

Rail Budget 2013: Highlights

On the cards: 67 new express trains, 27 passenger trains, 5 memo services, increase in frequencies

East-west corridor underway, will be taken forward

First AC electrical multiple unit (EMU) will be introduced in Mumbai in 2013-14

To meet growing demand 72 new trains in Mumbai, 18 new services in kokata

500 km of new line for 2013-14, will convert 450 kms of metre gauge to broad guage

Target of 800 km of ace conversion scaled down to 527 km in 2012-13; target of 700 km of track doubling will be marginally increased

Passenger fares increased in January, so no more hikes for now, but will increase supplementary charge in superfast train, reservation fee, cancellation charge

- Reservation fee for AC First and Executive classes raised to Rs 60 from Rs 35. that of First Class and AC-2 doubled to Rs 50
- Reservation fee for AC Chair Car, AC-3 Economy and AC-3 tier increased to Rs 40 from Rs 25
- Supplementary charges for superfast trains raised between Rs 5 and Rs 25
- Tatkal charges for sleeper class raised by Rs 15 to Rs 25 and for AC Chair car from Rs 25 to Rs 50
- Tatkal charges in AC-3 tier increased by Rs 50; AC-2 tier and Executive class by Rs 100
- Cancellation charges increased for all classes between Rs 5 and Rs 50
- No increase in parcel and luggage rates

Planned investment pegged at Rs 63,600 for 2013-14

Railways hopes to end 2013-14 with a balance of Rs 12,506 crore

Electrification of 1,200 km to be completed this year

Looking at potential application of Aadhar: Rlys Minister

1800-111-321 toll free for complaints and suggestions on catering services started functioning on 18th January

Minister proposed to launch "Aazaadi Express" to enable the youth to travel to places of historical importance across the country.

Freight target set 1,447 mn tonne in 2013-14, 40 mn tonne more than current year

This year Indian Railways is set to achieve the 1 billion tonne club, joining Chinese, Russian and the US railway.

Freight revenues pegged at 93,500 cr, growth of 9%

Number of passengers to increase 5.2%

Working expenditure 14% more than current year

Operating ratio to come down to 88% next fiscal

Gen-next e-ticketing service by Decemeber, says Railway minister

Freight income pegged at for FY13 target Rs 89,976 crore, says Railway minister

Bansal: Gross traffic receipts at Rs 1.26 lakh crore in FY13

Concessional travel for sportspersons, military personnel who have won awards, new rail factories,sops to Railway employees

Railways has been able to repay the entire Rs 3,000 crore loan with interest to the Finance Ministry in the current financial year.

Freight earnings growth lower than estimated, reflecting the overall slowdown in GDP growth

To set up electromotive unit in joint venture with BHEL: Rlys Minister

Rs 2,000 crore allotted for land and station development

Dronacharya awardees to be given free passes to travel on Rajdhani trains

Complimentary card pass to soldiers, enabling travel in first class, AC cars

Railway gallantry awardees -- one card pass with one companion

Freedom fighters have to renew pass every year, will now have to renew only every 3 years

Mountain railways exclusive club of india, will preserve them in good shape and health

National railway museum showcases indian railway history.. revamp plan to be rolled out in 2013-14

Austerity will be observed by railway, no wastage

347 ongoing projects have been recognised as priority projects

Will energise 1,000 level crossing with solar power

Pushes for use bio degradable, environment friendly products in railway, ban plastic completely

Says 14 lakh employees are most valuable asset, however 1.52 lakh vacancy yet to be filled. Railway recruitment was held at 60 cities in the country; Backlog of 40,000 vacancies for to be filled by physically handicapped and weaker sections.

Staff quarters to be constructed at a cost of Rs 300 cr

Proposes air-conditioned locomotive coaches, provide water facility

National skill development scheme of railway would impart skills in drills held in 25 locations across the nation -- multi disciplinary institute in nagpur for providing railway maintainence, equipment skills

Exclusive secunderabad indian railways institute of financial management, five fellowships in national universities

Expansion in the number of centres for conducting railway recruitment exams has resulted in as many as 47,000 vacancies filled up

New manufacturing units, maintainence units to be set up to generate more employment

Railway production units have contributed to generating employment; all of them achieved production targets in 2012

Target of 4,500 cr has been set up for Railway production units 2013-14

Will address concerns of private sector with respect to recently established projects connecting mines, ports, to cities -- will ensure payback of investment 9,000 cr including 3,800 cr for port connectivity project with frieght allotment to the companies.

12th Plan railway size to be Rs 5.19 lakh crore, with gross budgetary support of Rs 1.94 lakh crore, Rs one lakh crore to be raised from public-private partnership, Rs 1.05 lakh crore through internal resources in the 12th Plan

Cleanliness at stations, trains -- committed to bring about a marked change:

Will focus on cleanliness at stations, trains, says is committed to bring about a marked change in the quality of travel

Inititives to include: Bio toilets on trains; 200 stations with mechanised cleaning services; clean train stations; Launching pilot project in trains to contact personnel on trains for coach cleaning on sms, and get immediate feedback

Electronic display in trains for giving real time updates of coming trains, stations
Free wifi on select trains

First aid services at railway stations

One coach in select trains to provide excellent ambience, will be named anubhuti

Amenities for differently abled passengers, icluding facility for boarding, exiting trains, braille stickers for blind passengers, to figure coaches, toilets

Railways to strive to provide better interface with employees

Extending internet booking time: now book online between 12:30 am to 11:30 pm, prebooking from mobile phones

Sms alerts to passengers to provide reservation station to be rolled out shortly

New support system to facilitate 7,200 tickets per minute against 4,000 currently; server will support 1,20,000 visitors against 40,000 currently

System to make use of advance fraud control and security management to improve transparency in online booking

Food testing laboratories with third party audits; State-of-art kitchens, to monitor quality.

Four Companies of RPF personnel for safety of women already in place, another 8 to be set up. 10% reservation for women RPF personnel in these companies; Security helpline numbers made available to facilitate passengers to report any incident

40% accidents, 60% fatal incidents reported at level crossing

Estimated requirement Rs 37,000 cr, eliminating 31,846 level crossing, 134, 530 crossings are unmanned, will only be possible with support from central road

Elimination of 10,700 unmanned level crossings targeted during the Plan; no more new such crossings to be created

TTWS automatic signalling systems

Upgradation of track structures

Fast and reliable disaster management systems

17 bridges which have been identified as distressed and marked for rehabilitation to be completed in next one year

Corporate plan for 10 year period 2014-24 to enhance safety plans

Railways market borrowing of 2 lakh cr, could allocate only 10,000 cr in the first year of 12th plan; next four years calls for a paradigm shift

Bansal slams Allahbad station stampede, says: "The incident has shaken us, safety is a necessary mandate for running the Railways"

During 11th Plan, Railways could meet target of new lines and electrification, but fell short of targets for doubling

and gauge conversion, achieving only 2,758 km and 5,321 km respectively

Number of passenger trains increased from 8,897 in Fy12 to 12,335 in FY13. Yet, losses to railways continue to mount and are expected to reach Rs 24,600 crore in 2012-13 from Rs 22,500 crore in 2011-12.

Growth of Railways does not conform to economic principles, says Pawan Kumar Bansal, cites steep hike in input costs

Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal gets ready to present the Railway Budget for 2013-14.

(Business Standard)