

Rail bus will soon chug from Bagalkot

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vijayapura: Rail bus service will begin on the Bagalkot-Khadjidoni railway line soon, and all necessary arrangements have already been made by department. The 70-seat rail bus is like a bus but without a separate engine.

This is said to be first time the rail bus service is starting on the newly constructed railway line between Bagalkot and Kudachi, which is yet to be completed. This service is run in segments where passengers are few, usually in hilly areas. Instead of running a train of more than 20 bogies, this small rail bus carrying few passengers, is feasible for the department.



READY FOR JOB: Rail bus arrives at Bagalkot town on Thursday to commence its service to Khadjidoni village

The rail bus runs on the railway track. Like a bus, a driver in the front seat moni-

tors the journey, and passenger seats are arranged behind. The 180km Bagalkot-Ku-

dachi railway line is being built at a cost of Rs 800 crore, and will take some time to be completed. The stations ready for stoppage are Bagalkot, Navanagar, Sulikeri, Kerkalamatti, Shellikeri and Khadjidoni.

The rail bus service was a long pending demand of Bagalkot district passengers, and railway minister Piyush Goyal formalized it during a recent visit to Bagalkot.

State Broad Gauge Railway Agitation Committee president Kutbuddin Khaji said, "The railway department responded positively to our demand and started the rail bus service. Passengers between Bagalkot and Khadjidoni can make use of this facility."

Rly Board plan for buying wagons via reverse auction process raises concerns of aggressive bidding

PRATIM RANJAN BOSE

Kolkata, March 29

Having invested in track capacity over the past couple of years, the Railway Board is now ready to purchase wagons.

It wants to break away from the tradition of floating annual tenders, and is toying with the idea of bulk-tendering to meet the demand for the next five years.

The news has brought cheers to wagon makers, which have had low order books for the past two years.

There's a catch

They have just one concern: in return for widening the market by at least five times from the current rate of procuring 10,000-12,000 wagons a year, the Railways wants the prices to remain flat for the five years.

According to the proposal, the Railways will outline the demand for the next five years and select suppliers through a reverse-auction

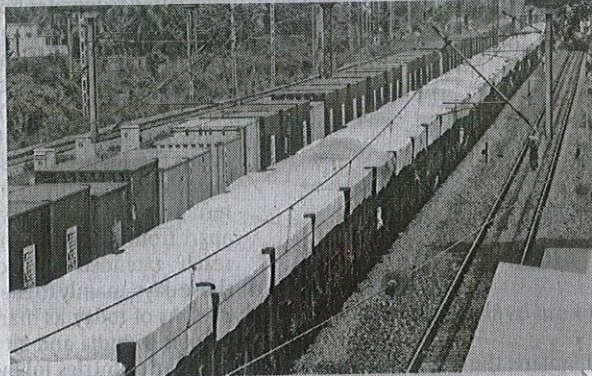
method. The successful bidder(s) will be offered the opportunity to meet the demand for the five years at the same price. The Railways think this will help it save costs.

The concern is that such mechanisms often invite aggressive bidding, leading to disastrous consequences. The economy paid the price for fixed tariff-based bidding of electricity, and most of the captive-coal mines stopped working after the reverse auction in 2015.

"We have discussed this with the Railway Board," Umesh Chowdhary, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Kolkata-headquartered Titagarh Wagons, told *BusinessLine*.

He, however, welcomes the idea of bulk purchases as it will give manufacturers the opportunity to plan long term.

"Yes, there are concerns (about the reverse auction). But it is too early to pass the



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verdict. If the Railway Board wants to do something path-breaking to ensure transparency and price discovery, it is welcome," he said.

Rajaji Meshram, Director of KPMG India, thinks the proposal has merit as the bulk purchases will bring in a "quantitative change" in the market size, thereby creating

prospects for "drastic" price reduction.

The bulk purchases proposal will trigger a paradigm shift in the market conditions, and "market price discovery" of wagons is a welcome idea, he said.

Meshram thinks a strong qualification process for participants may limit potential

aggressive bidding. Also, a lower price benchmark may be set to identify unviable bids and the resultant failures in fulfilling the order.

May prove costly

While it is yet to be seen how the Railway Board will design the tender, another rolling stock manufacturer, who didn't want to be named, said any aggressive bidding may end up proving costly to the Railways.

"The Railways has invested heavily in creating the infrastructure, and it needs wagons for return on investment. Aggressive bidding and delay in delivery of rolling stock may convert the notional savings into net loss," he said.

The concern is also shared by the Finance Ministry. At a recent seminar in Kolkata, Kumar Vinay Pratap, Joint Secretary (Infrastructure Policy and Finance), said aggressive bidding is a concern for the smooth implementation of infrastructure projects.

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ಶತಾಬ್ದಿ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪ್ರೆಸ್ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಟ್ರೇನ್-18

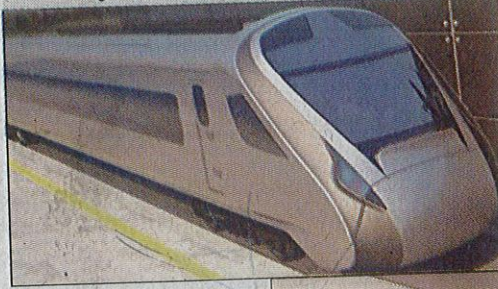
ಹೊಸದಿಲ್ಲಿ: ಸದ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ದೇಶಾದ್ಯಂತ ಶತಾಬ್ದಿ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪ್ರೆಸ್ ರೈಲುಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೋದಿಯವರ ಮೇಕ್ ಇನ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ವಿಶ್ವದರ್ಜೆ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ 'ಸೆಮಿ ಹೈಸ್ಪೀಡ್' ರೈಲುಗಳು ತುಂಬುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ.

ಶತಾಬ್ದಿ ರೈಲುಗಳ ಬದಲಿಗೆ, ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಆತ್ಮಾಧುನಿಕ 'ಸೆಮಿ ಹೈಸ್ಪೀಡ್' ರೈಲುಗಳ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮುಂಬರುವ ಜೂನ್‌ನಿಂದಲೇ 'ಟ್ರೇನ್-18' ಎಂದು ಹೆಸರಿಡಲಾಗಿರುವ ಸೆಮಿ ಹೈಸ್ಪೀಡ್ ರೈಲುಗಳು ಹಳಗೆ ಇಳಿಯುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ. ಹಂತ ಹಂತವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಶತಾಬ್ದಿ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪ್ರೆಸ್‌ಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಹೊಸ ರೈಲುಗಳು ತುಂಬಲಿವೆ.

ಚೆನ್ನೈನ ಇಂಟಿಗ್ರಲ್ ಕೋಚ್ ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಟರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಟ್ರೇನ್-18' ರೈಲುಗಳು ತಯಾರಾಗಲಿವೆ. ಕಡಿಮೆ ಖರ್ಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಯಾರಿ: ವಿದೇಶದಿಂದ ಆಮದು ಮಾಡಿ

ವಿಶೇಷಗಳೇನು?

- ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, 'ಸೆಲ್ಫ್‌ಪ್ರೋಪೆಲ್ಡ್' ಟೈನ್ ಸೆಟ್.
- ಎರಡೂ ಬದಿ ಡೈವರ್ ಕ್ಯಾಬಿನ್, ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಬದಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ.
- ಸ್ವಯಂ ಚಾಲಿತ ಬಾಗಿಲು, ಸ್ಪ್ರಿಡಿಂಗ್ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳು.
- ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹವಾನಿಯಂತ್ರಿತ 16 ಕೋಚ್‌ಗಳು.
- ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 160 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವೇಗ, ತಗ್ಗಲಿದೆ ಪ್ರಯಾಣದ ಅವಧಿ.
- ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ರಹಿತ 'ವ್ಯಾಕ್ಯೂಮ್' ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳು.



ಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಇದೇ ಮಾದರಿಯ ರೈಲುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ, ದೇಶೀಯವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವ 'ಟ್ರೇನ್-18' ಅರ್ಧ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ತಯಾರಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

The news is about Train-18 instead of Shatabdi Express

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ट्रेन में पड़े मिले 1.22 लाख रुपए सही मुसाफिर को लौटाने वाला टीटीई सम्मानित

जयपुर। राजस्थान के जयपुर रेल मंडल में टीटीई पद पर तैनात मुकेश मीना को एक मुसाफिर को उसके खोए हुए 1 लाख 22 हजार रुपए लौटाने पर रेल बोर्ड ने सम्मानित किया है। मुकेश ने 26 मार्च को जम्मूतवी-अजमेर पूजा एक्सप्रेस में ड्यूटी के दौरान रुपयों का एक बंडल लावारिश मिला था। मुकेश ने यह रकम सही मुसाफिर तक पहुंचाते हुए ईमानदारी का परिचय दिया था। उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे के अनुसार मुकेश कुमार मीना 26 मार्च को जम्मूतवी-अजमेर पूजा एक्सप्रेस में ड्यूटी कर रहे थे। इसी दौरान एक यात्री के मोबाइल चोरी की रिपोर्ट लिखने के लिए ट्रेन कंडक्टर सीटीआई राजेश श्रीवास्तव से शिकायत पुस्तिका लेने के लिए एसी कोच में गए। वापसी में उन्हें कोज संख्या ए-1 की गैलेरी में नोटों का एक बंडल पड़ा मिला। मुकेश कुमार मीना ने रुपए उठाकर आसपास के यात्रियों से पूछताछ की। अन्त में उन्होंने घटना की सूचना ट्रेन कंडक्टर सीटीआई राजेश श्रीवास्तव को दी। तभी अपने रुपए खोजते जालंधर निवासी सतवीन्दर सिंह वहां पहुंचे। पूरी छानबीन कर मुकेश ने एक लाख बाइस हजार रुपए सतवीन्दर सिंह को सौंप दिए। सतवीन्दर सिंह ने मुकेश कुमार मीना की ईमानदारी की प्रशंसा की तथा रेलवे प्रशासन को धन्यवाद दिया। मुकेश कुमार मीना के उच्च नैतिक आचरण की उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे के महाप्रबन्धक टीपी सिंह ने सराहना की तथा मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक जयपुर सौम्या माथुर ने टीटीआई को 2500 के नकद पुरस्कार की भी घोषणा की।

LTC for railway employees

» Railway employees, for the first time, can now avail Leave Travel Concession (LTC), the government has said, PTI reports from New Delhi.

In a circular issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on March 27, the ministry said as per existing LTC instructions, government servants and their spouses, working in Indian Railways, are not entitled for the facility of LTC as the facility of "Free Pass" is available to them.

However, Seventh Pay Commission recommended that they be included in

the LTC fold.

"The matter has been considered in this department in consultation with Ministry of Railways. It has been decided that Railway employees may be allowed to avail all-India LTC once in a block of four years...

"The 'All-India LTC' will be purely optional for railway employees," the ministry has said.

However, railway employees shall continue to be governed by the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules and availing of the "All India LTC" under the CCS (LTC) Rules by them will be facilitated through a special order under the relevant provision of the said Pass Rules, it said.

Railway staff to get LTC for the first time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 29

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However, The Seventh Pay Commission recommended that they be included in the LTC fold.

"The matter has been considered in this department in consultation with the Ministry of Railways. It has been decided that Railway employees may be allowed to avail all-India LTC once in a block of four years. The 'All-India LTC' will be purely optional for Railway employees," the Ministry has said.

इंडियन एक्सप्रेस / बेलगाम
INDIAN EXPRESS/BELGAUM

30 MAR 2018

CONCOR begins direct port delivery

CONCOR, Chennai has commenced movement of Direct Port Delivery (DPD) and Direct Port Entry between CONCOR HOM Annexe (Chennai Port) and CONCOR, Tondiarpet. The inaugural train carrying 62 DPD containers was flagged off by P Raveendran, Chairman, Chennai Port Trust, and N Sreekumar, CFTM, Southern Railway on March 28, in the presence of senior officials.

