



PRESS RELEASE

RAILWAY MINISTER ANNOUNCES A SPECIAL CHAIR AT TERI UNIVERSITY TO PROMOTE RAILWAY RELATED RESEARCH

The academic chair announced at the Rail Budget today would focus on research in aspects of sustainability which would be relevant to the Indian Railways, as well as to programmes at the University, which aim at creating a cadre of professionals who could look at problems of development in the railways with a multi-dimensional perspective.

New Delhi, 26th Feb, 2013: In a major announcement, the Hon'ble Railway Minister declared setting up an academic chair at TERI University while presenting the Railway Budget at the Parliament today.

Expressing gratitude to the Hon'ble Railway Minister, **Dr. R.K.Pachauri, Chancellor TERI University and Director General, TERI** said "We greatly value the commitment of the Indian Railways to reducing their carbon footprint as also their commitment to building capacity in the country for undertaking research in this critical area of economic growth. We believe that the example the Railways, with their economic impact and huge employee base, set in striving to become a role model for sustainable development will be an inspiration for millions in the country".

Highlighting the importance of Indian Railways in promoting sustainable development, **Dr. Leena Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, TERI University and Executive Director, TERI** said "The Indian Railways have the potential to significantly alter the transportation choices of India's increasingly mobile population and growing markets. We look forward to working with the Railways in defining and influencing such choices and enhancing exponentially the resource efficiency of the transportation sector in the country"

Expressing joy over the announcement, Mr. Shri Prakash, Distinguished Fellow, TERI asserted "For sustainable development and the view of reducing carbon footprint, the role of railways as mode primary transport has been universally recognized. This is the first time that a chair for research in rail transport is been instituted by Indian Railways in any university" .

Through this unique initiative, The Indian Railways and TERI University will engage youth through research and an exposure to higher education in areas related to the railways. It would help unleash the potential of hundreds of researchers and drive solutions for ensuring a sustainable future. The Academic Chair on Rail Transport would be occupied by a renowned academician / professional of repute, and lend strength to the ongoing research and teaching at the University opening new vistas of research in the field of Rail Transport. It would also serve as an unique opportunity to bring the most competent academics / professionals from the field of Rail Infrastructure to contribute to the research and teaching strengthening it significantly. The Chair will be expected to involve itself into issues of

sustainable development, especially relevant to the Rail infrastructure and greening of the railways, and to research into finding innovative solutions to these.

In the past, TERI has been involved very intensely with research in transport, urban transport and rail transport for many years. Over the last two years, TERI in collaboration with ITPS, Japan is engaged in research in High speed Rail systems and has developed a conceptual plan for high speed rail network in the country based on economic criterion. The findings of these studies have been shared with the Indian Railways. The on-going research is now looking into economic, energy efficiency and other social impacts of two specific corridors. The other part of the study will look into institutional, organisational, regulatory and financial arrangements for development of high speed rail. Another research project for NTDPCC studied life cycle analysis of different transport modes including rail, road, metro rail, and BRT for passenger transport. The study, first of its kind in India has been widely appreciated.