

REGIONAL LAYOUT OF INDIAN RAILWAYS INSTEAD OF ZONAL LAYOUT FOR BETTER OPERATIONAL ADVANTAGES & FACILITIES

A. Introduction:-

Currently, Indian Railways is working based on Zonal Layout system. There are 16 zones in Indian railways which are carting the Indian Mainland. Since 1 zone is spread over huge area, many states are falling in it. For eg. Northern Railways carters J&K, Punjab, Haryana, HP, U'khand & A part of UP. Due to this specific railway demands from these states can't be efficiently dealt with. Lack of Co-ordination between different zones sometimes hampers railway operations. So Indian railways must adapt regional layout system for better co-ordination & connection between all the regions of Indian mainland as per the specific railway demands from the people of that region.

B. Current Zonal Layout System: -

The current Zonal layout system of Indian Railways currently consists of these zones:-

1. Northern Railways: - J&K, Punjab, Haryana, HP, U'khand & A part of UP.
 2. North Eastern Railways: - A part of UP, U'khand & Bihar.
 3. North Central Railways: - A part of UP, MP & Bihar.
 4. North Western Railways: - Rajasthan & A part of Punjab & Haryana.
 5. Western Railways: - Gujarat, A part of MP, Rajasthan & Maharashtra.
 6. West Central Railways: - A part of Rajasthan, MP & UP.
 7. Central Railways: - Maharashtra & A part of MP & Karanataka.
 8. Konkan Railways: - Goa, A part of Maharashtra & Karanataka.
 9. South Western Railways: - Karanataka, A part of AP & TN.
 10. Southern Railways: - Kerala, TN & A part of Karanataka.
 11. South Central Railways: - AP, Telengana & A part of Karanataka.
 12. East Coast Railways: - Odisha & A part of AP, A part of CG & A part of J'khand.
 13. South Eastern Railways: - A part of WB, a part of Odisha & a part of J'khand.
 14. South East Central Railways: - CG & a part of Maharashtra.
 15. Eastern Railways: - A part of WB, A part of J'khand & a part of Bihar.
 16. East Central Railways: - Bihar & A part of UP.
 17. Northeast Frontier Railways: - A part of Bihar, a part of WB, Sikkim, Assam, ARP, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.
- Metro Railways Kolkata is a separate zone.

C. Proposal of Regional Layout System: -

To provide connectivity of Railways as per specific region or state demand, adopting Regional layout system is the best way forward for Indian railways. So here is the proposal of regional layout with divisions stated below from Northern side of India: -

1. Kashmir & Punjab Railways/K&PR: - Covering Jammu & Kashmir & Punjab regions; 4 divisions: - Jammu, Amritsar, Ludhiana & Bhatinda. Including Ladakh.
2. Haryana & Himachal Railways/H&HR: - Covering entire HP & Haryana regions including Chandigarh; 3 divisions: - Ambala, Jind & Hisar.
3. Delhi Capital Railways/DCR: - Covering regions in & around Delhi & Agra; 2 divisions Delhi & Agra. Including Delhi & Agra Metro Rail Corporation.
4. UP & Uttarakhand Railways/UPUR: - Covering entire UP & U'khand regions. 6 divisions: - Saharanpur, Bareilly, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi & Gorakhpur.
5. Central Indian Railways/CIR: - Covering entire MP & CG region; 8 divisions: - Gwalior, Ratlam, Bhopal, Itarsi, Jabalpur & Katni, Bilaspur & Raipur.
6. Rajasthan Railways/RR: - Covering entire Rajasthan region; 6 divisions: - Jaipur, Kota, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner & Sri Ganganagar.
7. Gujurat, Baroda & Saurashtra Railways/GBSR: - Covering entire region of Gujurat state; 8 divisions: - Bhuj, Dwarka, Porbander, Somnath, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad & Baroda. Including UT's of Daman & Diu, Dadranagar Haveli
8. Maharashtra Railways/MR: - Covering entire Maharashtra region; 5 divisions: - Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, Bhusaval & Nagpur.
9. Karnataka Railways/KNR: - Covering entire Karnataka Region; 5 divisions: - Hubballi, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Bangalore & Mysore.
10. Konkan Railways/KR: - Covering Konkan Region. No change with current situation. 2 divisions: - Ratnagiri & Karwar.
11. Southern Indian Railways/SIR: - Covering entire TN & Kerala states including Puducherry; 7 divisions: - Chennai, Coimbatore, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai, Tiruchhi & Nagapattinam. No change with current situation.
12. AP & Telengana Railways/APTR: - Covering entire AP & Telengana region; 4 divisions: - Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada & Vishakhapatnam.
13. Odisha Railways/OR: - Covering entire Odisha State; 4 divisions: - Balasore, Khurda, Sambalpur & Rayagada.

14. Jharkhand Railways/JKR: - Covering entire Jharkhand region. 4 divisions: - Dhanbad, Ranchi, Jasidih & Garwa.
15. Magadha & Mithila Railways/MMR: - Covering entire Bihar state; 5 divisions: - Hajipur, Samastipur, Patna. Bhagalpur & Katihar.
16. East Indian Railways/EIR: - Covering entire WB region; 6 Divisions: - Alipurduar, Siliguri-Malda, Asansol, Kharagpur, Howrah & Sealdah.
17. Assam & Northeast Indian Railways/ANIR: - Covering Assam, Sikkim & entire Northeast Indian states. 6 divisions: - Bongaigaon, Rangiya, Lumding, Badarpur, Naga & Tinsukia.
18. All India Metro Railways: - Excluding Delhi Metro Rail, all other Metro Rail system will be brought under this Organization.

D. Regional Head Quarters(HQs) after Regional Layout of IR: -

1. K&PR:- HQs at Jammu & Amritsar
2. H&HR: - HQ at Chandigarh.
3. DCR: - HQs at Delhi & Agra.
4. UPUR: - HQs at Lucknow, Gorakhpur & Varanasi.
5. CIR: - HQs at Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior & Jabalpur.
6. RR: - HQs at Jaipur, Jodhpur & Udaipur.
7. GBSR: - HQs at Rajkot, Ahmedabad & Vadodara.
8. MR: - HQs at Mumbai, Pune & Nagpur.
9. KNR: - HQs at Bangalore & Mysuru.
10. KR:- No change
11. SIR: - HQs at Chennai & Thiruvananthapuram.
12. APTR: - HQs at Hyderabad, Guntur, Renigunta & Vishakhapatnam.
13. OR: - HQ at Bhubaneswar.
14. JKR: - HQ at Dhanbad & Ranchi.
15. MMR: - HQ at Patna & Darbhanga.
16. EIR: - HQ at Kolkata & Siliguri.
17. ANIR: - HQ at Guwahati, Itanagar, Silchar & Agartala.
18. AIMR: - HQs at All Metro Cities.