

The Network

Indian Railways (IR) is one of the world's largest rail network with 67,368 route kilometres of route lengths. The size of the network - gauge-wise and zone-wise as on 31 March, 2017 is as follows:

| Gauge | Route Kms. | Running Track Kms | Total Track Kms |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Broad Gauge (1676 mm) | 61,680 | 87,962 | 1,14,912 |
| Metre Gauge (1000 mm) | 3,479 | 3,731 | 4,099 |
| Narrow Gauge (762 mm and 610 mm) | 2,209 | 2,209 | 2,396 |
| Total | 67,368 | 93,902 | 1,21,407 |

| Zones /Headquarters | Route Kms | Running Track Kms | Total track Kms |
|---|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Central, Mumbai | 4,102 | 6,310 | 8,565 |
| Eastern, Kolkata | 2,712 | 4,855 | 7,526 |
| East Central, Hajipur | 3,986 | 5,724 | 8,297 |
| East Coast, Bhubaneswar | 2,746 | 4,147 | 5,562 |
| Northern, New Delhi | 7,301 | 9,636 | 13,141 |
| North Central, Allahabad | 3,523 | 5,128 | 6,279 |
| North Eastern, Gorakhpur | 3,881 | 4,649 | 5,269 |
| Northeast Frontier, Maligaon, (Gauwahati) | 4,098 | 4,514 | 6,099 |
| North Western, Jaipur | 5,551 | 7,126 | 7,547 |
| Southern, Chennai | 5,080 | 7,194 | 8,842 |
| South Central, Secunderabad | 6,168 | 8,385 | 10,280 |
| South Eastern, Kolkata | 2,712 | 5,121 | 6,796 |
| South East Central, Bilaspur | 2,512 | 3,773 | 5,158 |
| South Western, Hubli | 3,522 | 4,274 | 5,283 |
| Western, Mumbai | 6,449 | 8,131 | 10,337 |
| West Central, Jabalpur | 2,998 | 4,880 | 6,333 |
| Metro Railway, Kolkata | 27 | 55 | 93 |
| Total | 67,368 | 93,902 | 1,21,407 |

State-wise Route Kms/ Running Track Kms. /Total Track Kms.:

Following table shows Route Kms., Running Track Kms. & Total Track Kms. of railway lines across various States/Union Territories at the end of 2016-17.

| State/Union Territory | Route Kms. | Running Track Kms. | Total Track Kms. |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 3,817 | 5,704 | 7,282 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 12 | 12 | 26 |
| Assam | 2,440 | 2,552 | 3,450 |
| Bihar | 3,714 | 4,907 | 6,772 |
| Chhatisgarh | 1,216 | 2,032 | 2,800 |
| Delhi | 183 | 339 | 699 |
| Goa | 69 | 69 | 98 |
| Gujarat | 5,259 | 6,321 | 7,746 |
| Haryana | 1,710 | 2,441 | 3,156 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 296 | 301 | 358 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 298 | 366 | 491 |
| Jharkhand | 2,455 | 3,975 | 6,105 |
| Karnataka | 3,424 | 4,361 | 5,417 |
| Kerala | 1,045 | 1,709 | 2,074 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 5,113 | 7,662 | 9,491 |
| Maharashtra | 5,784 | 8,303 | 11,188 |
| Manipur | 13 | 13 | 18 |
| Meghalaya | 9 | 9 | 13 |
| Mizoram | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Nagaland | 11 | 11 | 22 |
| Odisha | 2,598 | 3,972 | 5,157 |
| Punjab | 2,269 | 2,744 | 3,603 |
| Rajasthan | 5,894 | 7,645 | 8,670 |
| Tamil Nadu | 4,028 | 5,358 | 6,606 |
| Telangana | 1,823 | 2,545 | 3,,146 |
| Tripura | 203 | 203 | 256 |
| Uttarakhand | 340 | 400 | 465 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 9,167 | 12,563 | 15,588 |
| West Bengal | 4,139 | 7,345 | 10,612 |
| Union Territory | | | |
| Chandigarh | 16 | 16 | 66 |
| Pondicherry | 22 | 22 | 26 |
| Total | 67,368 | 93,902 | 1,21,407 |

Note: The remaining States/Union Territories have no railway line.

The table below shows the changing size of IR’s electrified rail network over the years.

| Year | Route Kms. | | Running Track Kms. | | Total Track Kms.# | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Electrified | Total | Electrified | Total | Electrified | Total |
| 1950-51 | 388 | 53,596 | 937 | 59,315 | 1,253 | 77,609 |
| 1960-61 | 748 | 56,247 | 1,752 | 63,602 | 2,259 | 83,706 |
| 1970-71 | 3,706 | 59,790 | 7,447 | 71,669 | 9,586 | 98,546 |
| 1980-81 | 5,345 | 61,240 | 10,474 | 75,860 | 13,448 | 1,04,480 |
| 1990-91 | 9,968 | 62,367 | 18,954 | 78,607 | 25,305 | 1,08,858 |
| 2000-01 | 14,856 | 63,028 | 27,937 | 81,865 | 36,950 | 1,08,706 |
| 2010-11 | 19,607 | 64,460 | 36,007 | 87,114 | 49,489 | 1,13,993 |
| 2014-15 | 22,224 | 66,030 | 41,038 | 90,803 | 55,266 | 1,17,996 |
| 2015-16 | 23,555 | 66,687 | 43,357 | 92,081 | 57,738 | 1,19,630 |
| 2016-17 | 25,367 | 67,368 | 48,239 | 93,902 | 62,522 | 1,21,407 |

Includes track in yards, sidings, crossings at stations, etc.

With its more than 150 year old history, IR is a state-owned public utility of the Government of India under the Ministry of Railways.

As a national common carrier transporting passenger and goods over its vast network, Indian Railways has always played a key role in India’s social and economic development. It is a cheap and affordable means of transportation for millions of passengers. As a carrier of bulk freight viz. ores and minerals, iron and steel, cement, mineral oils, food grains and fertilizers, containerized cargo etc., the importance of Indian Railways for agriculture, industry and the common man is well recognized. Indian Railways carried 22.24 million passengers and 3.04 million tonnes of freight each day during 2016-17.

IR, functioning as Ministry of Railways, is headed by the Minister for Railways. The apex body entrusted with the management of this mega enterprise is led by the Chairman, Railway Board (CRB). Members of the Railway Board include Financial Commissioner, Member Traffic, Member Engineering, Member Rolling Stock, Member Traction and Member Staff who represent their respective functional domains. For administrative purposes, IR is divided into 17 Zones, each headed by a General Manager. Zonal Railways are further divided into smaller operating units called Divisions. There are 68 Operating Divisions in IR at present, each under a Divisional Railway Manager. In addition, there are a number of Production Units, Training Establishments, Public Sector Enterprises and other Offices working under the control of Railway Board.