

# Optimizing Rail Network Efficiency with Geospatial Data and Digital Twin


## Key Note Address



**Mission Railways Transformation: Digital Conquest**

## **Qazi Mairaj Ahmad, IRSE**

- ADG (Sr Professor), IRITM
- Independent Director (Ministry of Corporate Affairs,GOI)
- Environment Social Governance ESG (World Council of Directors)
- Fellow Institution of Civil Engineers (London)
- Project Management Professional (PMI® , USA)
- Royal Chartered Engineer(Institution of Engineer India)
- Member American Society of Civil Engineers (USA)
- Member,Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage(INTACH)



## Session Overview

- Role of geospatial data in modern rail networks
- Digital twin platforms for rail efficiency
- Real-world applications and case studies
- Policy alignment and modernization goals

# Transformation in Railways : Digital Conquest



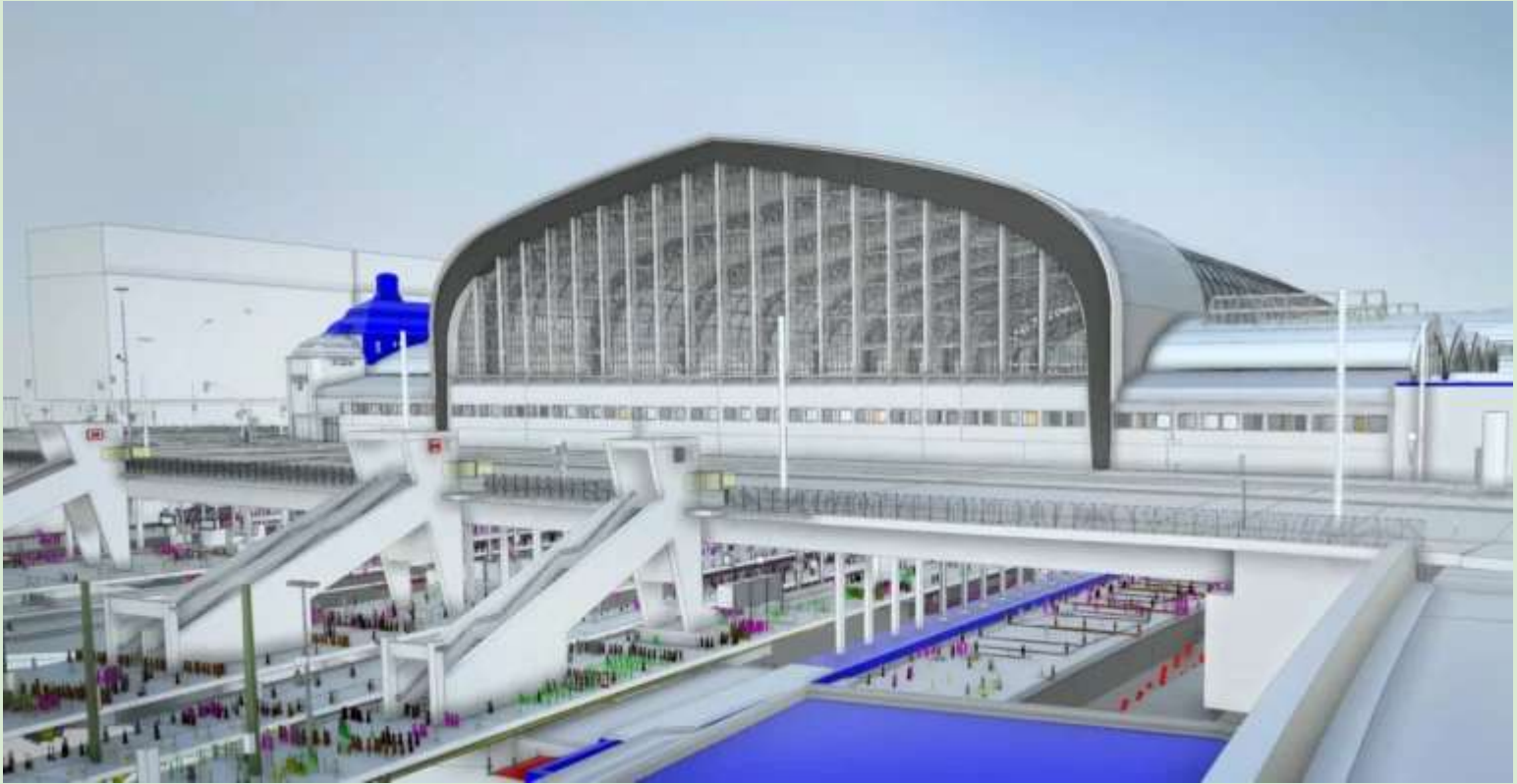
# Transformation of Railways: AI in Railways and Innovative AI solutions for Railways

- Reshaping the landscape of transportation.
- Ushering in a new era of efficiency, safety, and reliability.
- Enables railway operators to anticipate potential failures, optimize maintenance schedules, and ensure uninterrupted train operations.
- Driving the transformation of railways into a smarter, more resilient, and future-ready mode of transportation.



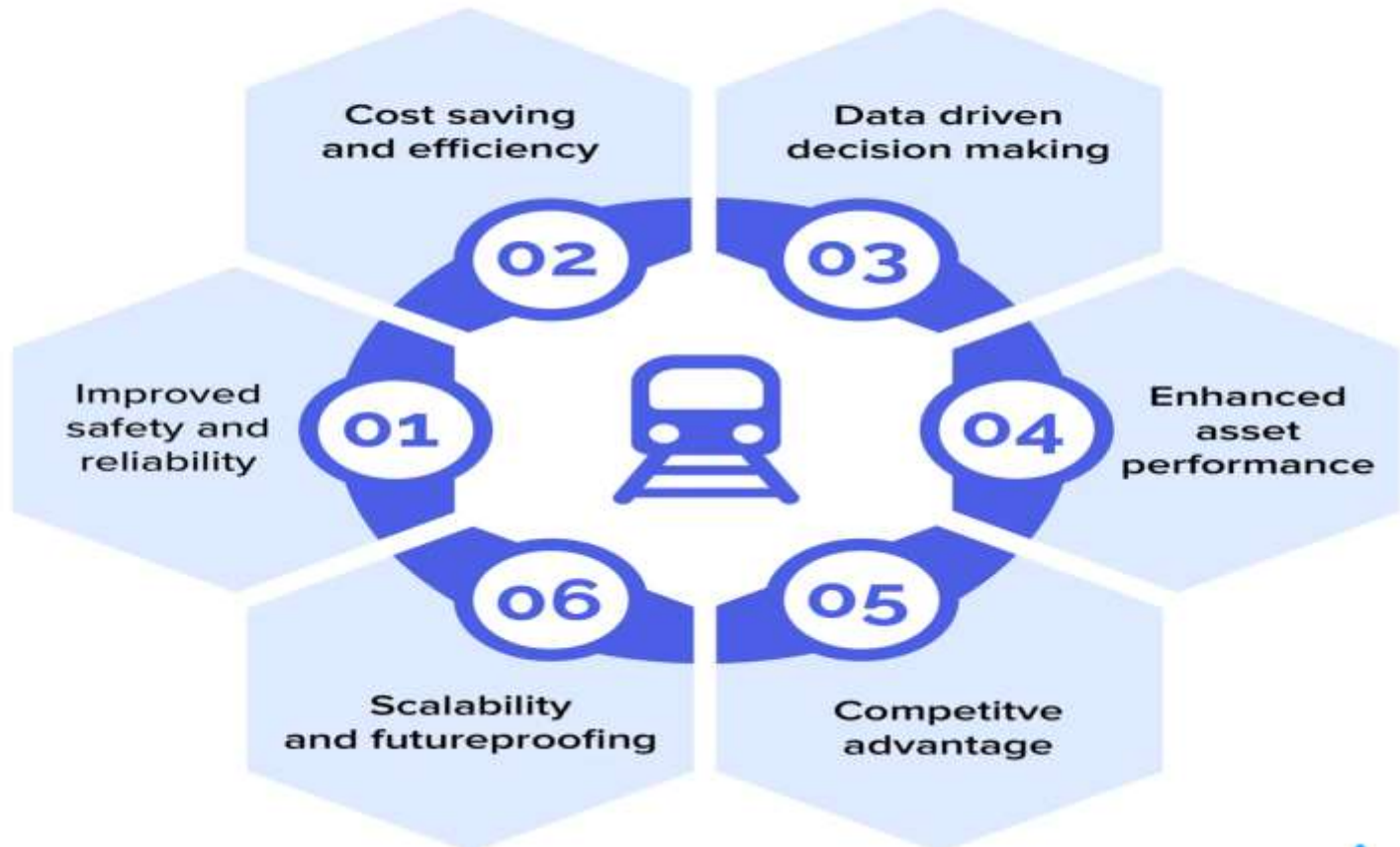
## Improvisation on AI for rail transport policy and revenue management

- **passenger flow prediction,**
- **capacity management,**
- **life cycle cost,**
- **enhanced asset performance, predictive maintenance,**
- **high-level automation and**
- **auto-adaptive systems.**



Building Information Management

# Advantages of harnessing artificial intelligence for railways operations



# Traffic & Operations Management

## **AI-Powered Solutions**

- Dynamic capacity management
- Intelligent timetabling systems
- Resource optimization
- Real-time adjustments

## **Implementation Benefits**

- Improved passenger flow
- Enhanced freight management
- Optimal crew scheduling
- Reduced delays and disruptions

# Digital Twin Technology

## **Implementation Strategy**

- Virtual modeling of physical assets
- Real-time monitoring and simulation
- Predictive analysis capabilities

## **Integration with maintenance systems**

- Infrastructure planning
- Maintenance scheduling
- Performance optimization
- Risk assessment

# Global Railway Operation's Applications

## Deutsche bahn's OptiMa

- Real time genetic algorithm & Ant colony Optimisation
- Reduces network delays through dynamic train path adjustment

## Siemen's Valero

- Real time data for optimisation
- Blends human expertise with AI precision

## Bombardier's Rail Star

- Historical data & weather trends into proactive scheduling adjustments.. To minimise disruptions

## Hitachi's STOS

- Takes holistics view , merging real time data with network simulations and advanced algorithms
- to optimise not just train paths but also passenger comfort & energy efficiency.

Similarly, Global Players like **SNCF** (France), **JR** (Japan), **KORAIL** ( S.Korea) & **Alstom's** Predictive Maintenance & Real time Optimisation (PMRTO)

# The Cure: Open AI/ML as the Engineer:

## **SimPy accurate:**

- Real-time Train Simulation through simulations of train movements,
- considering crucial factors like track layouts and passenger loads.
- informed decisions, smoother operations, and reduced delays.

## **TensorFlow's Dynamic Path Optimization:**

- further enhances this efficiency.
- It employs advanced algorithms, such as genetic algorithms and ant colony optimization to dynamically craft optimal train routes,
- ensuring fluid network flow and timely arrivals.

## **Reinforcement Learning (RL) tools like Open AI Gym and Ray RLlib:**

- For freight operations, redefine scheduling.
- They adaptively adjust freight timetables, balancing efficiency with passenger train priorities.

# Revenue Management & Customer Experience

## **Smart Pricing Systems**

- Dynamic fare adjustment
- Demand prediction
- Market segmentation
- Revenue optimization

## **Enhanced Customer Services**

- Real-time journey updates
- Personalized travel recommendations
- Automated booking systems
- Integrated mobility solutions

# Sustainability Initiatives

## **Green Technology Integration**

- Energy-efficient operations
- Circular Economy adoption
- Waste reduction strategies
- Sustainable maintenance practices

## **Environmental Impact**

- Reduced carbon footprint
- Optimized resource utilization
- Sustainable infrastructure development

## **Harnessing AI-powered Predictive Analytics & Maintenance**

Unlike the present system of carrying out maintenance in a periodic manner,

- Proactively detect potential failures, optimize maintenance schedules, and enhance overall operational efficiency
- Predictive asset maintenance system to continuously monitor the condition of equipment and generate the required alerts.
- Reducing the cost of maintenance & cut down the load on maintenance of assets.

# Predictive maintenance use cases for the railroad industry

- Wheel and Track Condition Monitoring
- Fault Detection in Rolling Stock
- Predicting Component Failures
- Optimizing Maintenance Scheduling
- Weather-Induced Maintenance Alerts
- Energy Consumption Optimization
- Predictive Signal and Communication Systems
- Preventing Catenary and Power Failures
- Track and Infrastructure Maintenance

# Railway Maintenance & Monitoring



1

"CTM - Infrastructure diagnostics with scheduled trains" monitors the track surface - OHL for headline



2

Sensor technology on track bed detects imminent wheel bearing damage ("check points")



3

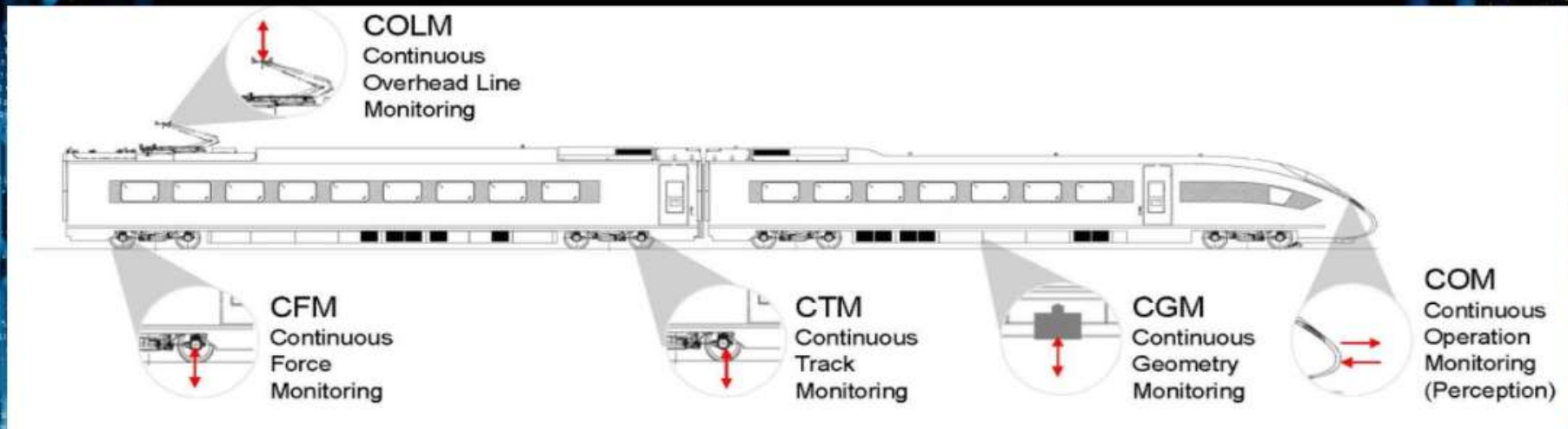
"Land-side" platform for on-board diagnostic systems



4

Switch drives, switch heaters, railroad crossings signals etc

# Predictive Maintenance



## CTM - Continuous Track Monitoring



CTM system enables you to continuously record the condition of your rail infrastructure.

The systems can be mounted in or on any rail vehicle.



# Rail Monitoring Systems



Optical Rail Profile  
measurement during  
train movement



Round wheel measurement  
during regular train  
operation

Acoustic Wheelset Bearing  
monitoring



# OHL – Overheadline Monitoring

Force Measurement System  
(FMS)



- Contact pressure measurement between catenary and pantograph

Contact Wire Scanner  
(CWS)



- Measurement of catenary position relative to track

# CBM – Condition Based Maintenance

## Conventional Maintenance

### Corrective maintenance

- No expenditures for preventive maintenance
- Complete use of wearing stock
- High level of default risk and high follow-up costs for breakdowns
- Less vehicle availability
- Hindered planning
- High level of spare part stocks

### Preventive maintenance

- Minimal maintenance activities
- Extensive planning
- Known replacement demands
- High vehicle reliability
- High level of planning and maintenance work
- Maintenance related times of standstills

## Condition-based maintenance

- Utilisation of individual replacement necessity
- Reduced default risk
- Avoid follow-up costs for breakdowns
- New options for scheduling and content planning
- Availability of diagnosis systems
- Integration of condition monitoring and failure forecasting into maintenance plan

## Development challenges and solutions:

1. **Data Quality Enhancement:** Implementing data loggers to automate and accurately capture train movements, reducing human error and ensuring high-quality data.
2. **Customized Model Development:** Rigorously testing and evaluating algorithmic models specific to Indian Railways, focusing on predictive accuracy, robustness, and ethical alignment. Continuous adaptation is essential for long-term effectiveness.
3. **Cyber security Focus:** Strengthening data privacy and protection measures to safeguard against cyber threats in the AI/ML infrastructure.
4. **Bridging the Skill Gap:** Collaborating with Centers of Excellence at IITs and IISc to develop a skilled workforce capable of managing AI/ML complexities in railway operations.

# Indian Railways : CRIS Implementation

## **Current Infrastructure**

- National **RDBMS** deployment
- Centralized data management
- Real-time monitoring systems
- Integrated operations platform

## **Future Roadmap**

- Enhanced AI integration
- Expanded digital services
- Advanced analytics implementation
- Cross-platform integration

# Future Railway Systems: iIOT5.0

## **Advanced Technologies**

- Human-centric AI systems
- Emotional intelligence integration
- Open source platforms
- GDPR-compliant systems

## **Innovation Pipeline**

- Prescriptive maintenance evolution
- Advanced automation systems
- Integrated mobility solutions
- Smart infrastructure development

# Strategic Recommendations

## Short-term Goals

- AI system implementation
- Staff training programs
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Data collection improvement

## Long-term Vision

- Full automation capability
- Integrated mobility solutions
- Sustainable operations
- Enhanced passenger experience

*'...The best way to predict the future is to create it.'*

Peter Drucker



**Thank You**