

## OVERVIEW OF BIKANER DIVISION

### 1. Brief History

- The first Railway link to Bikaner was established on 9th Dec.,1891 as a part of Jodhpur State Railway. Bikaner State Railway came into existence in 1924. Direct Rail link between Bikaner and Delhi was established in 1941, At the time of re-organization of Railways in 1952, Bikaner Division was formed and took over Bikaner State Railway and part of Delhi-Rewari-Fazilka section.
- Initially it was an MG Division with over 1800 route Kms. covering the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.
- Presently, the total route Kms. are 1777.342 with following break up of BG & MG

<u>Gauge</u>	<u>B.G.</u>	<u>M.G.</u>	<u>Under G.C.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Kms.</b>	<b>1369.762</b>	<b>224.94</b>	<b>182.64</b>	<b>1777.342</b>

- BG conversion started on this division in 1978. After conversion, Kotkapura-Fazilka section was transferred to Firozpur Division to maintain BG continuity.
- With conversion of Bathinda- Rewari section to BG in 1994 an alternate shorter BG route has been opened connecting Ambala & Firozpur Divisions with Western & Central Railways, thereby, reducing congestion in Delhi Area.
- Similarly with conversion of Bikaner-Merta Road route to BG, an alternate North-South route viz. Bathinda - Lalgarh - Bikaner - Merta Road - Jaipur and Bikaner - Merta Road -Ahmedabad has been opened.
- Steam traction operation on MG was discontinued in Jan.,1994 and all the steam sheds have since been closed and all the services dieselised.
- After formation of North Western Railway, section from Rewari to Delhi Sarai Rohilla has been transferred to Delhi division and the section from Rohtak to Bhiwani has been taken over from Delhi division w.e.f. April,2003.
- A New Broad Gauge rail link from Kolayat to Phalodi (112.09 Kms.) has been established on 18.06.2007.
- Newly converted Rewari – Sadulpur section has been opened for passenger / freight operation w.e.f. 17.9.2008.
- Newly converted Sadulpur-Hisar section has been opened for passenger / freight operation w.e.f. 26.1.2009.
- Newly converted Bikaner – Ratangarh section has been opened for passenger / freight operation w.e.f. 30.03.2011
- Sarupsar- Sriganganagar section has been closed for Gauge Conversion since 15.12.2010
- Sriganganagar - Hanumangarh section has been closed for Gauge Conversion since 01.02.2012

## **2. Infrastructure Facilities Available :**

- **PRS LOCATIONS (11)**

Bikaner, Sriganganagar, Hisar, Bhiwani, Hanumangarh, Suratgarh, Sirsa, Fatehabad (NRH), Suratgarh Cantt (NRH), Hisar cantt (NRH) and Salasar Balaji (NRH).

- **UTS LOCATIONS (95)**

Bikaner, Suratgarh, Hisar, Bhiwani, Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh Sirsa, Sri Karanpur, Sri VijayNagar, Kesrisinghpur, Jetsar, Gajsinghpur, Ding, Bhattu, Raman, Kolayat, Tibi, Talwarajhil, Siwani, Dahinazainabad, Kaninakhas, Nangalmundi, DabwaliRathan, Dulmera, Bagwali, Lahli, Sangat, Mahahjan, Bawanikhera, Jatusana, Gadwala, Manheru, Satnali, Ramsinghpur, Banwali, Prithwirajpur, Baragudha, Suchankotli, Jakhodkera, Gurusarsahanewala, MohanNagar, Shergarh, Malkisar, Rampuraberi, Kanasar, Nathwana, Biradhwai, Dhaban, Ratangarh West, Manakasar, Arjansar, Rajiasar, Jitakheri, Bamla, Sudhrana, Jharli, Kishangarh Balawas, Rang Mahal, Harpalu, Benisar Bhiwani City, Dhirera, Birang khera, Gajner, Sohansara, Diyatra road, Aslu, Dokwa, Jamsar, Jagdeowala, Hadyal, Depalsar, Joharpura, Molisar, Parvezpur, Zerpur pali, Suratpura, Charaud, Jhumpa, Diplana, Gogameri, Sarupsar, Bhagwansar, Kalyankot, Anupshahar, Bigga, Parsenu, Nokhra, Bap, Sird, Malar, Dholipal, Sherekan, Khananiyan and Narwasi.

- **PRS cum UTS LOCATIONS (32)**

Sadulpur, Churu, Lalgargh, Mandi Dabwali, Ratangarh, Sardarshahr, Mahendragarh, Charkhi Dadri, Hansi, Lunkaransar, Pilibangan, Hanumangarh Town, Nohar, Sadulsahar, Tehshilbhadra, Sangria, Kalannaurkalan, Ellenabad, Anupgarh, Satrod, Kalanwali, Mandi Adampur, Loharu, Raisingh Nagar, Kosli, Napasar, Sudsar, Sri Dungargarh, Sidhmukh, Nal, Rajaldesar and Dudhwakhara.

- **TMS commissioned at Fifteen locations**

(Suratgarh Thermal Power, Bhattu, Sirsa, Hisar, Hanumangarh, Lalgargh, Sri Ganganagar, Bhiwani, Mandi Dabwali, Satrod, Kalanwali, Hansi, Jamsar, Kanasar and Suratgarh). :

- **BG Sick line and Washing line facilities :**

SriGanganagar, Bhiwani, Lalgargh & Bikaner

- **Fuelling Points:**

Bikaner , Hanumangarh and Churu

### 3. Major Loading Points (BG)

- Suratgarh, Anupgarh, Mandi Dabwali, Raman, Kalanwali, Sirsa, Bhattu, Mandi Adampur, Hansi, Bhiwani, Satrod & Kanasar

**Military Loading points :** Lunkaransar, Arjansar, Mahajan, Birdhwal, Suratgarh, Hanumangarh & Satrod.

### 4. Major unloading points (BG)

- Lalgah, Suratgarh, Hanumangarh, Mandi Dabwali, Raman, Kalanwali, Sirsa, Bhattu, Mandi Adampur, Hansi, Hisar, Bhiwani, Satrod & STPS (Birdhwal) and MIGK.

**Military Unloading points:** Lunkaransar, Arjansar, Mahajan, Birdhwal, Suratgarh, Hanumangarh & Satrod.

### 5. Freight Traffic

**Outward :** (i) Food grains from Rajasthan, Haryana & Punjab.

(ii) Gypsum, Edible oil and oil seed from Rajasthan.

**Inward :** Food grains, Cement, Fertilizer, POL and Iron steel over the division and Coal & POL to STPS (Birdhwal), MIGK Thermal Power station (Kosli) and MJPJ siding.

### 6. Staff Strength : Comparative position of last three years

Group	Sanctioned Strength			On Roll		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (Up to 31.01.12)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (Up to 31.01.12)
"C"	12415	12290	12189	11064	10718	10513
"D"	00	00	00	01	00	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>12415</b>	<b>12290</b>	<b>12189</b>	<b>11065</b>	<b>10718</b>	<b>10514</b>

### 7. Total number of quarters

Type I	5660
Type II	1784
Type III	223
Type IV	66
Type V	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>7755</b>

## 8. Level Crossings:

Gauge	Manned	Unmanned	Canal	'D' Class	Total
BG	344	143	20	60	567
MG	28	09	10	66	113
Under GC	32	34	11	64	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>821</b>

## 9. LEVEL CROSSINGS : (As on 31.01.2012)

Engineering	-	611
Traffic	-	169
Canal	-	41
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Total	-	822
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## 10. STATIONS

Total No. of stations: 195 ( BG-140, MG-36, MG&BG – 08, under GC - 11)

'B' class stations : 126 ( BG- 96, MG-16, MG&BG – 08, under GC - 06 )

'DK' class stations : 03 ( BG - 2 & MG - 1 )

'D' class : 02 ( MG - 2 )

Halt stations : 64 ( BG-42, MG-17, under GC -05 )

## 11. ADARSH STATIONS

- Lalgarh, Sirsa , Kosli, Bhiwani, Ratangarh, Churu, Sadulpur & Tehsil Bhadra have been nominated as 'Adarsh Stations' in Bikaner division. The work of development at Lalgarh, Sirsa , Kosli and Bhiwani have already been done. Whereas the work at Ratangarh is targeted to be completed by 31.03.12. Whereas the work at Churu & Sadulpur is targeted to be completed by 30.6.12.

The work at Tehsil Bhadra station is expected to be under taken with G.C. work..

## 12. INTERCHANGE POINTS

Broad Gauge - 13

Bikaner	- with JU Divn.	Phalodi	- with JU Divn.
Bathinda (SOG side)	- with UMB Divn.	Sriganganagar	- with UMB Divn.
Bathinda (SSA side)	- with UMB Divn.	Hissar	- with UMB Divn.
Bathinda (BBC side)	- with DLI Divn.	Rohtak	- with DLI Divn.
BTI Bye pass	- with DLI Divn.	Rewari (BNW side)	- with JP Divn.
Satrod	- with UMB Divn.	Rewari (LHU side)	- with JP Divn.
Ratangarh	- with JU Divn.		

## 13. EXAMINATION DEPOTS

- i) Freight Examination Depots : NIL
- ii) Carriage Examination Depots : BG : Bhiwani, Bikaner, Lalgarh & Sri Ganganagar

14 **FUELING POINTS** : Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Churu

## 15. FULL RAKE GOODS HANDLING STATIONS

BG : 26 Stations ( LGH, KLYT, KNSR, JMS, LKS, MHJ, AS, BDWL, SOG, SBNR, RMSR APH, PGK, HMH, SGNR, MBY, RMN, KNL, SSA, BHT, ADR, HSR, STD, HNS, BNW, SDLP)

**HALF RAKE GOODS HANDLING STATIONS :**

BG : 1 Station ( HMH - POL Siding )

## 16. MEDICAL FACILITIES

1. DIVISIONAL HOSPITAL - LALGARH
2. HEALTH UNIT - BIKANER, HANUMANGARH, SURATGARH, SIRSA, RATANGARH, CHURU, SADULPUR, HISAR

## History of Bikaner

The Bikaner city was founded by Roa Bika Ji in 1486 and from its small origins it has developed into the fourth largest city in Rajasthan.

The regal fortified city of Bikaner is an integral part of the desert triangle comprising Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur. Bikaner is located at the north of Rajasthan and oozes the medieval charm. This desert city is known as the camel country for its best Safaris on camels. Bikaner underwent a transformation under its enlightened ruler Maharaja Ganga Singh (1880-1943 AD). He promoted the Ganga Canal project which converted large tracts of desert land into rich farm land. He also extended the Railway line in the state for easy accessibility.

Bikaner is also known for Bikaneri Bhujia, Papad and Bikaneri Rasgulla.

## TOURIST PLACES

**Junagarh Fort** - Junagarh Fort is situated in the city of Bikaner, Rajasthan. The fort was originally called Chintamani and was renamed Junagarh in the early 20th century when the ruling family moved to Lalgarh. Some places of interest inside the fort are Anupmahal, Ganga Niwas and Rang Mahal or place of pleasure. Har Mandir in a majestic chapel where the Royal family worshipped their gods and Goddesses. Chandra Mahal or moon place has exquisite painting on its lime plaster walls and Phool Mahal or the 'Flower place' is decorated with inset mirror work. Towering columns, arches and graceful screen adorn these places. Durbar hall, Gaj Mandir, Sheesh Mahal and Karan Mahal are some other buildings worth seeing.



**Lalgarh Palace complex and Sadul Museum** - Lalgarh place was build between 1902 and 1926 according to Rajput, Mugal and European Architectural style. The building was commissioned by Maharaja Ganga Singh (1889-1925) in memory of his father Maharaja Lall Singh and was designed by the British architect, Sir Swinton Jacob. It is coated in red sand stone and has several grand hall , lounges, cupolas and Pavilions, the building features magnificent pillars, elaborate fireplaces, Italian colonnades and intricate latticework and filigree work. The palace houses the Shri Sadul Museum as well as a large and important collection of Sanskrit manuscripts, the Anup Sanskrit Library. Though the Bikaner Royal family still live in the palace, part of the building has been converted into a Heritage hotel operated by the Royal family of Bikaner.



**Bhandeshwar Jain Temple** - This 15th century temple is the oldest existing monument of Bikaner, dedicated to Sumati Nath Ji, the 5th Tirthankara of the Jain religion. The temple was built by a Jain Merchant Bhandu Shah. It is believed that the temple was made with 40,000 kilograms of pure ghee instead of mortar which seeps through the walls on hot days. Another tradition assume that the foundation of the temple building was filled by Pure ghee and dry coconuts,



The temple is mainly famous for wall painting and Golden Usta art. One can see the Skyline of Bikaner by climbing to the topmost floor of this temple.

**Havelies** - This camel country abounds in beautiful havelies and mansions belonging to the business houses of those times. There are beautiful structures in red sand stone, richly decorated with intricate carvings. The notable havelies belong to the Kotharis, Rampurias, Vaidyas and Dagas.



Rampurias Haveli

**National Research Centre on Camels** - Camel farm is unique and only one of its kind in Asia. It is a Premier Research Centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) founded on 5th July 1984. The Centre is located at a distance of about 10 KM from Bikaner city.

The camel Breeding Farm of Bikaner, breeds the finest of camels in Bikaner.

At camel breeding farm of Bikaner, the tourists can experience the thrill of camel rides. The tourists can also see camels frolicking and feeding at the farm. One can experience the gamboling of the baby camels at the camel breeding farm of Bikaner. The tourist can also enjoy the nutritious camel milk and its milk products like Kulfi, Flavored milk, Tea and Coffee at milk parlor established at the centre for the tourist visiting the campus.



**Gajner Palace and Wild life sanctuary (32 KMs from Bikaner)**- The wild life sanctuary, amidst lush green surroundings on the road of Jaisalmer, is a haven for chinkara, black buck, Nilgai, Wild boar and imperial sandgrouse and many birds and waterfowls which flock here in large numbers.

The hotel's compound stretches over 6000 acres. the palace was primarily a hunting resort during the days of the British Raj and attracted several dignitaries, including the prince of Wales in 1905, Governor General Lord Elgin, Lord Erwin in 1927 and Lord Mountbatten when he was Viceroy of India. The Palace complex also has the remnants of a historic railway station. This hunting resort was connected to Bikaner by rail in 1922. Christmas season was often celebrated with prearranged duck and Imperial sand grouse shoots. The palace turned grand Heritage hotel holds a world record of being largest (in terms of area) hotel in the world.





## Camel Festival

Every year in the month of January the Camel Festival is organized by the Rajasthan Tourism, in Bikaner at Ladera village which is 50 Km. away from Bikaner.

It attracts tourists from India and abroad in large number. Camels, the stalwarts of the desert, put up an unmatched performance during the festival bringing the desert town to life with their spellbinding display of graceful parades and stunning feats. The festival sways to the sound of melodious music created by the folk for performers. Various Camel contests are also held during the festival. Contests for foreigner and Indian tourists are also held in the camel festival.



**Deshnoke - Karni Mata Temple :** On way to Jodhpur 30 Km away from Bikaner there exist unique temple of karni Mata. The rats called 'Kaba's' in local language are venerated here and the shrine is a sanctuary for them. Karni Mata was a Charan ( A caste in Rajsthan) woman who is said to have possessed spiritual powers. It is believed that these Kabas carry souls of future Charans (Deepawats) who inhabit the region. Held sacred, they roam freely in the temple precincts. It is considered highly auspicious to sight a white Kaba.



**Kolayat Ji** - Kolayat is a Railway station on Lalgarh - Phalodi section of Bikaner division where famous Kolayat Ji lake is situated and is a place of pilgrimages for Hindus. In older time, it was called Kapilayatan as the mythological belief is that kapil Muni, the profounder of the Sankhya system of the Hindu philosophy, while journeying towards north west was bewitched by natural beauty of this place and choose it to perform tapasya for redemption of the world. There are several marble temples, pavilions and 52 bathing ghats here and a dip in the waters, especially during Kartik Purnima is considered to be most auspicious.

