

## Competitive Exams: Current Affairs 2012: Highlights of Railway Budget 2011 – 12

- No hike in passenger fare and freight rates.
- Highest ever Plan outlay of Rs. 57, 630 crore proposed for Railways.
- Rs. 9, 583 crore provided for new lines.
- 1300 km new lines, 867 km doubling of lines and 1017 km gauge conversion targeted in 2011 – 12.
- 56 new Express Trains, 3 new Shatabdis and 9 Duronto trains to be introduced.
- AC Double Decker services on Jaipur-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai routes.
- New Super AC Class to be introduced.
- A new portal for e-ticketing to be launched shortly. Booking charges will be cheaper with a charge of only Rs. 10 for AC classes and Rs. 5 for others.
- Pan-India multi-purpose smart card “Go India” to be introduced.
- 236 more stations to be upgraded as Adarsh Stations.
- 47 additional suburban services in Mumbai and 50 new suburban services proposed for Kolkata.
- Two new passenger terminals in Kerala and one each in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal proposed.
- Feasibility study to raise speed of passenger trains to 160 – 200 kmph to be undertaken.
- A special package of two new trains and two projects for the States managing trouble free run of trains through out the year.
- Anti Collision Device (ACD) sanctioned to cover 8 zonal railways.
- GPS Based ‘Fog Safe’ Device to be deployed.
- All unmanned level crossing upto 3000 to be eliminated.
- All India Security Help line on a single number set up:
- All state capitals in the North-East except Sikkim to be connected by Rail in next seven years.

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- A Bridge Factory in J & K and a state-of-art Institute for Tunnel and Bridge Engineering is proposed at Jammu.
- A Diesel Locomotive Centre will be set-up in Manipur.
- A Centre of Excellence in Software at Darjeeling proposed under the aegis of CRIS.
- Rail Industrial Parks at Jellingham and New Bongaigaon proposed.
- Additional mechanized laundry units to be set up at Nagpur, Chandhigarh and Bhopal.
- 700 MW gas-based power plant to be set up at Thakurli in Maharashtra.
- 18, 000 Wagons to be procured during 2011 – 12.
- A scheme for socially desirable projects, 'Pradhan Mantri Rail Vikas Yojana' with Non-lapsable fund proposed.
- 10, 000 shelter units proposed for track side dwellers in Mumbai, Sealdah, Siliguri, Tiruchirapalli on pilot basis.
- Concession to physically handicapped persons to be extended on Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.
- Concession of 50% to press correspondents with family increased to twice a year.
- Senior Citizens concession to be hiked from 30 % to 40 %.
- Medical facilities extended to dependent parents of the Railway employees.
- Scholarship for Girl child of Group-D railway employees increased to Rs. 1200 per month.
- 20 additional hostels for children of railway employees to be set up:
- Recruitment for 1.75 lakh vacancies of Group 'C' and 'D' including filling up backlog of SC/ST initiated 16, 000 exservicemen to be inducted by March 2011.
- A separate sports cadre to be created.
- 2011 – 12 declared 'Year of Green Energy' for Railways.
- Freight loading of 993 MT and passenger growth of 6.4% estimated for 2011 – 12.
- Gross Traffic Receipts at Rs. 1, 06, 239 crore, exceeding one lakh crore mark for the first time estimated.
- Ordinary Working Expenses assessed at Rs. 73, 650 crore.

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