

and train operation. It is charged with certain statutory functions as laid down in the Railways Act (1989), which are of an **inspectorial, investigatory & advisory nature**. Thus, it assists in ensuring that all stipulated measures are taken in regard to the soundness of rail construction and safety in train operation. The Commission functions according to certain rules viz. Statutory investigation into accidents rules framed under the Railways Act and Executive instructions issued from time to time. It also undertakes similar functions with respect to Metro Railways in different cities of the country.

4.4. Key Developments

4.4.1. Passenger Amenities and Services

- Personalised take away bedrolls service launched.
- Initiation of “Janani Sewa” announced i.e. Hot Milk, Hot Water and Baby Food items at stations and children’s menu items on trains.
- Optional Travel Insurance for e-ticket passengers launched.
- Policy decision taken to provide sub quota of 33% to women within reserved categories for the allotment in catering units.
- Self Help Groups have been roped in to make local cuisines available through E-Catering Services of its PSU IRCTC.
- The Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) also known as VIKALP now available on sectors viz. Delhi-Howrah, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Secunderabad is now being extended to other sectors and instructions have been given to Zonal Railways to this effect.
- Compensation rate payable to railway accident victims has been doubled.
- Flexi fare system for Rajdhani/Duronto and Shatabdi trains introduced.

4.4.2. High Speed Trains

- India’s first semi-high speed train christened as Gatimaan Express capable of running at a maximum speed of 160 Kmph between H.Nizamuddin and Agra Cantt flagged off. Train hostesses to provide hospitality services on-board.
- High speed train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor already sanctioned and under implementation with financial & technical assistance from Japan.
- Other high speed corridors along the diamond quadrilaterals are under exploration.
- Field trials for Spanish Talgo Train held for saving substantial travel time.
- Mission Raftaar launched to work towards increasing speed of existing trains in Indian Railways.
- Protocol for undertaking feasibility study of speed raising of Nagpur-Secunderabad Railway Corridor signed Between Indian Railways and Russian Railways

4.4.3. Railways Development Authority

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a regulator for the railways — the Rail Development Authority (RDA). The regulator will perform four primary functions — tariff determination; ensuring fair play and level playing field for stakeholder investment; setting efficiency and performance standards; and dissemination of information.

4.4.4. Digital India Initiatives

- Printing of Bar Code on unreserved tickets introduced to prevent fraud.
- India’s first High Speed Public Wi-Fi Service at Mumbai Central station inaugurated.
- Implementation of E-enabled Track Management System (TMS) & Mobile Application of TMS on Indian Railway and Track Inventory Management System inaugurated on Northern Railway.