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# [INDIAN RAILWAYS]

Case Study on the Turnaround



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## Indian Railways – Reviving a Mammoth

The wheels that have not only moved a nation towards growth but have actually played an instrumental role in unifying the country, the Indian Railways has a story like no other. From its beginnings in the colonial past of India till now, the railways have always stood testament to the changing dynamics of this country.

Narrow gauge, Broad Gauge and metre gauge are the three principal variants of the Indian Railways. The iconic Toy Trains (Darjeeling Train) that steadily climb the slopes of the hill stations that speckle India have been declared a heritage by UNSECO.

One of the most important public transport systems in the country, the Indian Railways have had to battle through impossible odds including the lackadaisical approach and poor management to transform in to a profit making institution that has people coming in droves to witness first hand the incredible turnaround of the Indian Railways.

### History –

Stretching over 62,327 Kilometres (39,350 Miles) Indian Railways is counted as one of the largest and busiest railway networks in the world. Transporting over 18 million passengers and more than 2 million tonnes of freight daily, Indian Railways employs 1.4 Million employees. The sheer magnitude of its service, the number of employees and stations it covers makes the Indian Railway a logistical challenge.

Its heart lies in the Colonial rule of the British who created the railways for improved transportation of goods as well as faster travel mode for themselves. The Indian Railways played a vital role in transporting British soldiers to various parts of the country to curb the 1857 Unrest, while simultaneously bringing nationalist leaders from varied parts of the nation together.

Chugging to life for the first time in 1853, Indian Railways has grown tremendously and has connected India like never before. From a mere 35 Kilometres between Mumbai (Bombay) and Thane in Maharashtra to thousands of kilometres of tracks across the length and breadth of this vast nation, the national railway network of India has played an instrumental role in the progress and the unification of this country. By 1947, the year of India's independence, Indian Railways had forty-two rail systems. It was only in 1951 that the systems were nationalised into one unit, thus becoming one of the largest