

KHURDA ROAD DIVISION THE SUNRISE DIVISION ON THE EAST COAST

Khurda Road division, formed in 1962 as part of the undivided South Eastern Railway. Located on the Howrah-Chennai Main line, it has 912.53 route kilometers and 2243.17 track kilometers. It serves customers of six districts of coastal Odisha and Srikakulam district of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh through 105 stations, 34 passenger halt stations. It runs parallel to the coast from Ranital Junction Cabin (near Bhadrak) in the North to Palasa in the South (385 KMs), passing through important stations of Cuttack, State Capital Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road and Brahmapur. Besides, the trunk line, Khurda Road-Puri line (43 Kms double line) connects the holy town of Puri, home to the famous temple of Lord Jagannath. Similarly, Cuttack-Paradeep line (83 Kms double line) connects the major Port at Paradeep. The Kapilas Road/Nergundi-Barang-Rajathgarh-Talcher-Angul lines link the coal mines in Talcher area (of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited) to the main line for further evacuation of coal to the Ports, Power Houses and Industries. Similarly, the Jakhapura-Nayagarh-Banspani line (total 179 Kms, out of which 163 Kms lies in Khurda Road division) connects the iron ore belt of Odisha to the steel hub at Kalinganagar and the Ports on the East Coast.

Puri and Bhubaneswar are the two important passenger train terminals on the division, daily 33 pairs of mail/express and 10 pairs of passenger trains originate/terminate at these two stations. These Coaching Depots have a base holding of 1063 and 570 coaches respectively. On an average, 150 coaching trains per day are handled by the division.

The division has provided passenger amenities more than the minimum yardstick at all stations. Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) has been commissioned at all stations. Out of these, 48 stations have been provided with POS machines. At 09 stations, both PRS and UTS have been integrated with BHIM App. Bhubaneswar station has the distinction of having all its stalls linked to PAYTM and BHIM for encouraging cashless transaction. Emphasis is given on maintenance of various passenger amenity items on trains and at stations as well as cleanliness.

Freight traffic on Khurda Road division has grown up manifold over the years. While the loading in 2010-11 was 55.83 MT, it has taken a much higher growth trajectory and stood at 117.77 MT during 2016-17. During the current year, the growth momentum has been maintained at till March'2018, 117.88 MT loading has been done in current year 2017-18.

Talcher, the major coal loading hub on the division commands the status of being the biggest coal loading point served from one station in Asia. It consists of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, from where coal gets transported to Thermal Power Plants of NTPC at Talcher, Kaniha, other Power Houses of South India and Western India via rail and sea route (through Ports of Paradeep and Dhamra) and captive power plants of many industrial units. Besides, Talcher also supplies coal to steel plants and other factories in public and private sector.

Paradeep Railway station serves the major port of Paradeep and the industries around the port complex. It loads imported coal, coke, iron pellets, fertiliser, POL, Gypsum, Manganese Ore, Clinker and limestone. The division serves major Steel Industry e.g. Tata Steel, Kalinga Nagar, Jindal Stainless Ltd., Sukinda, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Sukinda, Bhushan Steel Limited, Meramondali, and Aarti Steel Ltd., Ghantikal Nidhipur, etc.

Besides the above, many stations on the mineral rich Nayagarh-Jakhapura line also contribute substantially to freight loading. They include Nayagarh, Daitari, Porjanpur and Sukinda Road, etc.

At present, there are 32 sidings operational on Khurda Road division.

With such accelerated growth in freight loading, the Khurda Road division can rightly claim to be the New Sun Rise Division of the Indian Railways.