

# Cabinet approves doubling of Daund-Manmad Railway Line for promoting Speedy, Reliable & Safe Service

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The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the Daund-Manmad doubling project of 247.5 km. The estimated cost of the project will be Rs.2,081.27 crore and completion cost of Rs. 2,330.51 crore with 5% escalation per annum. The project is likely to be completed in next five years by 2021-22.

Doubling of this section would not only speed up the operation of goods and coaching trains, but also provide additional capacity for meeting future increase in traffic allowing for **faster & reliable service and minimum delays**. It will greatly ease passenger and freight traffic and decongest the Daund-Manmad route, which is a critical section for trains from North India to South India via Pune and for pilgrims going to the famous **pilgrimage destinations of Shirdi and Shani-Shignapur**. It will also ease the congestion in Mumbai by diverting the trains to this route.

It will also help improve safety by allowing for more time for **maintenance blocks**. Moreover, **defence and security of India** will be strengthened through improved connectivity as Ahmednagar is a major tank base of Southern Command, Indian Army.

Doubling will also promote **economic activity** in and around the Daund-Manmad route, as industries will have additional transport capacity to meet their requirements. Further, doubling will promote **rail tourism** as it would improve connectivity to Shirdi and Shani- Shignapur and ease **pilgrimage traffic**, as the site attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims throughout the year.

The project will also generate direct **employment** during construction for about 59.40 lakh mandays. Pune, Ahmednagar and Nashik districts of Maharashtra will be directly benefited through this project.

The line capacity utilization of Daund-Manmad section during the year 2014-15 was 156% with maintenance block. The doubling of Bhigwan-Mohol, Hotgi-Gulbarga on Mumbai-Chennai main route is in progress and once completed, there will be tremendous increase in traffic over the Daund-Manmad section. Thus, an existing single line will not be in a position to deal with the increased traffic and make this section a bottleneck, as capacity utilization has already reached saturation. Therefore, doubling between Daund-Manmad section is necessary.

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