**Press Release- RailTel Turns 1500 Railway Stations across country into RailWire Wi-Fi zone**
*500 stations completed in a record time of ……………..days*

Touching yet another milestone, RailTel has successfully turned 1500 railways stations across the country into Free Wi-Fi zone. The last 500 stations were completed in a record time of …………days. In order to fulfil the promise of bring fast and free Wi-Fi at all Railway stations (except the halt stations) within a year team RailTel is tirelessly working to achieve the target.

RailTel started provding the free public Wi-Fi service at Indian railway statio with a vision of turning Railway stations into a platform for Digital inclusion. The journey bay far has been extremely challenging but the response to the Wi-Fi has been phenomenal. Starting the journet from Mumbai Central as the 1st station to get Wi- fi today ………………………station of Northern Region has become the 1500th station in the country to have Wi-Fi.

RailTel envisages expanding the network in more stations in near future. Recently RailTel has roped in Tata Trust for providing Wi-Fi at remaining 4791 B,C,D and E category stations across country. These stations will have free high speed RailWire Wi-Fi by RailTel by the end of this year. These are very small stations catering to mainly rural/low population density areas. There is a visible digital divide between Rural and Urban India and rural populations are deprived of state-of-the-art telecom infrastructure availability as private operators often find it hard due to CAPEX involved. Easy and low-cost availability of Smart phones in the market provides the rural population with low cost access device but lack of infrastructure becomes a hindrance for them to access high speed internet. With high speed Wi-Fi services available at Railway stations of these rural areas now Railway stations will be turned into hub for digital growth for rural India.

Free Wi-Fi services to passengers are being provided under 'RailWire'- the retail Broadband initiative of RailTel. Designed to offer users the best Internet experience, RailWire Wi-Fi will be available to any user who has a smartphone with working mobile connection for KYC considerations.

RailTel has provided high speed Wi-Fi at 414 A, A1 and C category stations, associating Google as the Technology partner for Radio Access, while using the RailTel backbone for broadband connectivity. With an aim to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban India, RailTel started providing Wi-Fi at rural railway stations also. These are small stations catering to rural populations which do not have access to state-of-the-art telecom infrastructure. RailTel has already completed work of providing Wi-Fi 200 stations with support of Universal Service Obligatory Fund of GoI and in 886 stations with own/other funding.

Praising the RailWire Wi-Fi at stations, Sh. T.P. Singh, General Manager/Northern Railways, said- ' RailWire Wi-Fi at stations are a boon for the passengers. The service quality is world class and millions of people are getting the benefit of the service. Indian Railways is continuously striving towards providing state of the art facilities ."

Talking about the Wi-Fi service at stations, Sh. Puneet Chawla, CMD/RailTel said, 'The project of providing Wi-Fi at railway stations is a very challenging project for RailTel from many aspects. Large size of stations, various hindrances for the Wi-Fi signal such as thick stone walls blocking coverage, every station design being unique the fitments needing customization, huge footfalls, power outages, redevelopments of stations and ongoing construction activities at stations are couple of noteworthy challenges RailTel faced while executing the project. But that did not stop us from achieving this unprecedented height and we are truly overwhelmed by the response we got from the users which pushed us further to bring RailWire Wi-fi at all the Railway stations of Indian Railways.'

Indian Railway is the largest public transport of the nation and railway stations are the melting pots of whole cross section of the society. Passengers use this Wi-Fi facility for streaming High Definition (HD) Videos, download of movies, songs, games and do their office work online. The RailWire Wi-Fi have seen many heart touching success stories where people used this facility to ensure a better life for themselves.

To use the Wi-Fi the user has to switch on the Wi-Fi mode in the smartphone and select the RailWire Wi-Fi network. After the RailWire homepage network automatically appears on the smartphone, the user has to enter his or her mobile number on this homepage. The user will get one-time password (OTP) in form of SMS in the message box which has to be entered in the home page of RailWire. After entering OTP Users will be able to access high speed internet & can start internet browsing.

**About RailTel**
RailTel Corporation a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" PSU is one of the largest neutral telecom services providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network covering all important towns & cities of the country and several rural areas. Along with a strong a reliable network of 48000+ RKM of Optic fibre RailTel has two tier III data centres as well, RailTel is at the forefront of providing nationwide Broadband Telecom & Multimedia Network in all parts of the country in addition to modernization of Train operations and administration of network systems for Indian Railways. With its Pan India high capacity network, RailTel is working towards creating a knowledge society at various fronts and has been selected for implementation of various mission-mode Govt. of India projects in the telecom field. RailTel offers a bundle of services like, MPLS-VPN, Telepresence, Leased line, Tower Co-location, Data centre services etc,. RailTel is a pioneer in transforming Railway stations into Digital hub by providing public Wi-Fi at major Railway stations. Currently 1500 stations are live with RailTel's RailWire Wi-Fi.

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