railway infrastructure in Rajasthan, six pairs of Vande Bharat trains and one pair of Amrit Bharat trains, along with other services, are operational, and in the last six months, including this train, eight new trains have been introduced. He also directed that the track renewal work between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur be prioritised.

Union Minister of Culture & Tourism extended his gratitude to Minister of Railways. MP Ummeda Ram Beniwal, former Union Minister of State Kailash Choudhary and MLA Chhotu Singh also warmly acknowledged Vaishnaw for his efforts in introducing the new rail service and advancing railway development.

CABINET CLEARS MAJOR RAIL EXPANSION, ADDING 224 KM ACROSS TWO STATES

Four districts across Maharashtra and Gujarat to gain from this ₹2781 crore boost planned under PM-Gati Shakti, improving connectivity and local livelihoods

Giving fresh impetus to India's rapidly modernising railway network, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved two significant Railways projects on 26th November, 2025, with a combined value of around ₹2781 crore.



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw explaining key features of the projects

These Include

- **Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)-Kanalus Doubling – 141 km.**
- **Badlapur-Karjat 3rd and 4th line – 32 km.**

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with PM Modi's Vision of a New India, which will make the people of the region 'Atmanirbhar' through comprehensive development in the area, enhancing their employment/self-employment opportunities.

The projects are planned under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with a focus on improving multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services.

The two projects, covering four districts across the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 224 km.

The approved multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approximately 585 villages, which have a population of about 32 lakh.

The approved doubling from Kanalus to Okha (Devbhoomi Dwarka) will provide enhanced connectivity to Dwarkadhish Temple, facilitating access to key pilgrimage destination and leading to all-round development of the Saurashtra region.

The Badlapur-Karjat section forms part of the Mumbai suburban corridor. The third and fourth line project will improve connectivity in the Mumbai suburban area and meet the future demands of passengers, along with providing connectivity to southern India.

This is an essential route for the transportation of commodities such as coal, salt, containers, cement, POL etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of 18 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum).

The Railways, being an environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reducing oil imports (3 crore litres) and lowering CO^2 emissions (16 crore kg), which is equivalent to plantation of 64 lakh trees.■

CABINET CLEARS FOUR NEW RAILWAY LINES TO TRANSFORM CONNECTIVITY IN RESOURCE-RICH KUTCH

The Gujarat district will see a 194 km expansion funded with ₹3375 crore, boosting cargo capacity and regional access

The Union Cabinet has approved two important new broad-gauge railway line projects in the Kutch district of Gujarat under Western Railway—the Desalpar-Hajipir-Luna (81.771 km) and Vayor-Lakhpat (62.686 km) lines. Additionally, the Bhuj–Naliya railway line will be extended up to Vayor and a new Naliya-Jakhau Port railway line will also be constructed. These pro ₹3375 crore, will strengthen rail connectivity in border and coastal areas, promote industrial development and enhance strategically important infrastructure.

The Kutch region of Gujarat is considered one of the richest areas in the country in terms of natural resources and industrial potential. Nearly 70 percent of the total limestone produced in India comes from Kutch, making it the largest limestone belt in the country. The limestone found here is regarded as superior in quality. It is primarily of high grade, containing 48–50% CaO and 4–6% SiO_2, which reflects its high-quality standards.

The bentonite clay available in Kutch is also renowned worldwide for its exceptional quality. Its extraction is mainly carried out in the Abdasa, Mandvi and Lakhpat talukas. The bentonite found here is known for its high purity, superior swelling capacity and low salt content. Because of these characteristics, it is used in various industries, including drilling fluid, cosmetics, agriculture and waterproofing. Currently, 209 bentonite mines are active in the Kutch region, producing nearly 60 million tonnes annually, which highlights its industrial significance.

Along with industrial production, the Kutch region is also extremely important from a railway perspective. Under Western Railway, this region contributes the highest freight loading. Between April 2025 and October 2025, 1.727 million metric tonnes of industrial salt, 1.119 million metric tonnes of edible salt and 10.586 million metric tonnes of container traffic were loaded



from here, highlighting Kutch's industrial strength and logistical importance.

In addition to this, the geographical significance of Kutch is also extremely important. Due to its proximity to the international coastal border, this region is considered highly sensitive from a strategic point of view. Developing a fast, safe and reliable transport system here is essential for national security. The construction and upgrading of new railway lines will significantly enhance the deployment of defence forces, the transportation of military equipment and rapid response capabilities during emergencies. This will further strengthen the country's strategic power and security framework.

Through these projects, not only will the industrial- and mineral-rich regions be connected to the country's railway network, but both local public convenience and national security will also gain a stronger foundation.

Extension of the Bhuj–Naliya Railway line up to Vayor (24.65 km)

The Bhuj-Naliya railway line (101.40 km) has already been converted from meter gauge to broad gauge. Now, the line is being extended from Naliya to Vayor (24.65 km) at an estimated cost of ₹437.18 crore. This proposal is extremely important from both industrial and strategic perspectives. Major industries, such as Sanghi Cement (Sanghipuram), are located near the proposed Vayor station along this project route. At present, the production from this industry is transported by trucks to Bhuj and then further moved by rail, as there is currently no railway facility available in this region. In addition, a large cement manufacturing unit is also being set up near Vayor station by JP Cement and its production is expected to begin soon. With the extension of this railway line, all these industries will receive direct rail connectivity, making the transportation of raw materials and finished products more convenient, faster and economical. This will reduce the burden on road traffic, enhance logistics efficiency and boost regional economic development.

The extension of the Bhuj-Naliya railway line up to Vayor will prove to be an important step toward the industrial, economic and strategic development of the Kutch region.



Naliya-Jakhau Port (24.88 km) New Broad-Gauge Electrified Railway Line

This will start from Naliya station on the Bhuj-Naliya section and extend up to Jakhau Port. The objective of this project is to connect Jakhau Port with the railway network, which will enhance the port's cargo-handling capacity and reduce the increasing load on major ports such as Mundra and Kandla. This port is located in the Abdasa taluka of Kutch district and was renovated by the Gujarat Maritime Board in 2001. In the future, Jakhau Port is expected to develop into a major hub for import and export activities.

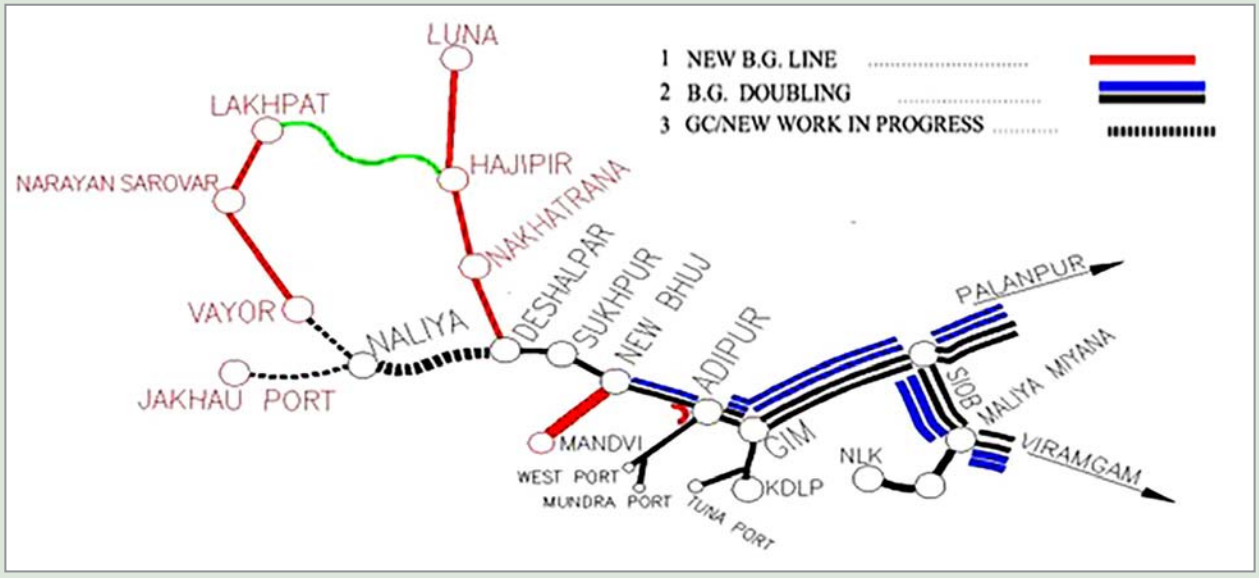
The estimated cost of this project is ₹410.46 crore. A large amount of land is available in this region, which will increase the potential for establishing industrial units, warehouses, service



processing and packaging centers. At present, coal, salt, clinker and cement are transported from here by road, but this will become possible through rail once the line is built. The location of Jakhau Port is strategically very important because it is situated close to the international coastal border with Pakistan. Jakhau Port is 67 km away from the international border. Naliya is also an important Indian Air Force station under the Western Command. With the construction of this railway line, the country will gain a strong connectivity route from a defence perspective as well. It will also help reduce congestion at Kandla and Mundra ports.

Desalpar–Hajipir–Luna and Vayor–Lakhpat new broad-gauge railway lines (144.457 km)

The Desalpar-Hajipir-Luna (81.771 km) and Vayor-Lakhpat (62.686 km) broad-gauge railway line project will have a total length of approximately 145 km. This project was approved by the Railway Board on 3rd September 2025. It has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹2,526.47 crore. Under this project, 15 stations, 91 road underbridges, 39 major bridges, 74 minor bridges and the acquisition of 690 hectares of land are proposed. A 2×25 kV AC electric traction system will be used in this project.



At present, there is no railway connectivity in this region and the nearest railway station, Bhuj, is located about 75 kilometers away. With the construction of this new railway line, the people of the region will have access to a safe, affordable and convenient rail service in addition to road transport.

This project is extremely important from an industrial perspective because the Luna region is one of the major salt-producing areas of the country. Around 10 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of salt is produced here, which is currently transported by road. After the construction of the new railway line, this large volume of freight will be transportable by rail. In addition, the region has deposits of minerals such as bauxite, lignite and fluorite and their mining and transportation will provide new momentum to local employment and industrial development. Moreover, cement and mining industries are already established in the Vayor and Lakhpat areas, which is expected to significantly increase freight movement.

Desalpar-Hajipir-Luna (81.771 km) Stations:

Desalpar, Paliwad, Nakhatrana, Aral Moti, Phulay, Hajipir, Luna.

Vayor-Lakhpat (62.686 km) Stations:

Vayor, Harudi, Baranda, Buddha, Narayan Sarovar, Kapurasi, Cheri Moti, Lakhpat.■

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SANCTIONS FEROZEPUR-PATTI CORRIDOR TO BOOST REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEFENCE READINESS

Strengthening its mission to deliver smarter and shorter routes, the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned the Ferozepur-Patti Rail Link Project, covering a total length of 25.72 km at an estimated cost of ₹764.19 crore. This includes ₹166 crore towards land acquisition to be borne by the Railways. The good news was announced by Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, S. Ravneet Singh Bittu, at a media briefing on 12th November, 2025.



Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu explaining key features of the Project

The minister said that the project holds strategic and economic importance, significantly reducing the distance between Ferozepur and Amritsar from 196 km to about 100 km and shortening the Jammu-Ferozepur-Fazilka-Mumbai corridor by 236 km. It will serve as a crucial link between the Malwa and Majha regions of Punjab, enhancing regional mobility and logistics efficiency.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw for this historic gift to Punjab, Bittu said that the new rail line will connect the Jalandhar-Ferozepur and Patti-Khemkaran routes, providing a direct and alternative connection close to the international border. Passing through areas of strategic defence significance, it will facilitate rapid movement of defence personnel, equipment and supplies.

MoSR added that, beyond strategic benefits, the project promises significant socio-economic gains, benefiting nearly 10 lakh people and creating approximately 2.5 lakh employment opportunities. It will serve 2500–3500 daily passengers, particularly students, employees and patients from nearby villages. The rail link will spur trade and industrial growth, reduce freight transportation costs and improve access to agricultural markets, thereby boosting investment in education, healthcare and essential infrastructure. It will also link Amritsar, a major commercial, educational and religious hub attracting over one lakh tourists daily, with Ferozepur, ensuring faster connectivity and stronger regional integration. Importantly, the new alignment will revive a historic route lost during Partition, reducing the Ferozepur-Khemkaran distance from 294 km to 110 km.

> “The project promises significant socio-economic gains, benefiting nearly 10 lakh people and creating approximately 2.5 lakh employment opportunities.
>
> **Ravneet Singh Bittu**
> Minister of State for Railways

DRM (Ambala) Vinod Bhatia, CPM (Construction) Ajai Varshney, CPM (RLDA) Balbir Singh, ADRM (Firozpur) Nitin Garg and EDPG, Ministry of Railways, Dhananjay Singh, were also present on the occasion.■

INDIAN RAILWAYS CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY WITH NATIONWIDE PREAMBLE READING

All Zones across and others marked the day with coordinated ceremonies, reaffirming a shared commitment to constitutional values

On Constitution Day, Indian Railways honoured the nation's democratic spirit with a meaningful and well-curated ceremony at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, on 26th November, 2025. During the event, Railway Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Satish Kumar, along with senior officials and employees, recited the Preamble to the Constitution. The participants also pledged to uphold the Constitution's fundamental ideals and to preserve the unity and integrity of the nation.

In addition to the physical event, emphasis was also laid on celebrating Constitution Day through digital means. Officers and employees were encouraged to participate in an online quiz on Constitutional Democracy via the 'MyGov.in' and 'constitution75.com' websites. They were also urged to read the Preamble online and obtain a certificate.

Similar commemorative programmes were organised across other railway zones and divisions. Central Railway observed Constitution Day at the CSMT Heritage Headquarters, where Prateek Goswami, Additional General Manager, led the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution in the building foyer with active participation from officers and staff.

East Coast Railway celebrated Constitution Day with great solemnity, where General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal led the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution. Officers and staff joined the ceremony and reaffirmed their commitment to upholding the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Constitution Day was observed at Western Railway, where General Manager Vivek Kumar Gupta, together with officers and staff, read the Preamble to the Constitution of India.

On Constitution Day, West Central Railway officers and staff, along with General Manager



Railway Board Chairman and CEO Satish Kumar and Officials in taking the Constitution Day pledge at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi

Shobhana Bandhopadhyay, read the Preamble to the Constitution, reaffirming their faith and commitment to democratic values and duties.

North Central Railway observed Constitution Day 2025 across Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra divisions, where officers and staff, under the leadership of the Divisional Railway Managers, collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution and took the pledge, reaffirming their commitment to its values.

South Western Railway observed Constitution Day at Rail Soudha, Hubballi, where General Manager Mukul Saran Mathur administered the pledge to officers and staff, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution.

On 26th November, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution. To commemorate this historic occasion, the Government of India declared the same day as Constitution Day in 2015. Since then, the day has been observed every year to honour this sacred document. This observance by the Railway Board reflects Indian Railways' commitment to the nation's democratic values and constitutional ethics.■

A **BILLION-TONNE BREAKTHROUGH** IN FREIGHT

1020 MILLION TONNES

CARGO MOVED IN FY 2025–26

Indian Railways' freight performance continues to strengthen India's economic backbone, with cumulative loading this year crossing the 1-billion-tonne mark—reaching 1020 Million Tonnes (MT) as of 19th November, 2025.

This milestone reflects broad-based support from key sectors: coal remains the largest contributor at 505 MT, followed by iron ore (115 MT), cement (92 MT), container traffic (59 MT), pig iron and finished steel (47 MT), fertilisers (42 MT), mineral oil (32 MT), foodgrains (30 MT), raw materials for steel plants (approx. 20 MT) and balance-other-goods (74 MT). Daily loading continues to hold strong at around 4.4 MT, higher than the 4.2 MT recorded last year, demonstrating improved operational efficiency and sustained demand.

Coal Freight Train

Freight loading between April and October further underscores this positive trajectory, touching 935.1 MT in 2025, compared to 906.9 MT during the same period last year, marking a healthy year-on-year growth. This sustained momentum, combined with improved daily loading rates, demonstrates the Railways' capacity to support India's industrial expansion and infrastructure development.

Iron Loading

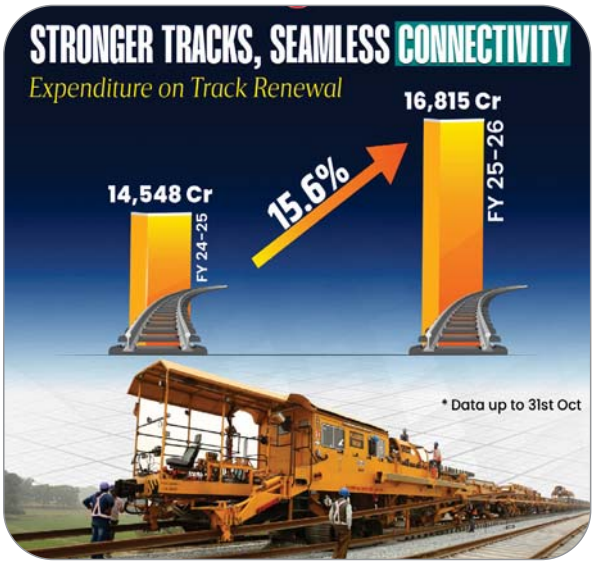
Recognizing the critical role of cement in India's infrastructure growth, the Railways has taken significant steps to optimise this segment's logistics capabilities. The recent rollout of comprehensive reforms including the Policy for Bulk Cement Terminals and rationalised rates for bulk cement movement in containers, represents a strategic initiative to modernise cement transportation. These measures aim to increase bulk handling capacity, reduce transit time and lower logistics costs, directly benefiting both industry players and end consumers while driving greater efficiency across the supply chain. Such targeted interventions are catalysing sectoral transformation.

Fertilisers Unloading

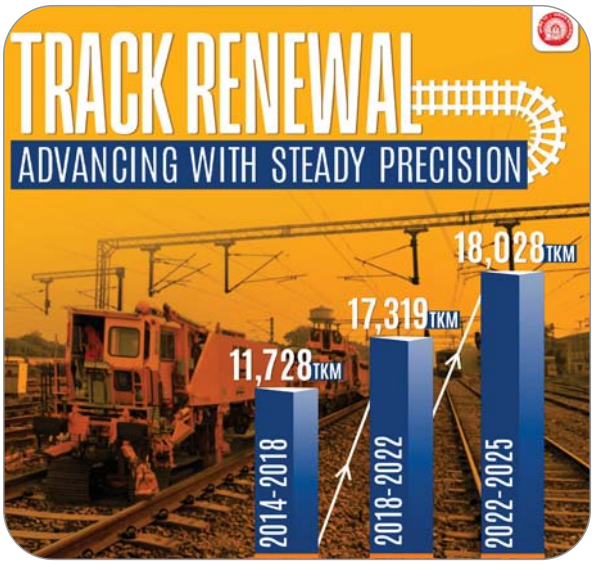
Shifting bulk goods movement to rail yields multiple benefits that extend beyond mere commercial metrics. It reduces carbon footprints, decongests highways and provides industries, including MSMEs, access to greener logistics solutions. These developments reinforce India's commitment to sustainable growth, aligning freight operations with the nation's journey towards net-zero carbon emission targets and positioning the Railways as a catalyst for both economic and environmental progress. ■



ACHIEVEMENTS











TRAIN JOURNEYS TO BECOME CLEANER WITH NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES ACROSS ZONAL RAILWAYS

The directive highlights systematic collection and safe disposal of train garbage by on-board housekeeping service and pantry car staff at nominated stations enroute

Indian Railways, a symbol of national pride and operational excellence, has taken yet another decisive step to make train journeys cleaner and more comfortable. On 13th November, 2025, the Railway Board issued detailed instructions to all Zonal Railways for the systematic collection and disposal of garbage from trains during their journeys. This directive aims to enhance onboard cleanliness and ensure a more pleasant travel experience for passengers."

The instructions reinforce a mechanism where the On-Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) and pantry car staff are mandated to collect garbage from passenger compartments and dispose of it in sealed bags at specifically nominated stations en route. This system is designed to maintain the cleanliness of both the train interiors and the railway infrastructure.

A key focus of the new order is the role of the on-board staff in delivering a hospitable and comfortable journey. By ensuring a clean and waste-free environment within the coaches and toilets, the staff contribute significantly to passenger comfort and safety. The Board has directed that these frontline staff, who are largely contractual, must be adequately trained and equipped by the Zonal Railways to fulfil these responsibilities effectively, reflecting a spirit of service.

To ensure the ground-level implementation of these protocols, the Railway Board has mandated an immediate and extensive exercise of 'Samvaad' (Dialogue) with the concerned on-board staff. This sensitization program will be jointly conducted by senior supervisors and officers from the commercial and mechanical departments across all Zonal Railways. The objective is to engage directly with the staff, explain the critical importance of their role in the Swachh Bharat Mission and understand any operational constraints they face.

The 'Samvaad' sessions will include screening of instructional videos to help on-board staff clearly understand waste-management practices, while reinforcing their responsibility under the Swachh Bharat Mission to keep trains and stations clean.



Staff will be briefed on the instructions issued for handling garbage and catering waste, along with procedures for disposal at nominated stations identified for each train.

The sessions will also emphasise the need for proactive and responsible behaviour from OBHS and pantry staff, while acknowledging the practical constraints they face during waste disposal. Divisions will be required to share their feedback with the Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) and Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCMEs) at the Zonal level. PCCMs will then compile and submit a consolidated report to the office of the Executive Director, Tourism and Catering, Railway Board within 10 days of completion of the exercise.

This comprehensive exercise is slated for completion within one month, ensuring coverage of all trains. After this, feedback from the divisions will be compiled at the Zonal level and submitted to the Railway Board for review.

The Board's communication also highlights a strict compliance mechanism. The licensees of OBHS and pantry car services will be formally counselled on these guidelines. Any violation will be treated as a major breach of contract, initiating termination proceedings against the defaulting parties.

This initiative builds upon earlier instructions issued in July, 2024, which outlined a system for mandatory en-route garbage disposal. That system included conducting work studies to assess garbage generation, fixing a minimum number of garbage bags to be disposed of at designated stations and entering this data into a centralized management system (CMM system of CRIS) for effective monitoring.

By combining strict procedural compliance with a humane approach through 'Samvaad', the Indian Railways is taking a significant step towards enhancing onboard hospitality, hygiene and the overall passenger journey experience.



भारतीय रेल

1960 से रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रकाशित एकमात्र हिन्दी मासिक पत्रिका

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विक्रमी संवत्-2082-2083 | श

जनवरी — पौष-माघ — JANUARY

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
			1 त्रयोदशी	2 चतुर्दशी	3 पूर्णिमा	4 एकम्
5 द्वितीया	6 तृतीया / चतुर्थी	7 पंचमी	8 षष्ठी	9 सप्तमी	10 सप्तमी	11 अष्टमी
12 नवमी	13 दशमी	14 एकादशी	15 द्वादशी	16 त्रयोदशी	17 चतुर्दशी	18 अमावस्या
19 एकम्	20 द्वितीया	21 तृतीया	22 चतुर्थी	23 पंचमी	24 षष्ठी	25 सप्तमी
26 अष्टमी	27 नवमी	28 दशमी	29 एकादशी	30 द्वादशी	31 त्रयोदशी / चतुर्दशी	

01 नववर्ष दिवस / New Year's Day
03 हजरत अली जयंती / Hazrat Ali's Birthday
14 मकर संक्रांति / Makar Sankranti
23 बसंत पंचमी / Basant Panchami
26 गणतंत्र दिवस / Republic Day

फरवरी — माघ-फाल्गुन — FEBRUARY

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
						1 पूर्णिमा
2 एकम्	3 द्वितीया	4 तृतीया	5 चतुर्थी	6 पंचमी	7 षष्ठी	8 सप्तमी
9 अष्टमी	10 अष्टमी	11 नवमी	12 दशमी	13 एकादशी	14 द्वादशी	15 त्रयोदशी
16 चतुर्दशी	17 अमावस्या	18 एकम्	19 द्वितीया	20 तृतीया	21 चतुर्थी	22 पंचमी
23 षष्ठी	24 सप्तमी / अष्टमी	25 नवमी	26 दशमी	27 एकादशी	28 द्वादशी	

01 गुरु रविदास जयंती / Guru Ravidas's Birthday
12 स्वामी दयानन्द सरस्वती जयंती / Swami Dayanand Sarswati's Birthday
15 महा शिवरात्रि / Maha Shivratri
19 शिवाजी जयंती / Shiva ji Birthday's

मार्च — फाल्गुन-चैत्र — MARCH

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
30 द्वादशी	31 त्रयोदशी					1 त्रयोदशी
2 चतुर्दशी	3 पूर्णिमा	4 एकम्	5 द्वितीया	6 तृतीया	7 चतुर्थी	8 पंचमी
9 षष्ठी	10 सप्तमी	11 अष्टमी	12 नवमी	13 दशमी	14 दशमी	15 एकादशी
16 द्वादशी	17 त्रयोदशी	18 चतुर्दशी	19 अमावस्या-एकम्	20 द्वितीया	21 तृतीया	22 चतुर्थी
23 पंचमी	24 षष्ठी	25 सप्तमी	26 अष्टमी	27 नवमी	28 दशमी	29 एकादशी

03 होलिका दहन / Holika Dahan
19 चैत्र शुक्लादी / गुड़ी पड़वा / उगादि / चेती चंद / Chaitra Sukladi / Gudi Padava / Ugadi / Cheti Chand
20 जमात-उल-विदा / Jamat-Ul-Vida
04 होली / Holi
21 ईद-उल-फितर / Id-Ul-Fitr
26 राम नवमी / Ram Navami
31 महावीर जयंती / Mahavir's Birthday

अप्रैल — चैत्र-वैशाख — APRIL

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
		1 चतुर्दशी	2 पूर्णिमा	3 एकम्	4 द्वितीया	5 तृतीया
6 चतुर्थी	7 पंचमी	8 षष्ठी	9 सप्तमी	10 अष्टमी	11 नवमी	12 दशमी
13 एकादशी	14 द्वादशी	15 त्रयोदशी	16 चतुर्दशी	17 अमावस्या	18 एकम्	19 द्वितीया
20 तृतीया–चतुर्थी	21 पंचमी	22 षष्ठी	23 सप्तमी	24 अष्टमी	25 नवमी	26 दशमी
27 एकादशी	28 द्वादशी	29 त्रयोदशी	30 चतुर्दशी			

05 ईस्टर रविवार / Easter Sunday
14 वैशाखी / Vaisakhi
15 वैशाखड़ी (बंगाल)/बाहाग बिहु (असम) / Vaisakhadi (Bengal)/Bahag Bihu (Assam)
03 गुड फ्राइडे / Good Fiday

मई — वैशाख-ज्येष्ठ — MAY

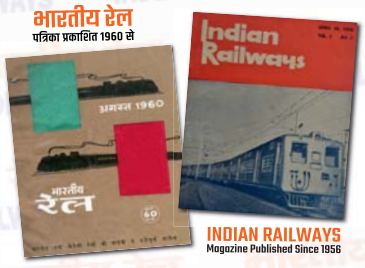
Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
				1 पूर्णिमा	2 एकम्	3 द्वितीया
4 तृतीया	5 चतुर्थी	6 चतुर्थी	7 पंचमी	8 षष्ठी	9 सप्तमी	10 अष्टमी
11 नवमी	12 दशमी	13 एकादशी	14 द्वादशी	15 त्रयोदशी–चतुर्दशी	16 अमावस्या	17 एकम्
18 द्वितीया	19 तृतीया	20 चतुर्थी	21 पंचमी	22 षष्ठी–सप्तमी	23 अष्टमी	24 नवमी
25 दशमी	26 एकादशी	27 एकादशी	28 द्वादशी	29 त्रयोदशी	30 चतुर्दशी	31 पूर्णिमा

09 गुरुरवींद्र नाथ टैगोर जयंती / Guru Ravindra Nath Tagore's Birthday
01 बुद्ध पूर्णिमा / Buddha Purnima
27 ईद-उल-जुहा (बकरीद) / Id-Ul-Zuha (Bakrid)

जून — ज्येष्ठ-आषाढ़ — JUNE

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
1 एकम्	2 द्वितीया	3 तृतीया	4 चतुर्थी	5 पंचमी	6 षष्ठी	7 सप्तमी
8 अष्टमी	9 नवमी	10 दशमी	11 एकादशी	12 द्वादशी	13 त्रयोदशी	14 चतुर्दशी
15 अमावस्या–एकम्	16 द्वितीया	17 तृतीया	18 चतुर्थी	19 पंचमी	20 षष्ठी	21 सप्तमी
22 अष्टमी	23 नवमी	24 दशमी	25 एकादशी	26 द्वादशी	27 त्रयोदशी	28 चतुर्दशी
29 पूर्णिमा	30 एकम्					

26 मोहर्रम / Moharrm



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क् संवत्-1947-1948

INDIAN RAILWAYS

FROM 1956 MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS OF MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

जुलाई आषाढ़-श्रावण JULY

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
		1 एकम्	2 द्वितीया	3 तृतीया	4 चतुर्थी	5 पंचमी
6 षष्ठी	7 सप्तमी	8 अष्टमी	9 नवमी	10 दशमी-एकादशी	11 द्वादशी	12 त्रयोदशी
13 चतुर्दशी	14 अमावस्या	15 एकम्	16 द्वितीया	17 तृतीया-चतुर्थी	18 पंचमी	19 षष्ठी
20 सप्तमी	21 अष्टमी	22 नवमी	23 नवमी	24 दशमी	25 एकादशी	26 द्वादशी
27 त्रयोदशी	28 चतुर्दशी	29 पूर्णिमा	30 एकम्	31 द्वितीया		

16 रथ यात्रा / Rath Yatra

अक्टूबर आश्विन-कार्तिक OCTOBER

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
			1 पंचमी	2 षष्ठी	3 सप्तमी-अष्टमी	4 नवमी
5 दशमी	6 एकादशी	7 द्वादशी	8 त्रयोदशी	9 चतुर्दशी	10 अमावस्या	11 एकम्
12 द्वितीया	13 तृतीया	14 चतुर्थी	15 पंचमी	16 षष्ठी	17 सप्तमी	18 सप्तमी
19 अष्टमी	20 नवमी-दशमी	21 दशमी	22 एकादशी	23 द्वादशी	24 त्रयोदशी	25 चतुर्दशी
26 पूर्णिमा	27 एकम्-द्वितीया	28 तृतीया	29 चतुर्थी	30 पंचमी	31 षष्ठी	

18 दशहरा (सप्तमी) / Dussehara (Saptami)
19 दशहरा (महा सप्तमी) / Dussehara (Maha Saptami)
20 दशहरा (महा नवमी) / Dussehara (Maha Navami)
26 महाऋषि वाल्मीकि जयंती / Maharishi Valmiki's Birthday
29 करक चतुर्थी (करवा चौथ) / Karaka Chaturthi (Karva Chauth)

02 महात्मा गांधी जयंती / Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday
20 दशहरा / Dussehara

अगस्त श्रावण-भाद्रपद AUGUST

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
31 तृतीया					1 तृतीया	2 चतुर्थी
3 पंचमी	4 षष्ठी	5 सप्तमी	6 अष्टमी	7 नवमी	8 दशमी	9 एकादशी
10 द्वादशी-त्रयोदशी	11 चतुर्दशी	12 अमावस्या	13 एकम्	14 द्वितीया	15 तृतीया	16 चतुर्थी
17 पंचमी	18 षष्ठी	19 सप्तमी	20 अष्टमी	21 नवमी	22 दशमी	23 एकादशी
24 द्वादशी	25 द्वादशी	26 त्रयोदशी	27 चतुर्दशी	28 पूर्णिमा	29 एकम्	30 द्वितीया

15 पारसी नव वर्ष / Parsi New Year's
26 ओणम या थिरुओणम दिवस / Onam or Thiru Onam Day
28 रक्षाबंधन / Raksha Bandhan

15 स्वतंत्रता दिवस / Independence Day
26 मिलाद-उन-नबी / ईद-ए-मिलाद / Milad-Un-Nabi / Id-e-Milad

नवम्बर कार्तिक-मार्गशीर्ष NOVEMBER

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
30 सप्तमी						1 सप्तमी
2 अष्टमी	3 नवमी	4 दशमी	5 एकादशी	6 द्वादशी	7 त्रयोदशी	8 चतुर्दशी-अमावस्या
9 अमावस्या	10 एकम्	11 द्वितीया	12 तृतीया	13 चतुर्थी	14 पंचमी	15 षष्ठी
16 सप्तमी	17 अष्टमी	18 नवमी	19 नवमी	20 दशमी-एकम्	21 द्वादशी	22 त्रयोदशी
23 चतुर्दशी	24 पूर्णिमा	25 एकम्	26 द्वितीया	27 तृतीया-चतुर्थी	28 पंचमी	29 षष्ठी

08 नरक चतुर्दशी / Naraka Chaturdasi
09 गोवर्धन पूजा / Govardhan Puja
11 भाई दूज / Bhai Dooj
15 छठ पूजा / Chhat Puja
24 गुरुतेग बहादुर शहीदी दिवस / Guru Teg Bahadur's Martyrdom Day

08 दिवाली / दीपावली / Diwali / Deepawali
24 गुरुनानक जयंती / Guru Nanak's Birthday

सितम्बर भाद्रपद-आश्विन SEPTEMBER

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
	1 चतुर्थी	2 पंचमी-षष्ठी	3 सप्तमी	4 अष्टमी	5 नवमी	6 दशमी
7 एकादशी	8 द्वादशी	9 त्रयोदशी	10 चतुर्दशी	11 अमावस्या	12 एकम्	13 द्वितीया
14 तृतीया	15 चतुर्थी	16 पंचमी	17 षष्ठी	18 सप्तमी	19 अष्टमी	20 नवमी
21 दशमी	22 एकादशी	23 द्वादशी	24 त्रयोदशी	25 चतुर्दशी	26 पूर्णिमा	27 एकम्
28 द्वितीया	29 तृतीया	30 चतुर्थी				

14 गणेश चतुर्थी / Ganesh Chathurthi

04 जन्माष्टमी / Janmashtami

दिसम्बर मार्गशीर्ष-पौष DECEMBER

Mon सोम	Tue मंगल	Wed बुध	Thu गुरु	Fri शुक्र	Sat शनि	Sun रवि
	1 अष्टमी	2 नवमी	3 दशमी	4 एकादशी	5 द्वादशी	6 त्रयोदशी
7 चतुर्दशी	8 अमावस्या	9 एकम्	10 प्रतिपदा	11 द्वितीया	12 तृतीया	13 चतुर्थी
14 पंचमी	15 षष्ठी	16 सप्तमी	17 अष्टमी	18 नवमी	19 दशमी	20 एकादशी
21 द्वादशी	22 त्रयोदशी	23 पूर्णिमा-चतुर्दशी	24 एकम्	25 द्वितीया	26 तृतीया	27 चतुर्थी
28 पंचमी	29 षष्ठी	30 सप्तमी	31 अष्टमी			

23 हजरत अली जयंती / Hazarat Ali's Birthday
24 क्रिसमस पूर्व संध्या / Christmas Eve

25 क्रिसमस दिवस / Christmas Day





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INDIAN RAILWAYS DELIVERS SAFER TRAVEL BY CURBING CRIME, RECOVERING LOST ITEMS AND RESCUING AT-RISK CHILDREN



The Railway Protection Force (RPF), the backbone of safety across the vast Indian Railways network, has been working round the clock to safeguard railway property, passenger areas and millions of daily commuters, ensuring a secure and reassuring travel experience. Supporting Indian Railways in protecting its extensive assets and ensuring safe freight movement, the RPF has effectively prevented and detected crimes across the network. Continuing its commitment to public safety, social welfare and security, the coordinated efforts of Indian Railways and the RPF have delivered significant results across key initiatives between January and October 2025.

Operations	January - October	In October
Nanhe Farishtey	16450	1586
Jeevan Raksha	2658	296
NARCOS	₹ 197.19	₹ 14.68
Amanat (42210 lost items found)	₹ 70.66	₹ 8.65

₹ in crore

The following are the consolidated achievements:

Operation 'Nanhe Farishtey'

The RPF plays a vital role in reuniting children who become lost or separated from their families for various reasons. To strengthen this effort, Operation 'Nanhe Farishtey' was launched across Indian Railways, focusing on the rescue and protection of vulnerable children in need of care and support. Under this initiative, from January to October 2025, a total of 16,450 children were rescued—including 11,543 boys, 4906 girls and one other—and handed over to the concerned authorities for restoration to their families. In October 2025 alone, 1586 children were rescued, comprising 1085 boys and 501 girls.

Operation 'Jeevan Raksha'

Dedicated to preventing fatalities on railway tracks, the life-saving mission 'Jeevan Raksha' has been instrumental in rescuing individuals in distress. Between January and October 2025, a total of 2658 lives were saved, including 1757 males and 901 females. In October 2025 alone, 296 persons were rescued, comprising 191 males and 105 females.

Operation NARCOS

Since April 2019, the RPF has been empowered to conduct searches, seizures and arrests under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and has been actively contributing to the government's efforts to curb the illegal trade of narcotics. Under Operation NARCOS, an ongoing crackdown on the trafficking of NDPS, the RPF has achieved significant success. From January to October 2025, a total of 1794 cases were detected, leading to the recovery of NDPS worth ₹197.19 crore and the arrest of 1450 persons. In October 2025 alone, 140 cases were detected, resulting in the recovery of NDPS worth ₹14.68 crore and the arrest of 133 persons.

Operation 'Amanat'

Operation 'Amanat' of the RPF, aimed at returning valuables to their rightful owners, has yielded impressive results. This passenger-centric initiative has successfully reunited travellers with their left-behind belongings, ensuring the safety of their valuables. Between January and October 2025, a total of 42,210 articles of left-behind luggage were retrieved, with an estimated value of ₹70.66 crore, while in October 2025 alone, 7894 articles were recovered, valued at approximately ₹8.65 crore.

These figures reflect the unwavering dedication of the RPF and Indian Railways to creating a safer and more secure travel experience for every citizen. Through the use of technology and close coordination with other agencies, the Indian Railways and the RPF continue to protect the vulnerable, save lives and combat drug trafficking—ensuring that every journey is safe, comfortable and worry-free.■

SCR, IRISET AND IIT-HYDERABAD SIGN MOU TO STANDARDISE KAVACH'S MODULAR ARCHITECTURE

South Central Railway (SCR), the Centre of Excellence (CoE) of the Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12th November, 2025, at the IIT-Hyderabad campus.

The MoU was signed in the presence of SCR's Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer P. V. Murali Krishna, IIT-Hyderabad Director B.S. Murthy, SCR's Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer (Projects/Coordination) Tej Prakash Agrawal, CoE's Executive Director (Signal Development) Vijay Serwal and IIT-Hyderabad's Head of Department Prof. G. Narahari Sastry.

The primary objective of this MoU is to develop interoperability at the modular hardware level for the Kavach system, Indian Railways' indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. This initiative aims to standardize hardware interfaces and enable plug-and-play compatibility among various functional modules of the Kavach system, including input/output (I/O) modules, RF modules, communication interfaces and processing units, irrespective of the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).



This technological advancement will significantly enhance maintainability, upgradability and multi-vendor flexibility within the Kavach ecosystem, paving the way for scalable and efficient implementation across the Indian Railways network.

To achieve this goal, SCR and CoE/IRISET have partnered with IIT-Hyderabad, leveraging the institute's expertise in embedded systems, cyber-physical systems, communication protocols and system-level hardware integration. Under this collaboration, IIT-Hyderabad will develop a prototype demonstrating the full functionality and interoperability of the standardized Kavach system architecture.■

GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA AND DRDO SIGN MOU TO DEVELOP SMART TECH SOLUTIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

The MoU paves way for joint research in logistics, chip design and advanced encryption technologies



A Memorandum of Understanding between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) was signed on 17th November, 2025, in New Delhi in the presence of Dr Samir V. Kamat (Chairman, DRDO and Secretary of Defence R&D). GSV and DRDO joined hands to develop smart technological solutions for national security. On the occasion, Dr. Kamat said, "The collaboration is expected to facilitate the development of technological solutions for the deployment aspects of indigenous defence systems."

The MoU will serve as a medium for collaborative studies and R&D directed toward the areas of Logistics Management; operational logistics at tactical, operational and strategic levels for analysis of concepts and validation of operational logistics plans; Chip Design & Hardware Security; and Homomorphic/ Block Chain-based encryption. The key focus will be to build the capacities of researchers and scientists in the operational and military science domains, logistics management and technical research. Both organizations will participate in conducting research, holding joint seminars/conferences, capacity building and roundtable workshops. Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice Chancellor, GSV) and Dr. Lal Chand Mangal, (DS & DG(TM)) were the signatories.

The university already has strong collaboration with all three defence forces, viz. Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy for logistics and supply chain research and education. Therefore, the MoU with DRDO enables GSV to enhance its value proposition for the sector through cutting-edge research.

GSV, India's first University in the transportation and logistics sector, was established as a Central University as a Central University by an Act of Parliament in 2022. Working under the Ministry of Railways (Govt. of India), the university covers the entire transportation sector, including railways, highways, ports, aviation, maritime, shipping, inland waterways, urban transport and complete logistics and supply chain networks. The university is headed by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, as its Chancellor.

INDIAN RAILWAYS INSTITUTE OF SIGNAL ENGINEERING & TELECOMMUNICATIONS CELEBRATES 68TH ANNUAL DAY

V. Narayanan, Chairman ISRO delivered the key note address

Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering & Telecommunications (IRISET) premier Centralized Training Institute of Indian Railways specialized in training in Signalling and Telecommunications technologies, celebrated its 68th Annual Day 24th November, 2025. Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) delivered the key note address on the occasion. Satish Kumar, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Railway Board, Chief Guest delivered the address through a recorded video message to the gathering. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, other senior officials, faculty members and trainees also participated in the event.

Satish Kumar, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Railway Board delivered his address through a recorded message to the gathering virtually. He complimented the Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering & Telecommunications for outstanding performance in 2025. He congratulated the toppers of courses held in the year. He stated that safety in train operations remains the top priority and safe working habits should be inculcated in the officers and supervisors. He stated that it is a proud moments for all that, IRISET conducts a good number of training courses not just for Railway officers and staff but also personnel from private industries.

He stated that the Centre of Excellence (CoE) played a pivotal role in fast-tracking Kavach deployment across Indian Railways. Major achievements include functional testing of EI–Kavach interfaces, development of a universal braking algorithm, upgradation of existing Kavach labs equipments latest to Version 4.0, extensive field trials, creation of a national knowledge management portal, and MoUs for next-generation research and interoperability. IRISET introduced multiple new courses, revised curricula for Supervisors, Technicians & Helpers as per Railway Board directives, and strengthened industry partnerships through 18 MoUs with engineering colleges and pilot collaborations with Government ITIs for Railway-sector skilling.



Indian Railways' 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

Lakhs of visitors got a firsthand look at interactive exhibits, 3D virtual runs, and detailed models at the fair



Exterior view of the modern and attractive Indian Railways pavilion, themed on 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

The Indian Railways pavilion has been awarded the Bronze Medal for excellence in the central ministries and government departments category at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025. The award was presented by IITF officials to Indian Railways Executive Director (Information & Publicity) Dilip Kumar.

IITF 2025, held from 14–27th November at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, showcased a modern, vibrant and informative pavilion by Indian Railways, themed 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Showcasing the organisation's engineering prowess, recent achievements, and future-ready initiatives, the pavilion emerged as one of the star attractions of the fair, drawing over one lakh visitors.



Visitors enjoying and participating in the interactive quiz based on Indian Railways

The pavilion showcased major railway landmarks, including the Chenab Bridge, the Bairabi-Sairang project in the Northeast, the iconic Pamban Bridge, and Deshnok Railway Station. Together, these highlights offered visitors a glimpse of Indian Railways' capability to build large-scale infrastructure across diverse terrains.

A detailed model of the Katni Grade Separator System, India's longest at 33.40 km, with its 15.85 km Up section commissioned and the 17.52 km Down section under construction, was also showcased.

Working models of Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Namo Bharat were major crowd-pullers, drawing strong interest for their technology, design and speed. Locomotive and wagon models, including

Pavilion Becomes IITF Top Attraction



Children delighted to see the working models of Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Namo Bharat train sets


भारत मंडपम नई दिल्ली में 14-27 नवंबर, 2025 तक आयोजित
44वें
भारतीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला 2025
में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए मंत्रालय एवं सरकारी विभाग
के मंडप में कांस्य पदक से पुरस्कृत
For the Central Ministries & Government Departments Pavilion
adjudged Third for Excellence in Display in the
44th
India International Trade Fair 2025
held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, November 14-27, 2025
given this award of 'Bronze Medal'
विजेता : रेल मंत्रालय
To : Ministry of Railways
Dr. Neeraj Kharwal, I.A.S.



exports under 'Make in India,' further highlighted Indian Railways' growing global footprint.

The pavilion also showcased detailed exhibits on India's Bullet Train project, offering a glimpse into the country's high-speed transport future and drawing strong visitor interest.

The pavilion featured interactive attractions such as an Indian Railways quiz, a 3D virtual run over the Chenab Bridge, and a digital selfie point popular with young visitors. Officials said the Bronze Medal at IITF 2025 recognises Indian Railways' engineering leadership, innovation, and commitment to building a Viksit Bharat.■



Visitors showing interest in the 'Bhartiya Rail' and 'Indian Railways' magazines



Dilip Kumar, Executive Director (Information & Publicity), along with the Public Relations team, receiving the Bronze Award from IITF officials for excellence

KOLKATA METRO BEGINS PURPLE LINE'S SECOND TUNNELLING WITH TBM DIVYA

Tunnelling work for the Kolkata Metro has moved into its next stage with the second Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), Divya, being commissioned at the St. Thomas School in Khidderpore area of the city.

The launch was carried out by General Manager, Metro Railway, Subhransu S. Mishra on 11th October 2025. Senior officials of Metro Railway, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and St. Thomas School were also present on this occasion.

A launching shaft measuring 37 m in length, 22 m in width and 17 m in depth has been constructed inside St. Thomas School for this work. The 6.63 m diameter (outer) TBM was assembled in Chennai and moved to Kolkata in March 2025 for assembly and lowering operations.

Two TBMs—Durga and Divya—have been deployed to construct a 2.65 km-long twin tunnel from Khidderpore to Park Street in Kolkata. Breakthrough is expected by December 2026 and March 2027, respectively.

These new generation TBMs are safe and efficient and can bore at the rate of 80 mm/min. Each TBM,



measuring 95 m in length and weighing about 600 tonnes, is equipped with inflatable seals, pressure transducers, Tail Skin Grease (TSG) lines and backup TSG pumps as additional safety measures suited to local geological conditions. Precast concrete segments of M50 grade, with 275 mm thickness, are being used to construct the finished tunnel with an inner diameter of 5.80 m.

At present, Victoria Station construction work has achieved 66% completion of the top slab, while Diaphragm Wall (D-Wall) construction at Park Street Station stands at 50% completion.■

CRS CONDUCTS SAFETY INSPECTION AND SPEED TRIAL ON NEW BENGALURU DOUBLE LINE



In a major boost to the Baiyappanahalli-Hosur Doubling Project, the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, Bengaluru, carried out an inspection and speed trial on the newly laid BG double line between Karmelaram and Belandur Road (3.522 km) on 25th November, 2025. He also inspected the new Huskur Crossing Station. Officials from SWR Headquarters, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Division and K-RIDE were present during the inspection and speed trial.

Huskur Station: A new crossing station yard with two new loop lines and 3 crossovers on both ends of the yard, located near Electronic City, Bengaluru.

The commissioning of this section will facilitate the operation of more trains between Baiyappanahalli and Heelalige and will enhance flexibility in train operations.■

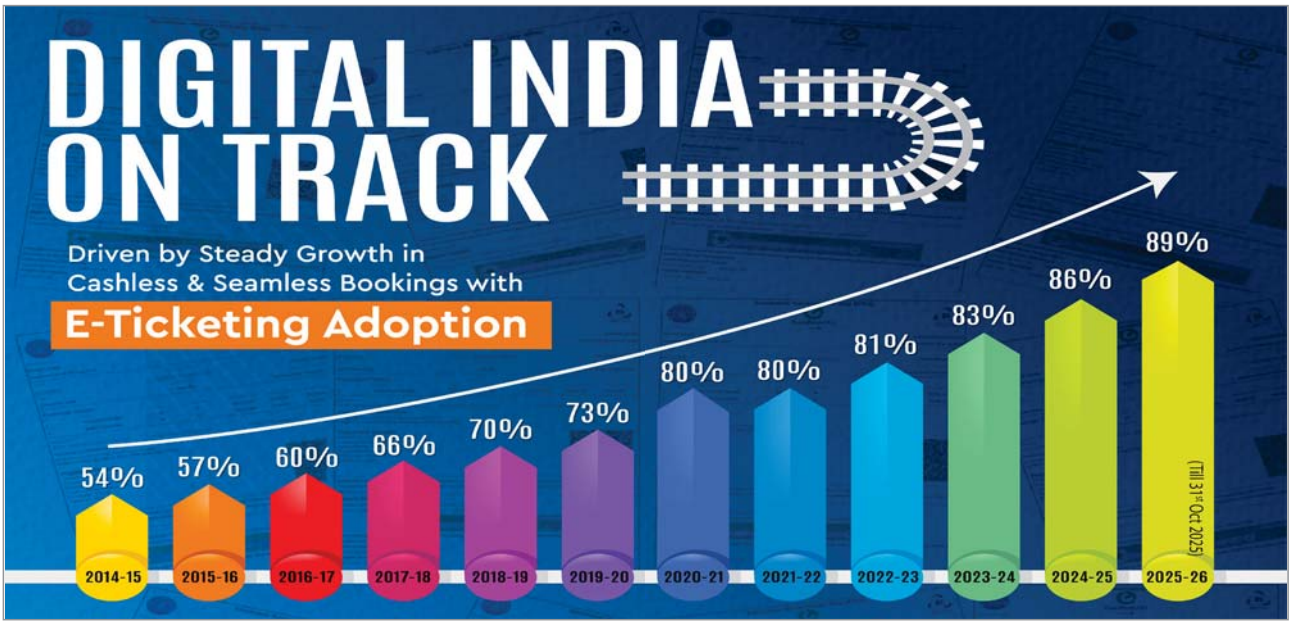
NFR FELICITATES FRONTLINE RAILWAY STAFF FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY VIGILANCE DURING KOKRAJHAR BLAST



Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) General Manager, Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, felicitated three frontline railway staff for their exemplary vigilance, professionalism, and prompt action that helped avert a potential disaster. Jitendra Kumar (Loco Pilot–Goods/APDJ), Sailendra Kumar Keshari (Sr. ALP/APDJ), and Bholaram Das (Train Manager–Goods/APDJ) were honoured recently with a cash award and certificate in recognition of their alertness and dedication while on duty. On 23rd October, 2025, at around 00:57 hrs, the goods train carrying 'sugar' was passing between Kokrajhar and Salakati stations in the Bodoland Territorial Region when the crew sensed a sudden heavy jerk. Demonstrating remarkable presence of mind, they immediately stopped the train, alerted control authorities, and discovered damage to the railway track caused by a suspected blast near OHE Mast No. 228/1. Their swift and decisive action prevented further damage, ensured timely restoration of train operations, and safeguarded both railway property and lives.

The damage was promptly repaired within a few hours through the coordinated efforts of frontline workers, engineers, and security personnel who worked tirelessly in a war-footing mode. Their dedication and teamwork ensured the swift clearance of debris, replacement of damaged sleepers and rail tracks, and thorough inspection and securing of the site, enabling the safe resumption of train operations at the earliest.

NFR also acknowledges the devotion, promptness and teamwork of all frontline staff and workers who, under challenging circumstances, displayed unwavering commitment to operational safety. Their readiness to respond at a moment's notice and to mobilise resources allowed the rail network to return to normalcy with minimal disruption. This felicitation not only honours individual courage but underscores NFR's commitment towards vigilant railway operations, passenger safety and infrastructure resilience.■



KOLKATA METRO AIMS FOR A SOLAR SURGE OF 1.1 LAKH UNITS DAILY TO CURB CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Metro Railway has been the Lifeline of Kolkata. Over the last 40 years, this railway has achieved many milestones and has been playing a leading role to reduce carbon footprints by generating power from renewable sources to increase its system efficiency. This initiative has gained momentum in recent times after the government adopted the PM Surya Ghar Scheme and fixed the target for Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.

At present, Metro Railway has solar power plants with a capacity of 4.556 MWp at various service buildings and car sheds. Of this, on the Blue Line, 1136.5 KWp solar power plants have been installed at Noapara, Dum Dum, Belgachia Tunnel Ramp, Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Kavi Subhash stations, Belgachia and Tollygunge quarters, as well as at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital. On the Green Line, 1519 KWp solar power plants have been installed at Salt Lake Sector V and Central Park stations, as well as at Central Park Depot. On the Purple Line, a 1400 KWp capacity plant is functional at Joka Carshed. On the Orange Line, a 500 KWp solar power plant is operational at the new car shed at Kavi Subhash. In September, 2025, Metro Railway generated 3,73,811 units of solar energy.

This solar power generation system of Metro Railway is being monitored through cloud-based monitoring system. Presently, Metro Railway produces 57 lakh units of solar energy every year and reduces 49 lakh tonnes of carbon footprints yearly.

To augment this production capacity further, installation of a 1500 KWp solar power plant



is underway near Jessore Road Metro station. This plant is coming up on ground. At Jessore Road Metro station and other service buildings, 654 KWp plants are also being installed. A 300 KWp solar power plant is also being installed at Gitanjali station.

Seeing Metro Railway's impressive performance, the Railway Board has sanctioned solar power plants of 4000 KWp capacity on the ground at Noapara and 5000 KWp capacity on the roofs of Noapara Carshed. Different stations of Orange and Purple lines are also going to get solar power plants. All these stations will generate 14,500 KWp of electricity to meet their demand.

At present, Metro Railway generates 16,000 units of solar power daily on an average. After the installation of these solar power plants, Metro Railway's solar power generation capacity will increase to 1,10,000 units per day.

Metro is aiming to achieve this milestone to reduce carbon emission for a better tomorrow.

READERS
are requested to send their
SUGGESTIONS/FEEDBACK
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CENTRAL RAILWAY SHOOTERS SHINE TO CLAIM OVERALL VICTORY AT 58TH ALL INDIA RAILWAY SHOOTING MEET

Exhibiting unmatched precision and teamwork, Central Railway won the Overall Championship at the 58th All India Railway Shooting Championship 2025–26. Central Railway shooters showcased stellar performances at the Championship, organised by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Asansol, from 1st to 5th November, 2025.

A total of 17 teams from various Zonal Railways participated in this prestigious competition. Central Railway's shooters delivered remarkable performances across multiple events, securing top honours in both individual and team categories.

Central Railway's Outstanding Performance Details

Individual Achievements- 50m Rifle 3 Position: Pankaj Mukheja (CCTC, Pune) – Gold Medal. 10m Air Rifle: Shahu Mane (Sr. Clerk, Kalyan) – Gold Medal.

25m Pistol Event- Sumedhkumar Devalalivala (Dy. CTI, Pune) – Gold Medal. Payal Khatri (Jr. Clerk, DRM (BB)) – Gold Medal. Riya Thatte (Jr. Clerk, CWM (Parel)) – Silver Medal.



50m Prone Event- Shahu Mane (Sr. Clerk, Kalyan) – Silver Medal. Pankaj Mukheja (CCTC, Pune) – Bronze Medal.

Team Results-50m Prone Event: Gold. 25m Pistol Event: Gold. 10m Air Pistol Event: Gold. 50m Rifle 3 Position: Silver.

10m Air Rifle: Silver- With consistent top performances in both team and individual categories, Central Railway secured the Overall Winner Trophy, reaffirming its dominance in railway sports.

METRO STAFF WINS GOLD MEDAL IN CHESS 2025 CHAMPIONSHIP, QUIBERON



Metro Railway employee, Mitrabha Guha, clinched the Gold Medal at the USIC Chess Championship 2025, held at Quiberon, France from 6th to 10th October, 2025. He was a part of the Indian Railways Chess Team that competed at the event.

A total of 11 countries participated in this prestigious international tournament. The Indian Railways Team emerged victorious in the final round, defeating Germany and Switzerland to secure the top position. Guha was one of the six key members representing Indian Railways in this championship. General Manager, Metro Railway, Subhransu S. Mishra congratulated Guha for this remarkable achievement.

AMRIT BHARAT STATION



1 November, 2025

Redevelopment of Balangir Jn., Odisha

Physical Progress: 60%

Completed Works:

- Second Class waiting halls
- Parking area

Work in Progress:

- Front facade plastering
- 12 m FOB gangway roof



13 November, 2025

Gujarat's Bhuj Station Gets Ready For A Modern Avatar With Advanced Passenger Facilities

Completed Works:

- Sturcture of the Second Entrance Building
- Service and Office Building

Work in Progress

- Main Station Building
- Circulating Area
- FoB



19 November, 2025

Redevelopment of Pollachi Junction, Tamil Nadu

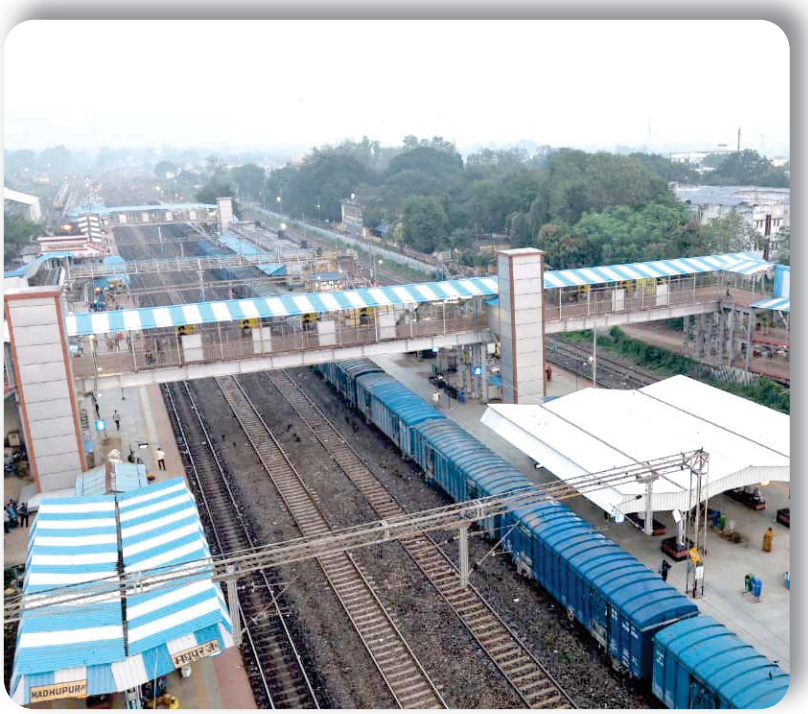
Physical Progress: 90%

Completed Works:

- Circulating and parking area
- Booking office
- New Toilet block
- Platform shelters
- AC and general Waiting hall

Work in Progress:

- Front arch and garden



10 November, 2025

Madhupur Railway Station , Jharkhand: A New Example of Development and Modernity

Work Completed:

- Booking Complex
- AC Retiring Room
- Platform Shelter
- Platform Renovation
- Circulating Area
- Painting and Electrical Fittings

Telangana's Nalgonda Station Gears Up For A Modern Makeover

Physical Progress: 80%

Work Completed:

- Cover over platforms
- Lifts platform surfacing
- Parking and Circulating Area

Works in Progress:

- Waiting hall renovation
- Facade
- FoB



27 November, 2025



22 November, 2025

Redeveloped Pankki Dham Station, Utter Pradesh

- Station building inspired by local architecture with advanced passenger amenities
- Wide platforms with covered sheds
- Improved circulating area, signage and passenger information system
- FoB for smooth movement



28 November, 2025

West Bengal's Malda Town Station To Undergo Major Transformation

Physical Progress: 92%

Work Completed:

- 1st and 2nd Class Waiting Hall
- Reserved Lounge
- Concourse and Circulating Area
- Facade

Work in Progress:

- 12m Foot Over Bridge

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INDIAN RAILWAYS TO REDEVELOP 40 TELANGANA STATIONS AT ₹2750 CRORE UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

Indian Railways is redefining travel with the redevelopment of stations across the country, offering passengers modern and premium facilities. Under the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' (ABSS), 40 railway stations across Telangana are being redeveloped at an estimated cost of ₹2750 crore, to provide modern passenger amenities and convert them into growth centers for the regional population. The mission received a major boost when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for station redevelopment in Telangana in August 2023 and February 2024. The list includes the major upgradation of Secunderabad Railway Station, which has been undertaken on a large scale to meet the world-class standards. Out of these, three railway stations—Begumpet, Warangal and Karimnagar—have been inaugurated by the Prime Minister, while work is in progress at the remaining stations.

The ABSS policy was formulated by the Ministry of Railways, aimed at modernizing railway stations and envisaging continuous development with a long-term vision. The idea is based on the implementation of various critical elements as per a master plan that caters to the ever-increasing needs and enhanced patronage of railway stations.

Malakpet Railway Station

- Malakpet Railway Station falls under the Hyderabad Division and is categorized as Suburban Grade-3 (SG-3).
- This station falls under the Kacheguda-Falaknuma suburban route and serves passengers in and around the Malakpet area.
- This station also has stoppages of important express trains like Kacheguda-Kurnool Tungabhadra Express and



Kacheguda-Guntur Express, apart from Suburban MMTS services.

- The station has been identified for redevelopment under the ABSS at an approximate cost of ₹26.5 crore.

Proposed Works

- Improvements to the circulating area.
- Provision or relocation of parking sheds.
- Installation of local arts, selfie points and signage.
- Provision of entrance arches.
- Improvements to the station facade at both entries.
- Provision of 12 m wide Foot Over Bridge (FoB).
- Provision of covers over platforms.
- Provision of 2 escalators and 2 lifts.
- Improvements to platform surfaces.
- Landscaping.
- Adequate station lighting.
- Metro connectivity.
- Provision of Train Information Boards.



Works Taken Up and Status

- **Construction of Commercial Complex:** Terrace slab completed; brick work on the ground floor and for the modified booking office on the first floor completed; plumbing and plastering works in progress.
- **Platform Improvements:** Platform fencing wall work and duct work completed.
- **Parking Sheds:** Foundation work completed.
- **12 m FoB:** Girder launching, gangway bottom sheeting and canopy completed; slab reinforcement work in progress.
- **Toilet Facilities for Divyangjan:** Brickwork, plastering and plumbing completed; finishing works in progress.
- **Cover over platforms, lifts and escalators:** Work to be taken up soon.

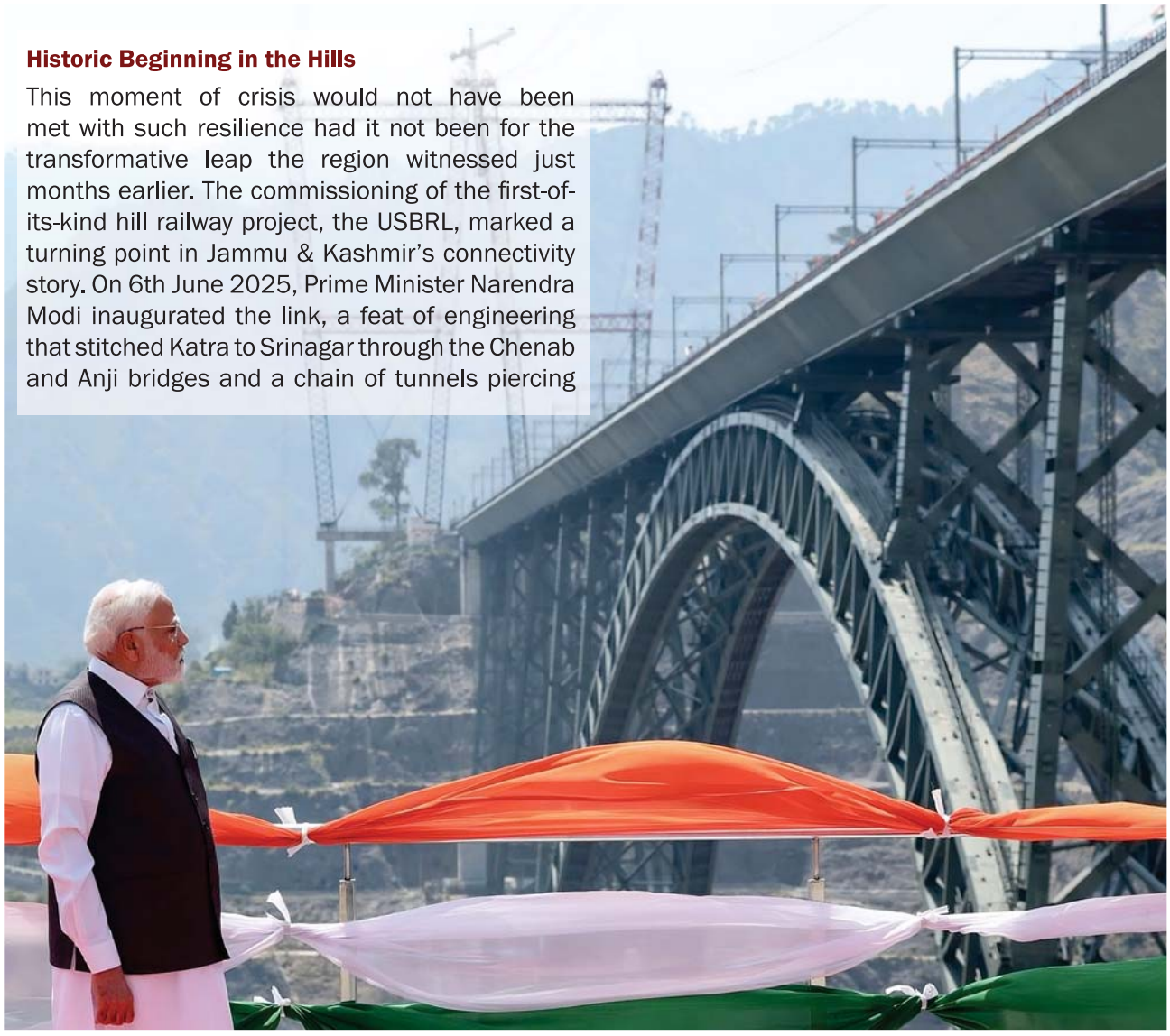


How Railways Anchored Jammu & Kashmir

As The 'Ultimate Rescuer' In A Year Of Disaster

Vivek Kumar
DRM/Jammu,
Northern Railway

Barely months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) and set the new Jammu Rail Division into motion, the Railways was thrust into a role no one had anticipated—that of the region's 'Ultimate Rescuer'. When the 2025 monsoon unleashed landslides, floods and widespread disruption across Jammu & Kashmir, it was the Railways that kept the region connected, organised critical evacuations, and moved essential supplies at a time when most conventional routes had collapsed.



Historic Beginning in the Hills

This moment of crisis would not have been met with such resilience had it not been for the transformative leap the region witnessed just months earlier. The commissioning of the first-of-its-kind hill railway project, the USBRL, marked a turning point in Jammu & Kashmir's connectivity story. On 6th June 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the link, a feat of engineering that stitched Katra to Srinagar through the Chenab and Anji bridges and a chain of tunnels piercing

the Pir Panjal mountains, laying the foundation for a stronger, faster, and more reliable rail presence in the Himalayas.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the new Jammu Division under Northern Railway, and now the above-mentioned, difficult but strategically important section is being operated by the Jammu Division. The creation of the Jammu Division has made decision-making faster, more efficient, and aligned with the needs of J&K (UT), parts of Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.



Nature's Fury Strikes

The monsoon season that began in July/August 2025 brought intense rainfall across all the three states under the Jammu Division. The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir suffered the worst impact. Flash floods in rivers, widespread landslides, and unprecedented destruction of roads and bridges marked the severity of the crisis. It reached its peak in September 2025, when heavy rains poured down on various parts of the States and UT and caused extensive flooding and river cutting, leading to significant damage to the road network, railway tracks, and bridges. Both rail and road connectivity were disrupted due to collapsed bridges and landslides.

On the night of 2nd September 2025, heavy rains in the Jammu-Katra section triggered multiple landslides from Bajalta station to Udhampur and Katra station, resulting in damage to railway tracks and overhead equipment (OHE), including poles and wires. On the other hand, the Jammu to Pathankot section was also reeling under severe devastation from overflooding rivers, impacting railway bridges as well.

Swift Response to Monsoon Devastation

The team of Jammu Rail Division immediately geared up and mobilized its resources for restoration of tracks in Jammu-Katra section, even though they were already engaged in other breaches in the section between Jammu and Pathankot, where multiple bridges were damaged. Because of multiple landslides, three to four trains got stuck at various stations in the Jammu-Katra section. On the other hand, many people who went to Katra for the Darshan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi also got stranded because the road network was largely damaged and blocked.

Despite its own infrastructure being severely impacted, the Railways mobilized its resources, partially restored the tracks, and launched Special Trains for the safe evacuation of nearly 5000 to 6000 passengers to their destinations from Katra, Udhampur and Jammu stations.

In addition to this, the Railways took urgent and quick measures to restore its network and was able to start some long-distance trains from Jammu to serve the people of the region. The Jammu Rail Division also quickly started transporting fuel by freight trains to Jammu to mitigate any fuel shortage in the Jammu & Kashmir region.

Keep Relief Supplies Moving

Widespread landslides across the Jammu and Srinagar regions severely damaged the road network. This disrupted relief measures and resulted in severe shortages of rations in various parts of Jammu & Kashmir. In such a difficult situation, it is a blessing that the newly commissioned rail connectivity between Katra and Banihal was available. Railways again rose to the occasion and, on the request of the UT administration, started the service of a local train along with an SLR van for five days between Katra and Sangaldan stations. People and rations were transported from the feeding points at Katra



and Reasi to remote and affected areas such as Sawalkote and Sangaldan by this special train service.

This service proved to be a lifesaver and an ultimate rescuer for the people. This supported the relief measures in far-flung and inaccessible areas being carried out by the UT's Disaster Management Team. Further, responding to continued demand from both the administration and the public, this service was extended for another 15 days between Katra and Banihal, continuing to serve the people of the region during the time of need.

Saving the Apple Economy

This unprecedented and widespread damage to highways struck just before the start of the peak of apple season of the Valley. The long-duration blockage of the highways from the Valley to Jammu brought the transportation of apple produce to a grinding halt, threatening a complete collapse of the Valley's apple economy and seriously undermining the livelihood of the people of the region.

Once again, the Railways geared up its resources and immediately stepped in to facilitate the movement of apples to other parts of the country. On 11th September 2025, the Jammu Rail Division initiated a historic moment by transporting apples in two parcel vans from Budgam to Jammu and New Delhi (Adarsh Nagar). Further, Railways created history when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first time-tabled parcel train service from Budgam to New Delhi (Adarsh Nagar) on 15the September 2025 for transporting apples and other fruit produce from the valley to other parts of the country.

Railways also started its goods shed at Anantnag to offer high-capacity covered BCN wagon freight trains to move high volumes of produce more quickly. As of 23rd September 2025, Railways transported approximately 10,000 metric tonnes, corresponding to 1000 truckloads, of apples. This way, Railways presented a credible, faster, efficient and affordable mode of transportation to fruit producers in Kashmir valley.

Strategic Policy Steps taken up by the Jammu Rail Division

In order to provide a solution as a credible transporter to the Valley, various policy reforms and steps were taken up by the Railway administration:

- The initial head start to make warf and road ready at Anantnag goods shed paved the way for initial cement transportation to the Valley and subsequent high-volume loading of stranded apples in covered BCN freight trains at Anantnag to New Delhi.
- Approval to run 42 BCN-wagon freight trains in the Katra-Banihal section was obtained. This paved the way for high-



volume transportation of apple produce from the valley section.

- The first liberalized policy of JPP-RCS at Budgam was issued, which includes eight-parcel vans by dual-use of the Track Machine Siding for apple loading. This daily eight-parcel-van train is a time-tabled service between Budgam and Delhi, stopping at Bari Brahmana (Jammu).
- A timely policy was issued allowing only empty BCN and empty parcel rakes to the valley section for the time being to clear the rush of accumulated apple produce. This reduced the turnaround time of BCN and VPU from the valley and facilitated high-volume loading of fruits (apples) from Anantnag, Budgam and Baramulla.
- The quick start of goods (apple) loading from the platform line at Baramulla station facilitated parcel train placement at Baramulla, catering to the fruit mandis of North Kashmir.

This way, the Jammu division was effectively and promptly able to transport 10,000 metric tonnes of apples in a very short span of time, i.e., from 11th September, 2025 to 23rd September 2025, during the extreme distress situation of the apple industry. With these efforts, the Jammu Division created a capacity of transportation of approximately 2000 metric tonnes per day of apple produce in a very short period of time.

With this, it can be said with reasonable conviction that with the creation of the new Rail Division at Jammu and the start of the strategic rail project of USBRL, the Railways has shown its firm commitment to serve the region and nation. This will definitely pave the way for the integration of far-flung areas with other parts of the country and will be a credible unifying instrument for the good of the people and the nation. The Jammu Division continues to serve the nation and the people of the country in any adverse situation, as it has shown strength on various adverse occasions like the Pahalgam incident, Operation Sindoor, and the flood situation.

From its historic debut in the hills to its lifesaving role during the 2025 crisis, the Railways has more than justified its new identity as the region's 'Ultimate Rescuer.' ■



SPIRITUAL TRACKS AND HERITAGE TREKS
JOURNEYING INDIA WITH NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Amit Malviya
Sr. PRO/NCR (HQ)

Journey through the heart of India with the North Central Railway (NCR), a network that proudly connects travellers to timeless culture, sacred landscapes and unforgettable heritage. From the spiritual richness of Mathura, Chitrakoot and Prayagraj to the iconic historic charm of Agra and Khajuraho, every route on NCR opens a gateway to India's soul.

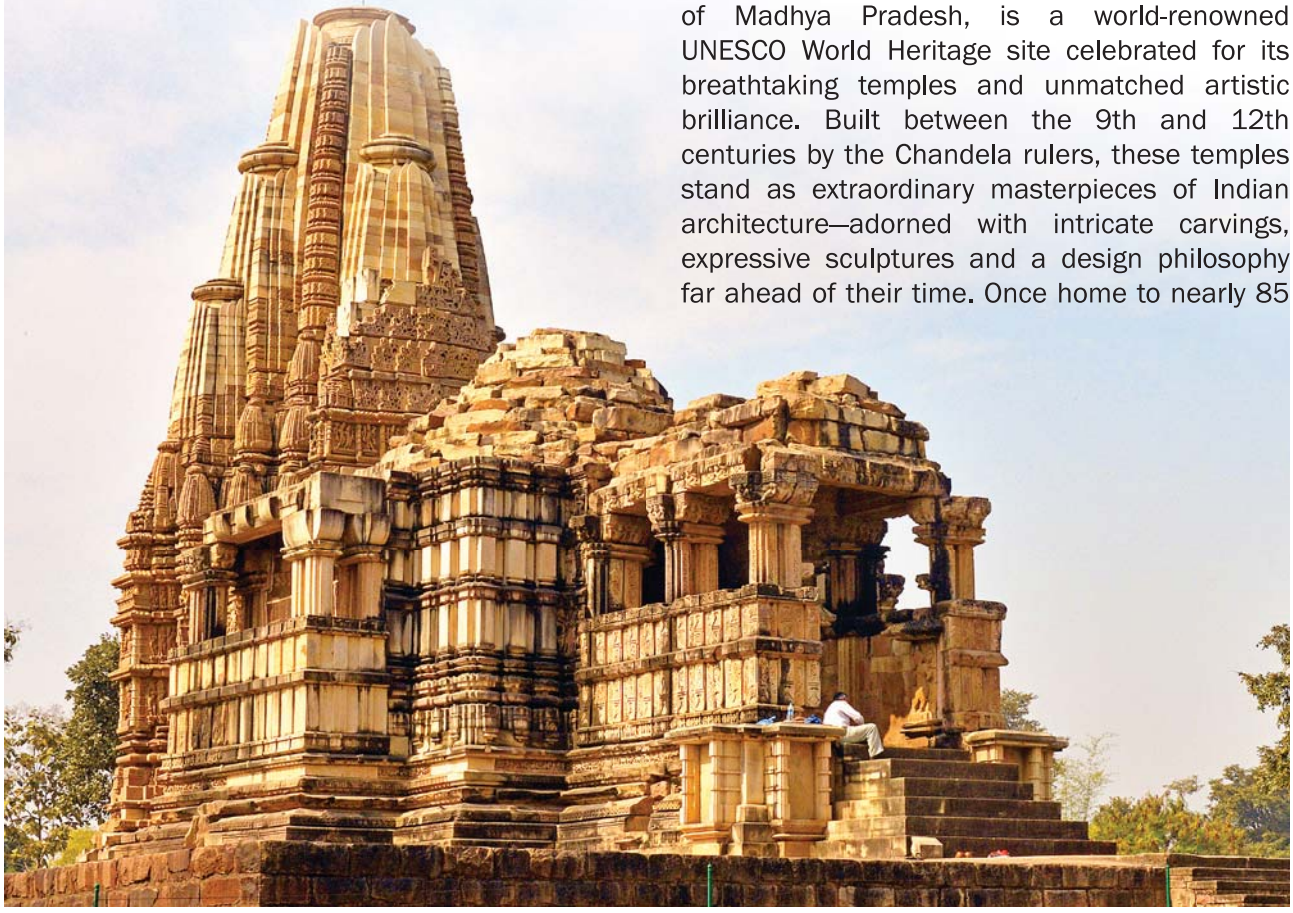
From serene ghats and ancient temples to UNESCO-recognised monuments and vibrant natural surroundings, the NCR network connects you to experiences that span faith, history and living traditions. Every mile offers a new story, a new glimpse into India's rich spiritual and cultural journey.

With well-connected routes, upgraded station amenities and smoother travel options, NCR ensures that these destinations are not just accessible, but welcoming. Whether you seek devotion, history, architecture, or natural beauty, the network leads you through places that reflect India's enduring spirit—peaceful, diverse and full of life.

Follow the tracks of the NCR, from spiritual havens like Mathura, Chitrakoot and Prayagraj to heritage cities such as Agra and Khajuraho, exploring nature, culture and timeless traditions en route.

Khajuraho

Khajuraho, located in the Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh, is a world-renowned UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for its breathtaking temples and unmatched artistic brilliance. Built between the 9th and 12th centuries by the Chandela rulers, these temples stand as extraordinary masterpieces of Indian architecture—adorned with intricate carvings, expressive sculptures and a design philosophy far ahead of their time. Once home to nearly 85



temples, the complex still preserves around 20 magnificent structures that continue to narrate centuries of cultural grandeur.

Adding to its charm is the breathtaking Raneh Fall on the Ken River, where five distinct shades of rock come together to form a surreal natural canvas.

Nearest Railway Station: Khajuraho.

Chitrakoot

A unique blend of nature, faith and ancient mythology—Chitrakoot is the sacred land where Lord Rama spent a significant part of his exile. Located on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the town holds great religious and cultural importance.

The sacred Kamadgiri Hill is considered the spiritual nucleus of Chitrakoot and doing its parikrama is thought to be deeply purifying. Beside the Mandakini River, Ramghat is famed for the belief that Tulsidas witnessed a divine appearance of Lord Ram here. Hanuman Dhara, set on a high rock and now accessible via ropeway, draws many devotees. The Sati Anasuya Ashram, associated with the Mandakini River's origin, further elevates the area's spiritual value.

Other key places include Bharat Milap, Gupt Godavari, Bharatkoop and Ram Darshan, which together make Chitrakoot an important religious destination.

Nearest Railway Station: Chitrakoot Dham Karwi.

Orchha

Orchha carries a divine distinction—it is the place where Lord Ram is worshipped as King Ram. The sacred Ram Raja Mandir fills the town with the revered aura of Raja Ram Sarkar, where devotion takes on a distinctly royal character.

Situated along the tranquil Betwa River, Orchha is known for its grand chhatris (cenotaphs) and its enduring Bundela heritage. Once the capital of the Bundela rulers, the town highlights impressive 16th–17th century architecture through the Orchha Fort Complex, home to Jahangir Mahal, Raj Mahal and Rai Praveen Mahal—structures celebrated for their Indo-Mughal design and ornate murals.

Other key attractions include the Chaturbhuj Mandir, Lakshmi Narayan Temple and the serene



Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary, offering a perfect blend of spirituality, history and nature.

Nearest Railway Station: Orchha.

Prayagraj

Prayagraj, a profound symbol of India's ancient spirituality and cultural richness, is located at the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati rivers. Revered in Hindu tradition as Teerthraj—the king of all pilgrimages—it stands as one of the nation's most significant spiritual destinations. The Triveni Sangam, where the three holy rivers merge, is believed to grant salvation to those who bathe there. It is also the revered site of the world-famous Kumbh and Ardh Kumbh melas, which attract millions of devotees from across the globe.

Among the city's sacred landmarks, the Akshayavat commands a distinguished place. This ancient banyan tree, noted in several Hindu scriptures, is believed to be eternal. The Nagvasuki Temple, positioned along the Yamuna River, is dedicated to the serpent deity and draws countless devotees, especially during Nag Panchami. The Kalyani Devi Temple, regarded as one of the 51 Shaktipeeths, is a major centre of divine worship. Likewise, the Shri Mankameshwar Temple, dedicated to Lord



Shiva, is revered for fulfilling the heartfelt wishes of devotees.

Prayagraj's historical and cultural legacy is equally captivating. The majestic Allahabad Fort, built by Emperor Akbar, stands as a testament to architectural brilliance and spiritual relevance. Nearby, Khusro Bagh reflects the elegance of Mughal-era craftsmanship through its intricately designed tombs. Anand Bhawan, the ancestral residence of the Nehru family, preserves invaluable memorabilia associated with India's freedom struggle.

With its seamless blend of devotion, history and culture, Prayagraj offers every visitor a deeply enriching and inspiring experience.

Agra

Agra, a historically rich and culturally vibrant city of Uttar Pradesh, is famed worldwide for its architectural brilliance, heritage and Mughal-era artistry. Standing on the banks of the Yamuna River, this city once served as the capital of the Mughal Empire, where art, architecture and culture flourished in all their glory. The very name 'Agra' immediately reminds one of the iconic Taj Mahal—a timeless symbol of love and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, this remarkable monument is admired around the world for its intricate marble designs, perfect symmetry and unparalleled beauty.

Beyond the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort stands as another monumental treasure. Built by Emperor Akbar using red sandstone, this grand fort houses notable structures, including the Diwan-i-Aam, Diwan-i-Khas, Jahangir Palace and Khas Mahal. Agra Fort served not only as a formidable military stronghold but also as a key centre of governance and cultural activity during the Mughal era.



Among Agra's other prominent attractions, Fatehpur Sikri holds a distinguished place. This beautifully planned city, also established by Akbar, showcases remarkable architectural ingenuity. The Buland Darwaza, Jama Masjid and Panch Mahal are among its most admired highlights. Additionally, Mehtab Bagh, situated across the Yamuna River, provides stunning panoramic views of the Taj Mahal, making it a beloved spot for visitors and photographers alike.

With its timeless monuments, artistic legacy and the unmatched grandeur of the Taj Mahal, Agra continues to enchant travellers from around the world. It stands proudly as a living testament to India's history, artistry and enduring romance.

Nearest Railway Station: Agra Fort and Agra Cantt.

Jhansi

Jhansi, a historic gem of Uttar Pradesh, stands proudly in the heart of Bundelkhand as a city that beautifully blends courage, culture and architectural grandeur. Known worldwide for the bravery of Rani Lakshmibai, Jhansi's name is synonymous with heroism and sacrifice. Her indomitable spirit during the 1857 First War of Independence has left an everlasting mark on Indian history, making Jhansi a destination of immense national pride.



At the forefront of Jhansi's attractions is the Jhansi Fort, an imposing edifice built in the 17th century by Raja Bir Singh Deo. Commanding a hilltop, the fort offers sweeping views of the city and remains a silent witness to historic battles, especially Rani Lakshmibai's valiant struggle against British forces. Its massive walls, ancient cannons and gateways immerse visitors in the era of Bundela and Maratha rulers.



Another remarkable site is the Rani Mahal, a palace adorned with Maratha-style architecture. Now converted into a museum, it displays an impressive collection of statues, manuscripts and artifacts that depict the region's rich cultural past. The colourful murals and intricate designs inside the palace offer a glimpse into the royal lifestyle of the time.

History enthusiasts must also visit the Jhansi Museum, which houses a diverse collection of weapons, coins, sculptures and archaeological findings from Bundelkhand. Each gallery narrates stories of the region's evolution through different eras.

With its heroic legacy, stunning monuments and vibrant cultural essence, Jhansi offers a deeply enriching experience. Whether you are drawn to history, curious about local culture, or simply exploring new places, the city greets you with stories of courage and charm tucked into every corner.

Nearest Railway Station: Virangna Laxmi Bai Jhansi.

Mathura

Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, is a global center of faith and devotion. Situated on the banks of the Yamuna River, this ancient city holds great spiritual significance due to Krishna's childhood leelas, its sacred temples and holy ghats.

The Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple is the most important pilgrimage site, where devotees experience divine energy in the grand temple complex built at Krishna's birthplace. The Dwarkadhish Temple is renowned for its beautiful architecture, devotional atmosphere and the vibrant Jhula Festival.

At Vishram Ghat, the daily Yamuna Aarti offers a deeply spiritual and mesmerizing experience. Kusum Sarovar, with its lush surroundings and historic cenotaphs, is a favorite spot for visitors. Nearby places like Nandgaon and Barsana beautifully reflect the unique culture and traditions of Braj.

Nearest Railway Station: is Mathura Junction.

Vrindavan

Around 10 kilometers from Mathura lies Vrindavan, the sacred town forever associated with the divine love of Radha and Krishna. Every corner of this holy place—its temples, its lanes, its people—carries a sense of peace and devotion.

The Banke Bihari Temple remains Vrindavan's most cherished shrine, where the darshan of Thakurji fills devotees with joy and spiritual fulfillment. The exquisitely carved Prem Mandir, glowing beautifully after dusk, draws countless visitors, while the ISKCON Temple resonates with continuous chanting and melodious kirtans. Alongside these, the Radha Vallabh Temple, Nidhivan, Seva Kunj and Govind Dev Ji Temple add to the depth and sanctity of Vrindavan's spiritual landscape.

Nearest Railway Station: Mathura Junction.





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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. How many Vande Bharat trains were inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi from Varanasi on 8 November, 2025?

(a) 4 (b) 12

(c) 2 (d) 5

2. Which under-construction bullet train station did the Prime Minister recently visit?

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Bilimora

(c) Surat (d) Mumbai

3. What is the total length of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor?

(a) 508 km (b) 1236 km

(c) 302 km (d) 400 km

4. Who is the Chancellor of Gati Shakti University?

(a) Minister of State for Railway (b) Minister of Railways

(c) Chairman & CEO Railway Board (d) None

5. Which anniversary of the national song 'Vande Bharatam' was celebrated?

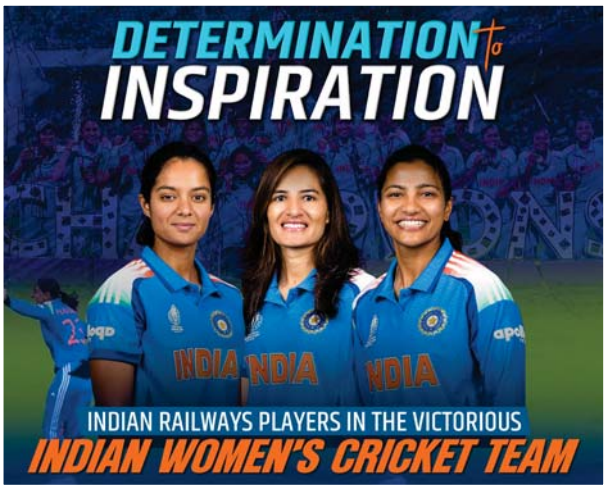
(a) 150th (b) 100th

(c) 50th (d) 75th

6. How many players from Indian Railways were part of the World Cup–winning Indian women's cricket team?

(a) 0 (b) 2

(c) 3 (d) 7



7. The architectural design of the redeveloped Ahmedabad railway station is inspired by which temple?

(a) Modhera Sun Temple (b) Ambaji

(c) Mahudi (d) Somnath

8. How many new railway lines have been approved for the Kutch region of Gujarat?

(a) 2 (b) 4

(c) 1 (d) None

9. Which railway station in Madhya Pradesh recently celebrated its 100th foundation day?

(a) Ratlam (b) Indore

(c) Jabalpur (d) Katni

10. Which zonal railway is celebrating its 75th foundation day?

(a) Metro Rail (b) Central Railway

(c) North Eastern Railway (d) Western Railway

Right Answers

1- (a) 2- (c) 3- (a) 4- (b) 5- (a) 6- (c) 7- (a) 8- (b) 9- (d) 10- (a)



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