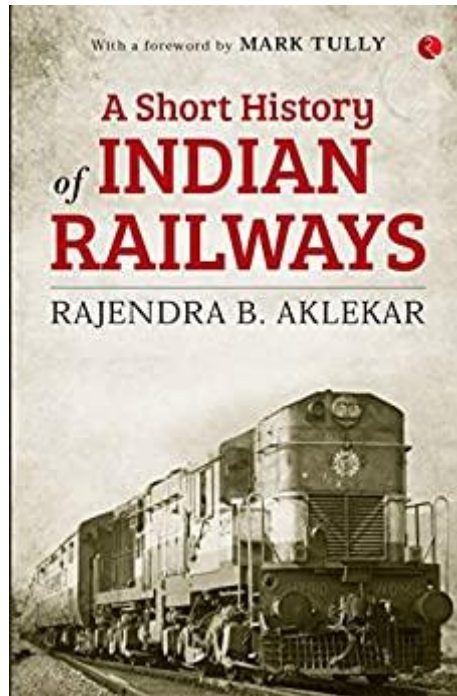


Introducing a Book:  
*A Short History of Indian Railways*  
Author: Rajendra B. Aklekar  
Kindle Edition

Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd. 2019



Courtesy: [https://www.amazon.com/History-Indian-Railways-Rajendra-Aklekar-ebook/dp/B07RXYT3D/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?dchild=1&keywords=A+short+history+of+Indian+railways&qid=1633409529&s=digital-text&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.com/History-Indian-Railways-Rajendra-Aklekar-ebook/dp/B07RXYT3D/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=A+short+history+of+Indian+railways&qid=1633409529&s=digital-text&sr=1-3)

Indian Railways unites the Indian nation geographically and culturally and makes India a great socio-economic entity. This book *A Short History of Indian Railways* by **Rajendra B. Aklekar** must be read by all students and executives irrespective of their subjects of specialization. We all use Indian Railways for our journey within our own state or to other destinations outside our state.

The book *A Short History of Indian Railways* by **Rajendra B. Aklekar** begins with an interesting and insightful Foreword by Mark Tully the former Bureau Chief of BBC, New Delhi.

He talks about his encounters with passengers and railway staff. He went to school in Darjeeling and has travelled all over India as a young person and as a professional. His Foreword offers interesting insight to the operations of the Indian Railways.

The book *A Short History of Indian Railways* by **Rajendra B. Aklekar** has the following chapters. Every chapter offers interesting information of the Great Indian Institution *Indian Railways*.

1. The First Experiments
2. Ancestors of Indian Railways
3. Railways Begin Their Operations
4. The Arrival of the Railways
5. Rail Web Spreads
6. The Indian Mutiny and the Railways
7. Rail Gauge and Ghosts
8. New Century, New Life
9. The Animated Rail Life
10. Crime and Romance
11. Notes from World War II
12. Freedom Struggle and Partition
13. Rail Tales from Independent India
14. Trains of Progress and Politics
15. Of Metros and High Speed Rail

### *Conclusion*

As the titles of the chapters reveal, the author links the history, development, and operations as well as the culture of the users/travelers and employees to modern Indian history. In this way, the author brings out the crucial role played and being played by the Indian Railways in our lives in India. We make friends when we travel in the trains of Indian Railways, we eat a variety of food, and we also cook special food for our long journey from one end of the nation to the other end. We eagerly look through the windows to see the beautiful landscape all over the country. We pass by the lakes, ports, temple cities and so on. Major problems with the toilet facilities seem to be overcome in most trains. Every railway station has its own historic merit. Problems are there but we still look forward to traveling in express trains, and so on.

The book *A Short History of Indian Railways* by **Rajendra B. Aklekar** is, according to the author, “a compilation of anecdotes and the sketches of the Indian Railways.” Accidents are

also dealt with in the book as part of the anecdotes. The serial train blasts of Mumbai in 2006 is presented. This anecdote makes us feel angry at the ideology of the criminals as well the people who caused bomb blasts. We feel sad that this happened. Again such incidents/episodes call for protection against security threats. Fortunately, Indian Railways stood up and always stand up to meet all the challenges.

A great institution with devoted employees serving a great nation of diversity which demonstrates its unity.

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