

Budget Bonanza for city, Bansal hits a sixer Six new trains announced, three get extension; frequency of two trains changed, city to have its first IT railway industry

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Railway Minister Pawan Bansal has given a big push to the city's connectivity with major cities across the country by announcing six new trains.

After more than a decade, Chandigarh has emerged as a prominent city to have direct rail connectivity with important places of tourist and religious importance in Punjab, Uttarakhand, Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa.

A new rail link between Chandigarh and Yamuanagar has been announced. The minister also mentioned the Chandigarh-Ludhiana rail link in his budget speech.

The minister today took the credit for starting the third Shatabdi Express between Chandigarh and Delhi, taking the total express trains between the national capital and the city to three.



Fulfilling his promise, Bansal announced six new express trains from the city. Many long distance trains were not connected to city and the passengers had to travel all the way to Ambala or Delhi to catch the same.

To improve the rail connectivity, the minister also extended long distance trains to the city. There trains will connect Chandigarh to Delhi Patna, Bangalore and Goa.

A senior official of the Railways revealed that all the demands for better connectivity from the city to south and the central India have been fulfilled in the budget.

The minister said by setting up a modern signalling equipment facility at Chandigarh through a public-private partnership, more employment opportunities would be generated for the youth of the tricity. The ministry will impart training to youths in railway related trades at 25 locations across the country and Chandigarh is one of them.

The minister also announced setting up of information technology industry in Chandigarh. This industry will help in research and manufacturing of railway signal links and anti-collision devices.

Inadequate infrastructure

Though the Union Railway Minister announced six new trains, increased the frequency of two trains and extended three trains to the city, inadequate infrastructure at the Chandigarh railway station could be a headache for officials as well as passengers. Though the officials

claim that extensive survey has been carried out, sources said the existing single track between Chandigarh and Ambala was a major hurdle.

New railway line

Yamuna Nagar to Chandigarh via Sadhaura, Narayangarh

First IT railway industry in region

The Railway Minister announced the setting up of the first information technology (IT) industry of the region at Chandigarh. The focus of the industry will be to manufacture railway signal links and anti-collision devices.

Training centre

A training centre will be set up in the city by the Railways, which will open more employment opportunities for the youth.

Residences for employees

Railway divisional manager PK Sangi said the ministry had also sanctioned 105 new residences for the railway staff in Chandigarh.

Budget at a glance

- Direct trains to Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Goa have been announced
- New trains to religious places in Jammu and Punjab
- Helpline number of women 1800-111-321
- e-ticketing through SMS

Projects that were not taken up

- Management of the railway goods sheds and multi-model logistics parks
- RPF helpline, integrated with the all-India passenger helpline
- Regional cuisine at affordable rates
- Integration of RPF helpline with all-India passenger helpline
- Coin operated ticket vending machine
- Welfare of railway employees
- System to accommodate passengers on waiting list on alternative trains
- Nothing in the kitty of Panchkula residents



New trains**Express trains' frequency**

Amritsar-Lalkuan (Uttarakhand) Express via Chandigarh Weekly

Chandigarh-Amritsar intercity express via Mohali and Ludhiana Daily

Indore-Chandigarh express via Dewas, Ujjain, Guna, Gwalior, Hazrat Nizamuddin Weekly

Kalka-Jammu-Udhampur-Katra Express via Chandigarh Biweekly

Una-Nangaldam-Hazoor Sahib-Nanded Express via Chandigarh Weekly

Kalka-Sai Nagar-Shirdi Express via Chandigarh, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Bhopal, Itarsi Biweekly

Trains that have been extended**Trains' frequency**

Chandigarh-Lucknow Express to Patna Biweekly

Yesvantpur-Hazrat Nizamuddun Sampark Kranti Express to Chandigarh Biweekly

Madgaon-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express to Chandigarh Biweekly

Change in frequency

Kochuveli-Chandigarh Express Weekly to biweekly

Madurai-Dehradun-Chandigarh Express Weekly to biweekly

Direct trains from Chandigarh to

Uttarakhand, Jammu, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Goa

City's links with major towns

Una, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patna, Bangalore, Goa, Indore, Shirdi, Dewas, Ujjain, Guna, Gwalior, Nangal Dam, Hazoor Sahib, Nanded, Bhopal, Itarsi

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