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To

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36,54: A.Srivijayan,SSE/54

Progress:D.Baskar, SSE/PCO

TTC: J.Selvakumar,SSE/TC

D&D: Sabapathinathan.M,SSE/D&D

Hospital: RajuBalaji, Ch.OS

Web: K.Chandran, Webmaster/IT

Advisors:

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B.Chandrasekaran,WM/A/S

R.Velu, Ex-PE/PL/F-ICF

T.R.Ravichander,SME/I/F

MEMBERS ELECTED FOR ICF STAFF COUNCIL

 Sri M. Venkat Rao Acc. Asst/Fur	 Sri K.V.Ramesh SSE/Time Study/S	 Sri B.Rajendran Tech-3/Shop20
 Sri S.G.Jeevagan Tech-2/Shop21	 Sri R.Maran Tech-2/Shop26	 Sri K.Ramesh Tech-1/Shop13
 Sri M.Ravikumar Tech-3/Shop40	 Sri E.Ramesh SSE/Shop54/Fur	 Sri V.Swaminathan Tech-2/Shop36
 Sri G.Ganesh Tech-1/Shop30	 Sri S.Sevugapperumal Tech-1/Shop28	 Sri A.Ravi Tech-1/Shop32

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Railway Minister Flags Off Country's First Ever AC Double Decker Train

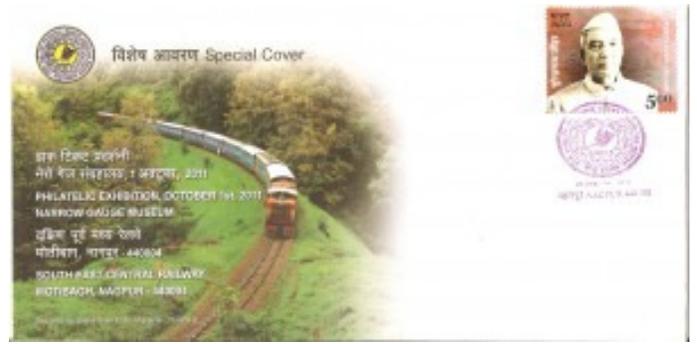
The Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Dinesh Trivedi, flagged off the country's first air conditioned superfast Double Decker train, in the presence of the Minister of State for Shipping, Shri Mukul Roy, the Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Sisir Adhikari and other dignitaries, at Howrah Station New Complex on 1st October, as a Puja gift. 12383 Up/12384 Dn. Howrah-Dhanbad Express (Double Decker) will run five days a week between Howrah and Dhanbad. The train will start from Dhanbad at 0500hrs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and arrive at Howrah at 2115hrs. From Howrah, this train will start at 1520hrs on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and reach Dhanbad at 1940hrs.

This train will consist of 7 air-conditioned Double Decker chair cars having 128 seats in each coach and 2 generator cars. This train will have maximum permissible speed of 110 kmph and will run via Howrah-Barddhaman chord line. The air-conditioned double decker coach design uses many superior technical features like aesthetically pleasing stainless steel body, high speed Eurofima design bogies with air springs for superior ride quality and many other safety related features. This coach is fitted with controlled discharge toilet system. The successful development of AC Double Decker train is a clear illustration of Indian Railways' capabilities in design and manufacturing.

Space for the two decks has been generated by optimally using the well space between the two bogies. The base of the coach is also below the platform level. When it comes to carrying freight trains, the double-decker option is available for container flats, which are run on Rewari-Kandla port route in India.

Running double-decker freights or container trains on electric traction can be done by increasing the height of overhead electric lines and approval by the ministry in overhauling the roads over bridges and other structures. As electric traction can bear more axle load and is fuel-efficient, the eastern corridor in dedicated freight corridor is being constructed accordingly.

Although India had started its first double-decker non-AC coaches on the Mumbai-Surat line way back in the 70s, it could not really take off. For running passenger coaches on diesel traction, tracks have technical standard dimensions which can stand the load of double-decker coaches. Sleeper-type double-decker trains are also expected by March 2012.



A Special cover was released in Nagpur on 01st Oct 2011 to mark a Philatelic Exhibition on "RAILWAYS ON STAMPS" held in the City's Narrow Gauge Museum.

IR mulls trains zooming @ 300 KMPH

The Indian Railways is finalising a draft legislation for a project that envisages running trains at a speed of 300 kmph on some select routes across the country. The Bill is likely to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament. IR is in the process of setting up the National High-Speed Rail Authority, an autonomous body, to implement and monitor the high-speed train project in the country and for this a legislation is required to set up the authority. According to the proposed NHSRA Bill, 2011, the 9-member authority will have a chairman and eight members. There will be four full-time members including member project, member finance, member engineering, and member planning. The stakeholders in the high-speed rail corridor project will also have four representatives as part-time members in the NHSRA. The NHSRA is being proposed to be set up on the lines of the National Highway Authority and it would be under the Railway ministry. Six routes have been identified to conduct feasibility study for running high-speed trains. According to an estimate, it will cost about Rs 100 crore (Rs 1 billion) to construct one km dedicated high speed corridor. UK-based consultant Mott McDonald has been engaged to conduct the pre-feasibility study of the longest Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi-Patna (991 km) route, while Spanish consultant Eneco has been hired to carry out studies in the shortest Howrah-Haldia (135 km) route. French consultant Systra, which has done the studies for Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad (650 km) route, submitted the report to the Railway ministry and the report is being examined now. A consultant for study of Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar (450 km) route will be selected soon. While tenders for Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Chennai have been invited and are under evaluation, bids for Chennai-Bengaluru-Ernakulam will be invited shortly. During the Rail Budget 2010, the then railway minister Mamata Banerjee announced construction of high-speed passenger rail corridors. These projects will be executed through PPP mode.

New Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle

Sri S.K.Mittal took charge as the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle from Sri Dinesh Kumar Singh, on 16th Sep. He would look after Railway Safety of SR, SWR and BMRC. He is a Civil Engineering Graduate from Punjab University and an Officer of IRSE-1980 batch. He has held various posts, including ADRM/Sambalpur and CE/SCR-Track Modernisation, Track Procurement.

OFFICIAL POSTINGS

Name S/Shri/ Smt	Previous	Present
T.S.Ganesh	S.C.Rly	DyCMM/P/S
A.Pradeep	DyCMM/P/S	S.C.Rly
B.Balagangadharan	AEE/MRVC/S	V.R
Dr A.Kavithadevi	S.Rly	ADMO/ICF

STAFF OUTFLOW - LAST MONTH

Sl	Name S/Shri	Design	Mode
1	SUSILA.S	OS/74	Deputation
2	GURUNATHAN.T	SSE/40	Deputation
3	SUJATHA SELVAKUMAR	OS/66B	Deputation
4	SIVAKUMAR.D	JE/28	Removal
5	MUTHUKUMAR.A.S	Peon/16	Removal
6	AKILAN.P	CG-1/99D	Resigned
7	NALINE JOHN VETHASIROMANI.D	Tech-1/29	VR
8	RAGURAMAN.R	SSE/D&D	VR
9	KRISHNUDU.D	SSE/99B	VR
10	VENKATESAN.M.V	Instructor	VR

Office bearers of ICF OBC Employees Welfare Association

Post	Name	Designation
President	R.Dharmaraj	Tech-1/40
Gen. Secretary	K.Ramamurthy	Tech-1/88
Working President	S.Anbukumar	Tech-2/26
Working GS	S.Ramesh	Tech-1/48
Treasurer	M.Thangavelpandian	Tech-2/FD
Vice President	D.Ramesh	Tech-2/14
	V.Parthasarathy	Tech-2/14
Asst.General Secretary	V.S.Umapathy	Tech-2/30
	V.Arivazhagan	Tech-2/30
Org. Secretary	V.K.Ebrahim	Tech-1/Engg
Propaganda Secretary	K.Hemachandran	Tech-2/16
Propaganda Secretary	R.Rajendiran	JPM/F
Secretary	H.Ambi	Tech-1/29

EMPLOYEES RETIRING THIS MONTH

1	SOUNDARARAJ.R	Tech-1/FGL	13
2	KUMAR.R	Tech-1/MGL	16
3	RATHNAM..M	SrTech/Weld	22
4	DYNEASWARARAJU.A.M	SrTech/Elec	45
5	RAJAMANICKAM.S	Tech-2/Elec	45
6	PURUSHOTHAMAN.S	JE/Elec	45
7	PARASURAMAN.V	JPM/Weld	PCOS
8	VENKATARAMANA.G	Progman/Weld	PCOS
9	MANOHARAN.R	Accounts Asst.	Accts/S
10	PAVUN RAJU.A	Tech-1/MDMRR	Plant
11	SHANKU PARAMBAN.	Tech-1/Elec	29
12	KUMAR .K	Tech-1/FGL	33
13	PURUSHOTHAM.P.V	SrTech/Elec	39
14	JANARTHANAN.S	SrTech/Elec	39
15	RANGANATHAN.B	SrTech/Elec	39
16	JOSEPH RICHARD WILLIAM.	Tech-1/Elec	39
17	JAYAKUMAR.D	Tech-1/MTR	80

We wish them A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL RETIRED LIFE

ICF SPORTS

Tournament	Achievement by
South India National Power Lifting championship held at Coimbatore	Sri P.Raja represented Tamilnadu and secured I place in 140 Kg category
Senior asian Volleyball Championship held at Tehran	Sri Prabhakaran represented India and secured 6 th position

CIRCULARS:

AC39: Entitlements on kit pass admissible to Railway servants on transfer/ retirement.

AC40: Grant of fixed medical allowance to Railway pensioners/ family pensioners.

AC41: Travelling allowance rules – journey on transfer / retirement.

AC42: Amendment to DAR rules

AC43: Revision of pension/ family pension in respect of pensioners who were in receipt of compulsory retirement pension and compassionate allowance under rules 64 & 65 of the Railway service (pension) rules 1993.

Last date for submission of application:

Pension adalat will be held on 15.12.11- grievances if any shall be submitted on or before 01.11.11.

WE DEEPLY MOURN THE SUDDEN DEMISE OF THE FOLOWING EMPLOYEES

1	NARAYANAN.N	JE/28
2	JAWAHAR.D	JE/33
3	RAGUNATH.S.S	Tech-1/32

ANOTHER NUMBER TO KNOW PNR STATUS

Indian Railways in collaboration with Google is now providing a 10 digit mobile number. Just SMS your PNR number on this mobile number and instantaneously you will get your ticket's current status along with all other journey related details. The number is 97733-00000. No need to prefix 0 or +91.

MANNAI EXPRESS INAUGURATED

The new BG line between Nidamangalam – Mannargudi was opened for passenger traffic on 27th Sep and Mannai express has been introduced between Chennai Egmore and Mannargudi. Tr#16179 will leave Chennai Egmore at 22.00 hrs. and arrive at Mannargudi at 06.25 hrs. Tr#16180 will leave Mannargudi at 21.15 hrs. and arrive at Chennai Egmore at 05.50 hrs daily.

CHENDUR EXP FREQUENCY INCREASED

The Tr#16735/16736, Egmore- Tiruchendur express has been scheduled to run daily w.e.f 27th Sep.

REVISION OF TRAIN TIMINGS

11063 will reach Salem at 06.50 instead of 06.20
16107 Mangalore exp dep at MS =22.15 instead of 22.00
16178 Rockfort exp will reach MS at 05.15 (old 05.25)
16176 Nagore exp will reach MS at 05.25 instead of 05.15

Allocation of work to MSRs

Shri Bharatsinh Solanki, MSR(B)

1. Cases regarding write off of losses over ₹10lakhs but upto ₹10crores in value in respect of S&T and Mechanical departments.
2. Replies to unstarred questions in Rajya sabha along with resolutions, assurances and monitoring of assurances. However, replies to such unstarred questions will be put up to MR for his approval through MSR (B).
3. Incentive scheme for production units
4. Labour legislation
5. Complaints regarding passenger trains
6. Ticket checking
7. Cleanliness and general upkeep of railway premises
8. Staff welfare – holiday homes, canteens, co-operative societies, family planning, beautification of railway premises
9. Staff grievances
10. Approval of items for inclusion of machinery and plant costing individually between ₹50 lakhs and upto ₹5 crores.
11. DAR cases of group B,C & D categories of staff of Mechanical and S&T departments where the president is the disciplinary / appellate / reviewing authority
12. Social education
13. Cases in which it is proposed not to agree to proposals approved by ministers of state (not holding independent charge) or Dy ministers in other ministries
14. Review of progress of railway works including railway colonies in the state of Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand & Assam. After visits to states, reports be sent to MR
15. Review of PSUs: CONCOR. Review of PUs: ICF,RCF and RWF
16. Approval of items for inclusion in Rolling Stock Programme costing individually between ₹ 50 lakhs and upto ₹ 5 crores.
17. Consultancy Contracts of value more than Rs 10 crore and upto Rs 15 crore per case in respect of Civil Engineering, Mechanical, S&T and Electrical Department including Railway Electrification and Stores for Mechanical and S&T Departments.
18. Cases of procurement of stores of the value upto ₹100 crores pertaining to Electrical Department.
19. Punctuality of trains.
20. Safety and Security of Railways.
21. Passenger Services and Passenger Amenities.
22. Official Language.

Shri K.H.Muniyappa, MSR(M)

1. Cases regarding write off of losses over ₹10lakhs but upto ₹10crores in value in respect of Civil Engg & Electrical Deptt including RE.
2. Incentive schemes for workshops
3. Level crossings, ROB/RUB
4. Complaints regarding goods traffic including POL
5. Intermodal traffic
6. Replies to unstarred questions in the Lok Sabha along with resolutions, assurances and monitoring of assurances. However replies to such unstarred questions and all starred questions will be routed through MSR (M) and put up to MR for approval.
7. Staff welfare – Hospitals & Educational facilities
8. Cases related to pay commissions
9. Engagement of lawyers for conduct of central government cases at a fee of more than ₹1050/- per day in the Supreme Court or elsewhere
10. Afforestation
11. DAR cases of group B,C & D categories of staff of other than Mechanical and S&T departments where the president is the disciplinary / appellate / reviewing authority
12. Cases of procurement of stores of the value upto ₹100 crores pertaining to S&T department
13. Review of PSUs: KRCL. Review of PUs: DLW and DMW
14. Review of progress of railway works including railway colonies in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana & Madya Pradesh. After visit to states, report to be sent to MR.
15. Public grievances.

DMRC-First Railway to Receive UN Carbon Credits

The Delhi Metro has become the first railway in the world to receive carbon credits from the United Nations. The announcement was made as the metro system managed to reduce emissions by 630,000 metric tonnes annually. The Metro will now receive the equivalent of around \$9.5 million in carbon credits each year for the next seven years. Not only is the railway itself energy efficient, a UN statement explained, but it also encourages its daily ridership of 1.8 million to forgo cars or other carbon producing vehicles.

"Every passenger who chooses to use Metro instead of car/bus, contributes to reduction in emissions to the extent of approximately 100 gm of carbon dioxide for every trip of 10 km and therefore, becomes party to the reduction in global warming," read the statement.

The first line of the Delhi Metro began service in 2002, and the railway currently uses trains that are able to reduce energy consumption by up to 30 percent by utilizing regenerative braking.

EXERCISE IS AN EXCELLENT MEDICINE

by Sri M. Kumaravel, Physiotherapist, RJT/ICF

Exercise is nothing but physical or mental activity that keeps us healthy and strong. Physical exercise is essential for the maintenance of normal conditions of life and promotes longevity. Regular Exercise helps us to

- ✓ Get good physical fitness
- ✓ Develop better immune system and to
- ✓ Prevent many diseases

Lack of exercise is one of the chief causes of ill health. In recent years, the need for exercise has been recognized even in sickness. Physical therapy is one of the vital standard procedures in medicine to restore the use of muscles, bone & joints, and nerves that have been injured by disease or by accident.

BENEFITS OF EXERCISE

Regular systematic progressive physical exercise will give many miraculous therapeutic benefits. The important benefits are listed below system-wise.

MUSCULO SKELETAL SYSTEM

- Helps to build needed bone mineral density [BMD] and prevents/ limits osteoporosis.
- Prevents/postpones the degenerative changes.
- Increases the strength of muscles and maintains the range of movements [ROM]of joints.
- Increases endurance, stamina, and it is one of the successful remedies for pain.
- Prevents obesity and helps to get good posture.

NERVOUS SYSTEM & MENTAL HEALTH

- ❖ Improves the function and performance of brain.
- ❖ Promotes memory and reduces the risk of Alzheimer disease
- ❖ Elevates Beta Endorphins [mood affecting brain chemicals] to alleviate depression.
- ❖ Reduces/relieves stress.
- ❖ Is nature's best tranquilizer and helps to get better sleep.

CARDIO VASCULAR SYSTEM

- Reduces/regulates blood pressure.
- Helps to prevent heart diseases/heart attack.
- Improves cardio vascular function and avoids stroke.
- Reduces cholesterol.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

- Improves respiratory function and reduces lung congestion.
- Develops respiratory reserve
- Increases oxygen consumption.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

- ✓ Improves digestion and cures constipation.
- ✓ Reduces Gas and intra-intestinal accumulation

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

- ✓ Prevents/controls type two Diabetes Mellitus.

EXCRETORY SYSTEM

- Reduces the work load of kidneys by eliminating waste materials from the body through sweating.

Physical Exercise is the anti-aging drug. Everyone can use this miracle drug especially when the same is available easily at no cost.

Of course, we shouldn't forget to consult the doctors/competent persons to get proper advice/ guidance in choosing the type of exercise which suits our health. Start doing exercise today and feel the benefits.

Cleanliness at pantry cars, platforms

For maintaining cleanliness in trains and the station premises, Indian Railways has launched a Catering Waste Management System. The new system sets the procedure for collection and disposal of waste arising out of pantry car services and static units placed at the station premises.

ED/Tourism&Catering, Railway Board, had sent letters in this regard to all the zonal railways on 13th September. Instructions were given to encourage eco-friendly packaging material for serving of food and beverages at stations and on trains. It is mentioned that in all pantry cars, big-sized plastic/steel refuse bins, with a proper cover preferably, which need not be touched by hands for opening, should be placed at such locations so that it does not contaminate the food processes and storage areas.

The refuse bins should be emptied periodically and washed daily with a disinfectant and dried before next use. Further, there should be provision of placement of big size plastic bags inside the refuse bins to collect the waste. All waste materials arising out of preparation of food, if any, in pantry cars should be collected in the refuse bins. All bearers/waiters will collect the waste material like empty casserole containers, mineral water bottles/pouches, glasses, cutlery, napkins, in the respective coaches after making services to the customers and will collect the wastes in the same container.

They should under no circumstances throw away material in the vestibule in the coach. They should not throw the waste material from the running train. The refuse bins will be prominently painted in three colours viz. green (for biodegradable waste), white (for recyclable waste) and black (all other waste). The sanitary workers nominated by the designated department at the platform will collect these bags along with other waste of the station and will dispose them of along with regular waste so as to ensure its clearance from the stations. Under no circumstances, any material should be thrown outside the stalls/catering units in the stations. In case any catering waste is found lying around 2 m of the stalls, the responsibility will be fixed on the static catering units at the platform. The waste material collected in the plastic bags should be secured properly so as to not litter the area while transporting the plastic waste bags.

Purchasing a property - **What an employee should know?**

by Sri A.Sri Vijayan, SSE/Shop54

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A government employee should give intimation and get permission from administration while dealing with property, as per conduct rules.

Any government employee may have to deal with property. He may buy or sell the property. The usual works related to buying of property are getting the opinion from a lawyer on the title, negotiation of terms and conditions of purchase, etc

Then entering into agreement, payment as per the agreed terms, execution of sale deed, delivery of possession of property, registration of sale deed.

These are all the routine works that everybody knows. But the property transfer involves an important matter-if the party is a government employee, he/she is governed by conduct rules.

The conduct rules regarding transaction of property slightly differ depending on the service, government (Central or State), department and position or post held by the party. However, the principles behind these conduct rules would be more or less the same.

It is important to have knowledge of these rules. This article shall throw light on the conduct rules regarding transaction of property by a government employee.

Intimation

Normally, if a government employee, proposes to acquire any immovable property on lease or outright, he or she has to give intimation to the competent authority. He or she has to intimate the fact and get it noted by the administration, if the acquisition is of the following form.

- Purchase of property by paying money
- Release of property in favour of the employee
- Partition of property jointly owned by the employee
- Settlement of property in favour of the employee
- Gift of property in favour of the employee
- Will, of property in favour of the employee

He or she shall have to intimate even in the event of acquisition in the name of family member of the government employee if it is from the funds or sources of the employee.

Time period for intimation

When a government employee expects to acquire a property in the above said situations, he or she intimates the same to the competent authority furnishing the details of property such as postal address, village, survey number, etc, cost of property, source of funds, details about the vendor, etc. The proposal or the transaction has to be intimated in advance or within 30 days from the date of transaction.

Permission

There are some situations which require prior permission from the administration or the government and not the intimation alone. Consider the following types of transactions

- If the government employee proposes to acquire an immovable property from a seller who is also a government employee and working under the buyer or sub-ordinate to the buyer.
- A government employee proposes to acquire an immovable property from a seller who is a government contractor and there would be official dealing between the parties.
- The government employee proposes to buy property from the employee of the said contractor.

In all these type of transactions, the government employee who proposes to buy the property has to get prior permission from the administration of the government.

Time period for getting permission

When a government employee proposes to acquire a property in the above said situations, he or she should at once intimate the same to the competent authority furnishing the details of property, cost, source of funds, details about the vendor, how the sale shall be effected, etc.

He or she shall not buy the property before getting permission from the administration or the government.

Disposal

So far we have discussed the prior intimation or prior permission to acquire the property. The same rule applies when the government employee proposes to sell an immovable property.

Depending on the category of the other party, (i.e., buyer), the seller has to intimate the transaction and get it noted or permitted as the case may be, by the competent authority of the administration or the government.

Exemption

However, the employee need not give intimation or get permission if the immovable property to be acquired or being sold is in the name of family member of the government employee and not sourced from funds of employee.

What administration shall do?

The administration means the Personnel department of the organisation or the establishment wing of the government department.

The administration, on receiving the information from the employee, shall process the same and shall have to communicate in clear terms that the transaction has been noted or permitted as the case may be or otherwise within a reasonable period of time.

If there is no such correspondence received by the employee concerned, it is deemed that the competent authority has noted or permitted the transaction. Then the employee can acquire or sell the property.

Pakistan to lease 50 rail engines from India

Pakistan Railways is likely to lease 50 railway engines from India to restart some defunct services. Pak railways needs 200 to 300 locomotives to improve its performance. Leasing the engines was among the options, and found favour as India had already expressed its willingness to consider the lease of the engines.

New security system for 38 Mumbai railway stations

To further strengthen surveillance mechanism at sensitive and vulnerable stations of the country, including Mumbai suburban stations, an integrated security system has been envisaged at an approved cost of Rs.353 crore. One of the prominent features of the system is Internet Protocol Based CCTV surveillance system and 38 stations of Mumbai suburban area have been identified for implementation of the system. The existing 1,445 CCTV cameras which are already installed over Mumbai suburban railway stations for round-the-clock surveillance against suspicious activities/persons and unclaimed objects, are fully functional and monitored on a day-to-day basis.

Performance of PUs During April – August :

CLW 91 electric locos against the target of 89
DLW 99 diesel locos against the target of 117
RCF 599 coaches against the target of 666
ICF 541 coaches against the targets of 555
RWF 82065 wheels against the target of 81762

ADB approves loan for IR investment programme

The Asian Development Bank board approved a multi-tranche financing facility of up to US\$500m to support the Ministry of Railways' US\$1.1bn Railway Sector Investment Programme on August 31. Due to be completed by December 2018, the programme includes double tracking, electrification and resignalling on busy freight and passenger routes in Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states, including the 'Golden Quadrilateral' connecting Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi.

ADB says a lack of investment in infrastructure and institutional constraints have seen Indian Railways services struggle to keep up with rising demand. ADB will also support accounting reforms to improve operational efficiency, and the monitoring of carbon emission reductions which are expected to occur as a result of bulk freight shifting from road to rail.

The funding is to be released in several tranches, with an initial 25-year loan of US\$150m from ADB's ordinary capital resources. The Indian government will provide more than US\$644m to cover the balance of the costs.

'This programme will help deliver more energy efficient, safe, reliable and environmentally friendly rail services along key high density routes,' said Hiroaki Yamaguchi, ADB Principal Transport Specialist. 'This in turn will result in direct and indirect economic opportunities for about 21 million people in programme areas who will benefit from faster travel times, lower costs and improved links to markets, production centres and social service facilities.'

Vaigai Express runs on electric traction

Chennai-bound Vaigai Express was the first train in Madurai railway division that ran on electric traction after completion of 92-km-long 25-KV overhead railway electrification of Tiruchi-Dindigul Section on 6th Sep. Pandian Exp, Nellai Exp, Guruvayur Exp, Dindigul-Tiruchi pass and Villupuram-Madurai pass also ran on electric traction from 6th. Work had commenced for electrification of Madurai-Nagercoil section including Tirunelveli and Tuticorin at an estimated cost of Rs.175 crore. Signal Department Senior Technician S. Pandian who is retiring this month, flagged off the train in the morning in presence of Sri.T.Venkatasubramanian-ADRM, Sri.Anil Kumar Panjiar -SrDEE, Sri.S.R.Raguraman-SrDOM and Sri. R. Mukund, SrDME.

Rail booking boost for villages

The Indian Railways has decided to open 400 Internet ticket counters in the next five months in Bihar with the help of IRCTC. The decision to start the Internet ticket counters was taken in the wake of frequent complaints lodged by people from rural areas regarding the unavailability of tickets. Indian Railways has received several complaints from villagers on procuring tickets. IRCTC will install 400 ticket counters in the next five months with an aim to provide railway tickets to villagers who otherwise need to travel to the city to buy them. Rural areas will have one ticket booking counter at every 5km. There would be dedicated IRCTC employees, who will be assigned to fill the forms on behalf of the villagers. The employees would also provide the villagers with all kind of information, including train schedule and timings. Apart from booking regular tickets, the villagers can also book tour packages like Bharat Darshan and Bharat Tirth, offered by the IRCTC. Often, people living in the cities are unable to send train tickets to their parents in the village. But now the parents just need to visit the nearest ticket counter in the village with the PNR number and get a printout of the ticket. In rural areas, the most common problem is electricity. So, there would a dedicated line for the Internet service and power back-up for at least 10 hours. The service would be available from 6am to 10pm daily.

Spain's Talgo plans office in India

Indian Railways is planning to develop six high-speed corridors by 2020 that may open up investment opportunities for train manufacturers and maintenance service providers globally. Eyeing a major share of the R33,105-crore market for supply and maintenance of high-speed trains in India, Spanish train manufacturer Talgo is setting up its office near Delhi. The company, which has supplied trains of speed up to 375 km per hour in countries like the United States, Germany, France, Russia and Italy, will primarily focus on high-speed train projects envisaged by Indian Railways in its Vision 2020 document. In addition, it is also looking for maintenance contracts from the railways.

St.Thomas Mount metro rail station to integrate five modes of transport

A state-of-the-art elevated St Thomas Mount Metro Rail station will be designed to accommodate all five modes of public transport, suburban railway, Southern Railway, Metro Rail, MRTS and public buses. The Viswannath Associates, a leading architect house, will design the St Thomas Mount as well as the Chennai airport stations. The St Thomas Mount station will have the facility to accommodate 1200 cars. This will be the first time that a commercial space of two floors will be attached with the transit station. The Chennai airport station will look similar to the airport gateway that will connect the subway at Tirusulam station at the basement and the travelator at the elevated airport terminal. The project is expected to be completed by 2015.

IR to get its most powerful diesel locomotive

Electro-Motive Diesel (EMD), the US-based locomotive manufacturer, is expanding its base in India. Besides supporting locomotive designs projects such as WDG5 for the Indian Railways, the company recently set up a Centre of Excellence at Lucknow as part of its expansion. In partnership with APL Logistics, the company has also set up production and warehousing facility at Patli in Gurgaon. It has completed the design for a high-horsepower locomotive for the Indian Railways. The new design - WDG5 - has an output of 5,500 bhp, which will make it the strongest diesel locomotive ever to run on the Indian rail network. The locomotive has a tractive effort of 560 kn and can pull more load at higher speeds with less emissions than engines which are currently in use. The design entails the usage of modern technologies like electronic fuel injection, radial grids and high adhesion, lightweight fabricated bogies. The interiors of the locomotive would have modern driver interface and crew-friendly features, such as an air conditioned cab and toilet, which is another first for the Indian Railways' fleet.

Sri.Kakodkar to head railway safety panel

Aiming for 'zero tolerance' safety standards akin to nuclear power plants and space technology institutions, the Indian Railways has set up a high-level committee, headed by former Atomic Energy Commission chief Anil Kakodkar, to review 'long-term safety needs'. The panel, including Delhi Metro's chairman E. Sreedharan as member, will submit its initial report in three months and focus on safety audit and human resource development besides technical aspects of safety. Sri N. Vedachalam of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Sanjay Dhande, director of IIT-Kanpur, and G.P. Srivastava of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have also been made members of the high-level panel. The panel will provide independent expert input on improving safety of running trains. The committee would examine aspects connected with signalling systems, rolling stock (of all types), fixed structures (tracks, bridges), human resource development with emphasis on training, education and research, need for a third party audit etc. The Kalka Mail accident in Uttar Pradesh in July this year, involving 70 casualties, and the recent collision in Arakkonam in which 10 people were killed, necessitated a 'holistic assessment of safety' of the Indian Railways.

Expert Group for Modernization of IR

In a major move to give further impetus to Railways' modernization plans, an Expert Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sam Pitroda to recommend ways and means to modernize Indian Railways to meet the challenges of economic growth, the aspirations of the common man, the needs of changing technology and the expanding market while at the same time ensuring adequate focus on addressing social and strategic requirements of the country in consonance with Indian Railways' national aspirations. The terms of reference of the Committee would involve outlining strategies for modernization of Railways with a focus on track, signalling, rolling stock, stations and terminals; using ICT for improving efficiency and safety; augmenting existing capacities of Railways through indigenous development; reviewing projects and addressing PPP issues.

The Committee will inter alia address issues connected with organization, management and resource mobilization and professionalization of manpower on Indian Railways. The other eminent members of the Committee are –

- ♣ Sri Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC Bank
- ♣ Sri M.S. Verma, former Chairman, State Bank of India
- ♣ Sri G. Raghuram, Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad
- ♣ Dr. Rajiv Lall, MD, IDFC
- ♣ Sri Vinayak Chatterjee, Chairman, Feedback, Infrastructure Services Limited
- ♣ Sri Ranjan Jain, Adviser (Infrastructure), Railway Board

The committee will function at Delhi and is expected to submit its report in December 2011.

Four monorail lines in Phase-I

A crisscrossing network of four monorail corridors, running to a total length of 111 km, is being planned by the State government. The network includes a 54-km link between Vandalur and Puzhal, which when completed would be the longest anywhere in the world. Bids have been invited to build a monorail network along the four corridors – Vandalur to Puzhal via Avadi; Vandalur to Velachery via Tambaram East (23 km); Poonamallee to Kathipara via Porur (18 km); and Poonamallee to Vadapalani via Valasarawakkam (16 km). The four corridors which constitute Phase-I of the Chennai Monorail project is expected to cost over Rs.16,000 crore.

The proposed monorail corridors will integrate with the metro rail network at Vadapalani and the Kathipara junction. Inter-modal hubs will come up at Velachery and Madhavaram, where satellite mofussil bus terminuses will be built. A link will also be established between monorail and the MRTS at Velachery.

No need to carry ticket for train journey

In a move that will increase convenience for passengers and also help save paper, Indian Railways will now accept screenshots of e-tickets instead of a paper printout. Virtual Reservation Message (VRM), a digital reproduction of the e-ticket can be shown to the ticket examiner on a laptop or mobile screen along with ID proof.