

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2328
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2025

KAVACH AUTOMATIC TRAIN PROTECTION SYSTEM

2328 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current progress of the Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system across Indian Railways, detailing the total route in kilometres covered and the firm timelines for its pan-India deployment;
- (b) the specifics of other technological interventions, such as Ultra Sonic Flaw Detection (USFD), Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS) and Machine Vision Based Inspection System (MVIS), currently deployed or planned to enhance railway safety, along with their operational status and extent of implementation; and
- (c) the tangible impact these systems have on reducing accidents and improving overall safety on the network?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (c): Safety is accorded the highest priority on Indian Railways. As a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents.

Number of Consequential Train Accidents has reduced as shown in the table below:-

Year	Consequential Accidents
2014-15	135
2025-26 (till date)	11 (90% lesser)

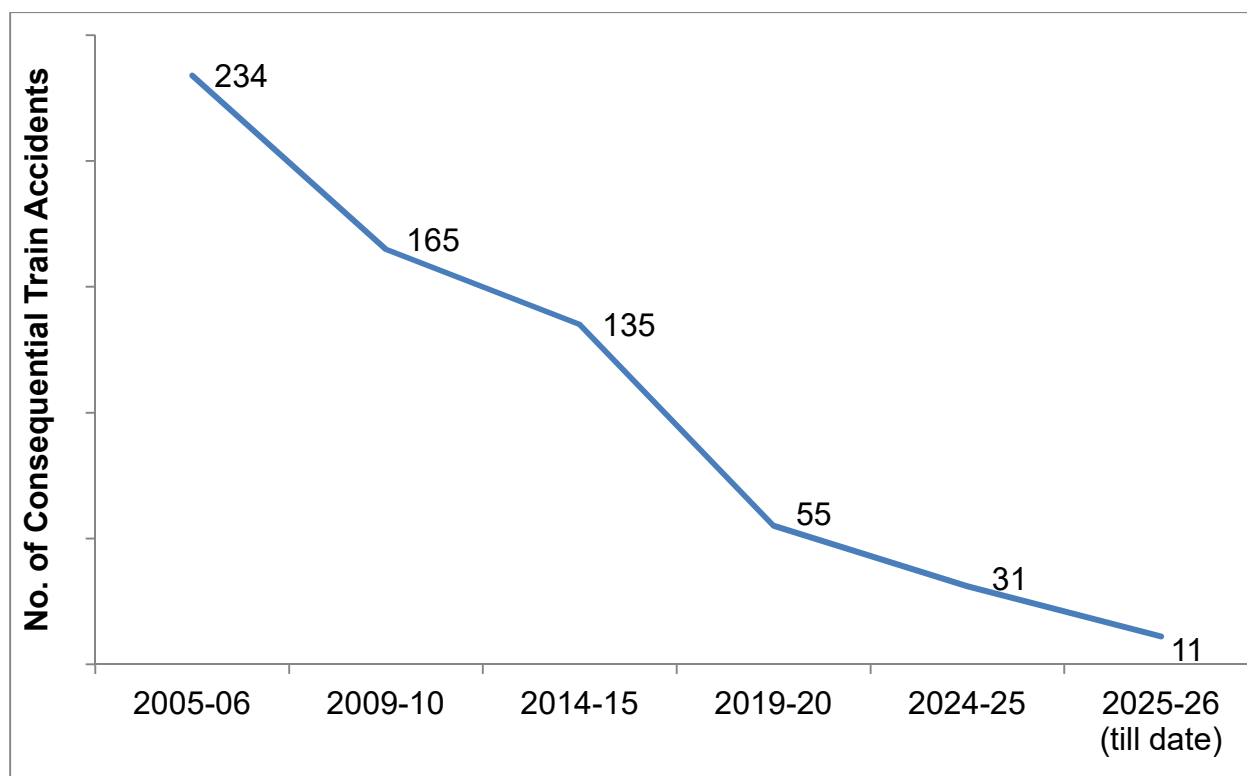
Another important index showing improvement in safety in train operations is Consequential Accidents Index, the details of which are as under:-

Consequential Accident Index:

Year	Accident Index
2014-15	0.11
2024-25	0.03 (73% lesser)

This index measures number of consequential accidents as a ratio of total running Kilometers of all trains.

$$\text{Accident Index} = \frac{\text{No. of consequential accidents}}{\text{No. of trains X million kilometers run}}$$



The various safety measures taken to enhance safety in train operations are as under:-

1. On Indian Railways, the expenditure on Safety related activities has increased over the years as under:-

Expenditure/Budget on Safety related activities (Rs. in Cr.)				
2013-14 (Act.)	2022-23 (Act.)	2023-24 (Act.)	2024-25	2025-26
39,463	87,327	1,01,651	1,14,022	1,16,470

2. Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation of points and signals have been provided at 6,657 stations up to 30.11.2025 to reduce accidents due to human failure.
3. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 10,100 Level Crossing Gates up to 30.11.2025 for enhancing safety at LC Gates.
4. Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety by verification of track occupancy by electrical means has been provided at 6,663 stations up to 30.11.2025.
5. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order. Kavach was adopted as a National ATP system in July 2020. Kavach is provided progressively in phased manner. Initially, Kavach Version 3.2 was deployed on 1465 RKm of South Central Railway and 80 RKm of North Central Railway. Kavach specification Version 4.0 was approved by RDSO on 16.07.2024. After extensive and elaborate trials, Kavach Version 4.0 has been successfully commissioned on Palwal-Mathura-Kota- Nagda section (633RKm) on Delhi- Mumbai route and on Howrah-Bardhaman section (105RKm) on Delhi-Howrah route. Kavach implementation has been taken up in balance sections of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah route. Further, Kavach implementation has been taken up on 15,512 RKm covering all GQ, GD, HDN and identified sections of Indian Railways.
6. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Signalling, e.g. mandatory correspondence check, alteration work protocol, preparation of completion drawing, etc. have been issued.
7. System of disconnection and reconnection for S&T equipment as per protocol has been re-emphasized.
8. All locomotives are equipped with Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) to improve alertness of Loco Pilots.
9. Retro-reflective sigma boards are provided on the mast which is located two OHE masts prior to the signals in electrified territories to alert the crew about the signal ahead when visibility is low due to foggy weather.
10. A GPS based Fog Safety Device (FSD) is provided to loco pilots in fog affected areas which enables loco pilots to know the distance of the approaching landmarks like signals, level crossing gates, etc.
11. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fan shaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges is

used while carrying out primary track renewals.

12. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc. to reduce human errors.
13. Maximizing supply of 130m/260m long rail panels for increasing progress of rail renewal and avoiding welding of joints, thereby improving safety.
14. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.
15. Laying of longer rails, minimizing the use of Alumino Thermic Welding and adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e., Flash Butt Welding.
16. Monitoring of track geometry by OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) and TRC (Track Recording Cars).
17. Patrolling of railway tracks to look out for weld/rail fractures.
18. The use of Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing in turnout renewal works.
19. Inspections at regular intervals are carried out to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.
20. Web based online monitoring system of track assets viz. Track database and decision support system has been adopted to decide rationalized maintenance requirement and optimize inputs.
21. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Track, e.g. integrated block, corridor block, worksite safety, monsoon precautions, etc. have been issued.
22. Preventive maintenance of railway assets (Coaches & Wagons) is undertaken to ensure safe train operations.
23. Replacement of conventional ICF design coaches with LHB design coaches is being done.
24. All unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG) route have been eliminated by January 2019.
25. Safety of Railway Bridges is ensured through regular inspection of Bridges. The requirement of repair/rehabilitation of Bridges is taken up based upon the conditions assessed during these inspections.
26. Indian Railways has displayed Statutory "Fire Notices" for widespread passenger information in all coaches. Fire posters are provided in every coach so as to educate and alert passengers regarding various Do's and Don'ts to prevent fire. These include messages regarding not carrying any inflammable material, explosives, prohibition of smoking inside the coaches, penalties etc.

27. Production Units are providing Fire detection and suppression system in newly manufactured Power Cars and Pantry Cars, Fire and Smoke detection system in newly manufactured coaches. Progressive fitment of the same in existing coaches is also underway by Zonal Railways in a phased manner.
28. Regular counseling and training of staff is undertaken.
29. Concept of Rolling Block introduced in Indian Railways (Open Lines) General Rules vide Gazette notification dated 30.11.2023, wherein work of integrated maintenance/repair/replacement of assets is planned up to 52 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed as per plan.

The details of the Safety related works related to better maintenance practices, Technological improvements, better infrastructure and rolling stock etc. undertaken by Railways are tabulated below:-

S. No.	Item	2004-05 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2024-25	2014-25 Vs. 2004-14
	Technological Improvements			
1.	Use of high-quality rails (60 Kg) (Km)	57,450 Km	1.43 Lakh Km	More than 2 times
2.	Longer Rail Panels (260m) (Km)	9,917 Km	77,522 Km	Nearly 8 times
3.	Electronic Interlocking (Stations)	837 Stations	3,691 Stations	More than 4 times
4.	Fog Pass Safety Devices (Nos.)	As on 31.03.14: 90 Nos.	As on 31.03.25: 25,939 Nos.	288 times
5.	Thick Web Switches (Nos.)	Nil	28,301 Nos.	
	Better Maintenance Practices			
1.	Primary Rail Renewal (Track Km)	32,260 Km	49,941 Km	1.5 times
2.	USFD (Ultra Sonic Flaw detection) Testing of Welds (Nos.)	79.43 Lakh	2 Crore	More than 2 times
3.	Weld failures (Nos.)	In 2013-14: 3699 Nos.	In 2024-25: 370 Nos.	90 % reduction
4.	Rail fractures (Nos.)	In 2013-14: 2548 Nos.	In 2024-25: 289 Nos.	More than 88% reduction

	Better Infrastructure and Rolling Stock			
1.	New Track KM added (Track Km)	14,985 Km	34,428 Km	More than 2 times
2.	Flyovers (RoBs)/Underpasses (RUBs) (Nos.)	4,148 Nos.	13,808 Nos.	More than 3 times
3.	Unmanned Level crossings (Nos.) on BG	As on 31.03.14: 8,948	As on 31.03.24: Nil (All eliminated by 31.01.19)	Removed
4.	Manufacture of LHB Coaches (Nos.)	2,337 Nos.	42,677	More than 18 times

Implementation of Kavach

1. Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order (SIL-4).
2. Kavach aids the Loco Pilot in running of trains within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the trains to run safely during inclement weather.
3. The first field trials on the passenger trains were started in February 2016. Based on the experience gained and Independent Safety Assessment of the system by Independent Safety Assessor (ISA), three firms were approved in 2018-19, for supply of Kavach Ver 3.2.
4. Kavach was adopted as National ATP system in July 2020.
5. Implementation of Kavach System involves following Key Activities:
 - i. Installation of Station Kavach at each and every station, block section.
 - ii. Installation of RFID Tags throughout the track length.
 - iii. Installation of telecom Towers throughout the section.
 - iv. Laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the track.
 - v. Provision of Loco Kavach on each and every Locomotive running on Indian Railways.
6. Based on deployment of Kavach version 3.2 on 1465 RKm on South Central Railway and experience gained, further improvements were made. Finally, Kavach specification version 4.0 was approved by RDSO on 16.07.2024.

7. Kavach version 4.0 covers all the major features required for the diverse railway network. This is a significant milestone in safety for Indian Railways. Within a short period, IR has developed, tested and started deploying Automatic Train Protection System.
8. Major improvement in Version 4.0 includes increased Location Accuracy, Improved Information of Signal Aspects in bigger yards, Station to Station Kavach interface on OFC and Direct Interface to existing Electronic Interlocking System. With these improvements, Kavach Ver.4.0. is planned for large scale deployment over Indian Railways.
9. After extensive and elaborate trials, Kavach Version 4.0 has been successfully commissioned on 738 Route km on Palwal – Mathura- Nagda section (633 Rkm) on Delhi – Mumbai route and Howrah–Bardhaman section (105 Rkm) Delhi – Howrah route. Kavach implementation has been taken up in balance sections of Delhi – Mumbai & Delhi – Howrah corridors.
10. Progress of key items of Kavach on High density routes including Delhi– Mumbai & Delhi– Howrah corridors are as under:

SN	Item	Progress
i	Laying of Optical Fibre Cable	7129 Km
ii	Installation of Telecom Towers	860 nos
iii	Station Data Centre	767 Stns
iv	Installation of Track side equipment	5672 RKm
v	Provision of Kavach on Locos	4,154

11. Further, track side Kavach implementation work has been taken up on 15,512 RKm covering all GQ, GD, HDN and identified sections of Indian Railways.
12. Bids have been invited for equipping another 9,069 locomotives with Kavach version 4.0. Kavach is being provided progressively in a phased manner in locomotives.
13. Specialized training programmes on Kavach are being conducted at centralized training institutes of Indian Railways to impart training to all concerned officials. By now more than 40,000 technicians, operators and engineers have been trained on Kavach technology. This includes 33,000 Loco Pilots & Assistant Loco Pilots. Courses have been designed in

collaboration with IRISSET.

14. The funds utilized on Kavach works so far up to Oct'25 is Rs. 2,354.36 Crores. The allocation of funds during the year 2025-26 is Rs. 1673.19 Crores. Requisite funds are made available as per the progress of works.

Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD):

Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rail/weld is a non-destructive testing method to detect internal defects or flaws in rails/welds. USFD testing of rail/weld is being carried out at the prescribed frequency all across Indian Railway. Timely testing by USFD is helping in early detection of vulnerable points and initiating necessary remedial measures to reduce the probability of accidents.

Real Time Train Information System (RTIS):

Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) is a Made in India, edge processing, IoT based system that utilizes ISRO's Satcom & Satnav technologies for automatic train tracking. RTIS devices are installed in nearly 10,500 rolling stock (10310 electric locos, 140 EMU/EMU motor cars and 50 Vande Bharat driving cabs). The RTIS device generates station events (Arrival/Departure/Run through) along with train location updates at 30 second periodicity to RTIS central location server. These updates are utilized as real time information to passengers through National Train Enquiry System (NTES).

Machine Vision Based Inspection System (MVIS):

Machine Vision Based Inspection System (MVIS) is an Integrated Track monitoring System (ITMS) deployed for track recording. Three nos. of such systems have been deployed on Indian Railways. Additional seven numbers Integrated Track monitoring System are in various stages of deployment. The output of the machine are being used for planning of track maintenance at ground level.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between IR and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) in July 2025 for induction of wayside Machine Vision based Inspection System (MVIS). This is an AI/ML driven system for detecting hanging parts or missing components in moving trains.