**Railway Budget: Need universal design/coaches, says JSW Saw**

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| Sminu Jindal, Chairperson, Jindal SAW |

***By Sminu Jindal, Chairperson, Svayam & MD, Jindal SAW***

The Railway Budget 2012-13 announced by the Hon'ble Minister today may have provided relief to various sectors but the announcement on introduction of special coaches for disabled friendly is not a welcome step. We expect the government to have a universal design / coaches which would be accessible for all with furnished accessible washrooms, considering the needs for differently abled people.

We have been working hard to provide equality and dignity to all including elderly and disabled and this step goes in the opposite direction which discriminates the disabled from the rest. This is more vulnerable for the community, as it does not allow mainstreaming and restricts disabled from travelling on general coaches.

Further announcement of building escalators, will not come in aid of differently-abled people, we would request the Hon'ble Minister to alongside build ramps and elevators which would help all.

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/budget/-1954379.html>