

Rail Transport in India

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Rail Transport in India. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Indian Railways: Key Facts

History & Inauguration



- The first railway line in India was opened in **1853**.

Infrastructure & Technical Specifications

- **Track Gauges:**
 - **Broad Gauge** width is **5.5 feet (1.676 meters)**.
- **Rolling Stock Production:**
 - **Diesel Locomotives:** Manufactured at the **Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi**.
 - **Rail Coaches:** Manufactured at factories in **Kapurthala (Punjab)** and **Perambur (Integral Coach Factory, Tamil Nadu)**. A third factory was planned for **Raibareli**.
 - **Wheel and Axle Plant:** Located in **Bangalore (Yelahanka)**.
- **Materials:**
 - **Sal Wood** is primarily used for manufacturing railway sleepers.
- **Rail Tunnels (by length, descending):**
 - Pir Panjal > Karbude > Nathuwadi > Berdewadi.

Railway Zones & Headquarters

- **Correct Headquarters:**
 - North-Eastern Railway: **Gorakhpur**
 - Eastern Railway: **Kolkata**
 - South-East Central Railway: **Bilaspur**
 - East Central Railway: **Hajipur (Bihar)**
 - North-Central Railway: **Allahabad (Now Prayagraj)**
- **Incorrect Headquarters:**
 - The headquarters of the **South-Eastern Railway** is not **Bhubaneswar** (it is Kolkata).
 - The headquarters of the **North Western Railway** is not **Jodhpur** (it is Jaipur).

Major Routes & Projects

- **Konkan Railway:**
 - Runs through **Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala**.
 - It is the **only rail route that cuts across the Western Ghats**.
 - It does **not** connect to Belgaum directly.
- **Notable Routes:**
 - The shortest rail route from **Mumbai to Gorakhpur** runs through **Jhansi**.
 - The **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (Siliguri to Darjeeling)** is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Future Projects:**
 - India's first **bullet train** is planned for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad** route.
 - **Kerala** was the first state to have a railway track made on the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.

Special Trains & Initiatives

- **The Fairy Queen**, using the world's oldest working steam locomotive, offers heritage and wildlife tours.

- The **Indrail pass** is a travel-as-you-please ticket, but it is **not** specifically for freedom fighters and sportspersons.
- The first **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) train** was launched on the **Rewari-Rohtak** section.
- Among the Rajdhani trains, the one to **Dibrugarh Town** covers the **longest distance**.

Institutions

- The **Railway Staff College** is located in **Vadodara**.

Geographical Coverage

- **Meghalaya** is a state deprived of rail service.

Comparative Analysis: Road vs. Rail Transport

Reasons road transport received more impetus than railways post-independence include:

- The **high associated capital costs** of railways.
- The **geographic spread of settlements** makes it unrealistic for railways to serve all needs.
- Railways are **not as conveniently accessible** as road transport for the general population.

Know More About Rail Transport in India:

- [Rail Transport in India – Old Year Questions](#)
- [Rail Transport in India One Liner Questions & Answers](#)