

पीयूष गोयल
PIYUSH GOYAL



रेल, वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग तथा
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF
RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

2nd April, 2021

Dear Member of Railway family,

Namaste! I write to you today with great pride, satisfaction and gratitude as we bid goodbye to another financial year under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The past year was unlike anything that we have experienced before. While the loss of our own will never be forgotten, it is **your grit, determination and resolve which has emerged victorious** in the wake of the unprecedented pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Railway family devoted itself to the service of the nation. While the world came to a standstill, **Railwaymen never took a day off**, and worked even harder at a great personal risk to keep the Wheels of the Economy moving. Due to your commitment, we **ensured uninterrupted supply of essential goods**, be it coal for power plants, fertilizer for farmers or food grains for the consumers across the country. The nation will always remember your selfless contribution in our collective fight against COVID-19. With your sheer willpower and resilience, **we turned this crisis into an opportunity**.

4,621 Shramik Specials were run to unite families and carry more than 63 lakh stranded citizens. Despite limitations during the lockdown, 370 major safety and infrastructure works were completed. **Kisan Rail Services** became the medium to connect our 'Annadatas' directly with bigger markets. You, through your service, made this possible and in turn touched the hearts and lives of lakhs of people.

It is a matter of immense pride for me that Railways, with its exemplary work, has spearheaded the economic recovery. **1,233 million tonnes of originating freight has been loaded**, which is the best ever for any year. 6,015 RKM of Rail Electrification works has been achieved in the last Financial year. As they say, **"Records are meant to be broken"** and no one does it better than Indian Railways. Today, Railways is customer-centric and is taking numerous steps for improving its speed as well as operational efficiency. This is visible as the **average speed of freight trains has almost doubled** to 44 Kmph and punctuality of the passenger trains has been maintained at a level of 96%. There have been **zero passenger fatalities** and a drastic reduction in number of consequential train accidents in last 2 years.

I thank you for your dedication and stupendous efforts. I can say with confidence that with this motivated team, **we will continue breaking records, achieve bigger targets, set examples for others with our performance, and contribute to the growth of Indian Economy**.

Jai Hind!

Piyush Goyal