

## Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways announces key decisions for Transformation of Indian Railways

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Inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's goal of making Railways the engine that fuels our *vikasyatra* (development journey) towards New India, Minister of Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal announced various decisions taken by Ministry of Railways for Transformation of Indian Railways today i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in Rail Bhavan. Minister of State for Communication (I/c) & Minister of State for Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha was also present on the occasion. Chairman, Railway Board, Shri Ashwani Lohani and all board members were present on the occasion.

Minister of Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal said, "Railways is committed to ensuring high standards of safety, speed and service for Indian consumers and also ensuring contribution to national development. In the past one month, Indian Railways has taken significant transformative steps to ensure this goal."

Several decisions announced by the Minister of Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal are as under

#### Highest priority to passenger safety

Overriding and perceptible priority to safety

Priority to track renewal over new lines/gauge conversion/ in allotment of rails

Tremendous stress on field inspections by officers

Overriding priority for granting maintenance blocks

Eliminating remaining 5,000 unmanned level crossings in a time-bound manner

Shift to LHB coaches from ICF coaches by next year

Provision of CCTV cameras in coaches and stations for enhanced security especially benefitting women and senior citizens

Ramping up electronic interlocking of signals in place of manual interlocking

Revamping the existing signalling system - use of TPWS (Train Protection & Warning System) and MTRC (Mobile Train Radio Communication). Also considering modern signalling systems for suburban and long distance trains

Using technology like ultra sonic frequency detection, cameras for detecting defects etc.

All RPF staff and TTEs to be in proper uniform while on duty to bring in transparency

RPF staff will not check tickets, which is the function of TTEs. They shall however assist ticket checking squads.

## **Transforming through technology**

Stress on extensive use of mobile apps for monitoring and passenger services

All stations and trains to have high speed wi-fi connectivity

Proposed to increase speed of around 700 trains with effect from 1st November 2017. 48 trains are being converted from Mail express to the Superfast category

Expediting the project for GPS based real time monitoring of train movement

Expediting satellite based mapping of all Railway assets through ISRO

## **Energy efficiency**

Completion of electrification by the next 4-5 years. This will lead to savings in energy costs of over Rs. 10,000 cr while reducing pollution and dependence on imported diesel

100% LED lighting and energy efficient appliances like fans, ACs etc. to be introduced in trains, stations, office buildings and residential colonies in a time bound manner

## **Faster Redevelopment of stations**

About 20 stations will be modernised in an expedited manner with superior infrastructure and passenger facilities including hotels, eateries, shopping, disabled friendly, multimodal transport hub, security etc. by December 2018

Identifying additional stations and trying to create a self-financing business model like reassessing tenure of contract, access control and freedom to sublease etc.

## **Railway Stations as Multi-utility centres**

Many stations that receive very few trains in a day are proposed to be used as Multi-utility centres for activities like yoga centres, skilling, educational purposes etc.

## **Upgrading health and education facilities**

In addition, schools and hospitals operated by Indian Railways will be improved with infrastructure facilities, which will benefit not only railway employees but also other people

## **Human resources**

Tremendous stress is being laid on welfare of human resources

Grievance Redressal Camps are being organised regularly. Grievance Redressal Cells are being set up in every Zonal/divisional headquarters for hearing employee complaints

Extensive delegation of powers is being done

Process reforms to improve the efficiency of the system is being taken up in an aggressive manner

Reduction in number of organisational layers is being analysed

Posting of brilliant and enthusiastic officers as Station Directors at 75 A1 Class Stations to bring dynamism in operations

Posting additional ADRMs to strengthen divisional work by reallocation from headquarters

### **Focus on welfare of field staff**

Improving overall working conditions of Group D category staff. For example, gang-men, who are responsible to ensuring track safety, and who have to walk around 15-16 kms on an average in a particular day will be provided with comfortable uniforms and better quality shoes. Their living quarters (Gang huts) too will be improved

Running rooms of loco drivers are being air conditioned

### **Enhancing Railway Revenue through monetisation of assets**

Monetisation of railway assets will improve finances and the operating ratio, freeing up resources for critical railway projects. This will be done by making land monetisation attractive by changing various rules and regulations

These improvements will help the lifeline of our nation to flourish as well as contribute more to our economic and social development. The transformation of the Indian Railways is well under way to ensure it is not just the compulsion of the people but the choice of the people.

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