

Railways Lines Up 52 Reforms for '26 to Improve Services

New Delhi: Indian Railways will target 52 reforms in calendar year 2026 to drive systematic improvements in service delivery, the Railway Board said on Thursday.

The “52 reforms in 52 weeks” programme will focus on safety, the use of AI and advanced technologies to improve passenger services, and a revamp of talent and training to build a more skilled workforce, among other measures.

The Railway Board said consequential train accidents have declined by around 90%, from 135 in 2014–15 to 11 in 2025–26. The national transporter is now aiming to bring the figure down to a single digit.

The railways said major reforms to improve food quality, catering and onboard services will also be rolled out.

Earlier this week, Indian Railways said it had spent ₹2.03 lakh crore as of December, out of a total gross budgetary support (GBS) of ₹2.52 lakh crore, representing a 6.54% increase in GBS utilisation compared with December 2024.

Capital expenditure over the past decade has resulted in the rollout of 164 Vande Bharat and 30 Amrit Bharat train services, implementation of the Kavach automatic train protection system, more than 99% electrification of the broad-gauge network, and extensive track renewal and capacity expansion, the railways said.

For the coming Budget, ICRA expects a range-bound increase in the railways' budgetary allocation for 2026–27, in line with the trend seen over the past two years. — Our Bureau