

Highlights of Railway Budget: 2013-14

- Marginal increase in cancellation, reservation charges
- 67 new express trains to be introduced; 27 passenger trains, 8 DEMUs
- Operating ratio expected to improve to 87.8 per cent in 2013—14 from 88.8 per cent in the current fiscal
- 5.2 per cent growth in passenger traffic expected in 2013—14
- Railway hopes to end 2013-14 with a balance of Rs 12,506 crore
- Allocation of Rs 1,000 crore each made for railway land development authority and railway station development authority.
- Railways set to enter 1 billion ton freight club of China, Russia and US
- New train Azadi Express to places linked with the freedom struggle to be introduced, fares to be concessional
- Common rail-bus ticket to be introduced for Katra-Vaishnodevi pilgrims
- Internet booking to be provided from 0030 hours to 2330 hours
- Internet booking to be strengthened with next-generation e-ticketing system to eliminate delays
- Special A/C coaches 'Anubhuti', to be introduced in select Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains to give excellent ambience with commensurate fare
- Railways will use Aadhar data base for bookings and validation of passengers
- SMS alert service being rolled out shortly to intimate passengers about reservation status
- Free wi-fi facility to be provided in select trains
- Plan to allow e-ticketing via mobile phones
- Railway committed to bring marked change in passenger amenities
- Aim to eliminate 31,846 level crossings
- Identification of 104 stations for upgradation in places with more than one million population and of religious significance
- Railways to set up six more Rail Neer bottling plants
- Rs. 95,000 crore shortfall, meeting this shortfall will mean a paradigm shift
- Rs one lakh crore to be raised from public—private partnership, Rs 1.05 lakh crore through internal resources in the 12th Plan, says Railway Minister P K Bansal

- 12th Plan railway size to be Rs 5.19 lakh crore, with gross budgetary support of Rs 1.94 lakh crore

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/railway-budget-201314-no-fresh-hike-in-passenger-fares/article4454710.ece>