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11th UIC World Security Congress held on 9th-10th December in Delhi

(Delhi, 10 December 2015) The 11th edition of the UIC Global Security Congress was organized by the Security Directorate of Indian Railways / RPF in collaboration with International Union of Railways (UIC), the worldwide railway association. The conference was held at Leela Palace Hotel, New Delhi, on 9th-10th December 2015 and was attended by around 150 participants from 15 countries. Among the participants, police, security agencies of India and Railway representatives of UIC Security Platform (chaired by Shri Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Director General/Railway Protection Force (RPF) Indian Railways, and vice-chaired by Prof. Gerd Neubeck , Chief Security Officer ,DB AG , Germany).

In India, two earlier security events were organized by Indian Railways in collaboration with UIC in Delhi and Mumbai in the year 2006 and 2010. In Delhi, the focus was on growing challenges of Terrorism in global railways, while in Mumbai it focused on Security challenges and High speed developments.

Every year UIC organises a world security congress, this year edition is the first one in Asia region and focused on “*Security of Rail Systems, Operations and Business Activities*”, with various presentations on

- Asia-Pacific regional security issues and consequent challenges to railway systems.
- Growing complexity of railway system and the importance of the security in achieving short, medium and long term goals.
- Resource constraints and burden of expectations on security agencies, especially in the context of South Asia.
- Preparing for crisis management and mitigation of consequences of incidents in railways.
- Passenger security issues: Problems and Solutions.
- Freight Security issues: Problems and Solutions.

Shri Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Director General/Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Chairman of the UIC Security Platform, welcomed the participants of this 11th UIC World Security Congress on behalf of Indian government and Indian railways.

Sh. Ashok Kumar Mital, Ministry of Railways, Chairman of Railway Board, complimented UIC for giving this opportunity to have the 11th annual UIC World Security Congress in India. He reminded that Indian Railways is one of largest network in the world with 23 million of passenger per day, thus the security is an important task and an integrated security system is being implemented in India to better protect rail services.

The Honourable Minister of Railways Sh. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu was the Chief Guest at this inaugural session: He underlined the importance of global sharing of knowledge and intelligence to address security threats especially terrorism which is a global phenomena even if the acts of terrorism are a local issue.

To conclude this opening session, Dr. P.K. Mishra, PMO, Government of India, Additional Principal Secretary gave a presentation *“on crisis situation, preparedness, and management on disaster involving railway”*.

Then presentations on topics/factors affecting rail security in India, such as, ‘fidayeen’ attack, crime trends on Indian Railways, security of women passengers, child trafficking, complexities of rail security management, crisis management, crowd management, VIP security, cyber terrorism against railways, security of freight, etc, were presented during the Conference by domestic domain experts.

In addition presentations were given by foreign delegates from SZDC (Czech Infrastructure manager) on security issues, DBAG (German Railways) on the Refugees and also on crisis management, UK transport authority on station design, SNCFT (Tunisian Railways) on security, SNCF (French Railways) on railway security academy, RZD (Russian Railways) on integrated protection of Railway stations and UIC Security Division on its activities on request of its members, the research projects and the RESTRAIL project on reduction of suicides and trespasses.

A panel discussion on *“International Cooperation in developing best practices, implementation of modern technology and training of personnel”* was also held on the second day.

The following Congress Final Declaration was delivered by Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General:

“The Member-Participants wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to the organizers – the Indian Railways (IR), the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) – for successfully organizing the 11th edition of the World Security Congress held at New Delhi from 8-10 December, 2015. The broad theme of the conference being “Security of Rail Systems, Operations and Business Activities”, rich discussions were held over various aspects of rail security amongst domain experts from different countries and we are confident that these deliberations shall be useful in crafting suitable policies for improvising rail security and its associated businesses.

The Member-Participants wish to emphasize the fact that developing foolproof rail security systems, though challenging, is nevertheless becoming increasingly crucial as heightened security threats, such as terrorism and organized crime, are undermining the safety of rail operations across the world.

In this regard, the Member-Participants seek to develop collaborative partnerships at three different levels:

At the national level, as rail security is a shared responsibility between national governments and railway companies or between national security agencies and railway authorities within their respective states;

At the regional level, encompassing the rail networks of two or more countries for smooth conduct of international rail traffic;

At the international level, as threats such as terrorism and organized crime, have become transnational in nature, and addressing these threats requires a coordinated response from all concerned stakeholders.

In this regard, an international body along the lines of 'InterPol' could be developed to proactively collaborate with all agencies concerned in order to meet challenges of rail security at different levels.

We believe that such collaborative partnerships will be conducive for sharing of expertise and experiences and strengthen the national governments and railway organizations in developing suitable policy frameworks directed towards rail security.

The Member-Participants recommend, that the UIC may increase its global profile as a leading consortium, to comprehensively develop policy issues related to rail security, establish multilateral platforms for sharing of expertise and foster technological cooperation, develop international best practices in rail operations, and undertake policy advocacy research activities.

The UIC may also pay specific attention to the need for training of railway security personnel of different countries, including conducting short-term courses and international exchange programmes, to enhance the capacities of human resources.

It may be noted here that the UIC is planning to organize a seminar on terrorism in mid-June 2016 in Paris/UIC HQ, as a sequel to the first one conducted from 16-17 June, 2015 on the theme Coping with Terrorism – The Role of Human Factors.

The Member-Participants suggest, that the UIC along with IR/RPF may study the feasibility of setting up a global network of experts to holistically study the emerging nature of threats to rail transport systems, and undertake suitable policy actions to strengthen rail security.”

The Congress was closed by the address of Sh. Manoj Kumar Sinha – the Honourable Minister of State of Railways of Government of India. He underlined the importance of the security topics addressed during the congress and the much needed international cooperation to be more efficient in protecting the railways. In particular he expressed his personal gratitude to UIC for having given the opportunity of organising the 11th World Security Congress in Delhi jointly with its Indian partners.

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