



# CBRNe4rail

## MEDIA MONITORING

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### CBRNe4rail

The EU co-funded project CBRNe4rail (CBRNe preparedness for passenger rail transport hubs) aims to enhance awareness and capabilities of railway stakeholders to effectively respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) emergencies at railway stations by improving their security plans and training railway staff.

### MEDIA MONITORING

As part of the CBRNe4rail dissemination strategy, a media monitoring is being carried out by the UIC Security Department on the topics of rail security and CBRNe.

Based on keyword searches performed on LinkedIn, Google news & AP News, the following pages summarize the relevant news items found.

#### Call ID and Topic:

**ISF-2024-TF2-AG-PROTECT;**

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## AGRESSION

### PHYSICAL

#### **Public Transport Crime Rising Worldwide**

Public transport systems around the world are experiencing increased security challenges, according to data published on 11 December 2025. The report shows that assaults on U.S. transit workers have tripled between 2008 and 2022, while London public transport drivers have seen a 9% rise in attacks in 2022. French transport staff (RATP/SNCF) face around 2,500 assaults every year, underscoring how widespread the problem has become across multiple countries [1].

## THEFT

### BIKES

#### **Bike Theft on the Rails Surges (UK)**

Bike theft on railway networks has become a significant and growing problem, particularly at train and metro stations. Recent research shows that thefts at UK train stations rose 39% year-on-year, increasing from 4,999 thefts in 2021 to 6,956 in 2022, with at least 14,110 bikes stolen from train stations since 2021. These figures come from British Transport Police data covering national rail, underground, and metro systems. High-traffic stations such as St Albans City, Cambridge North, and Woking have recorded some of the highest theft levels. Actual theft numbers are likely even higher due to underreporting, with 36% of victims surveyed not filing a report. Recovery rates remain extremely low, only 1.5% of stolen bikes were recovered in 2022 [2][3].

## PICKPOCKETING

#### **Chicago Pickpocket Charged Again (USA)**

A 65-year-old repeat offender in Chicago, United States has been charged with three additional thefts on the CTA Blue Line, on November 2025. Prosecutors say surveillance footage shows Edward Miller and an accomplice stealing wallets from women at Washington and Monroe Blue Line stations on multiple dates between May 2024 and September 2025, with victims' credit cards used shortly afterward for fraudulent purchases. Miller has a long history of similar crimes on Chicago transit and previously served a two-year prison sentence for Blue Line thefts in 2020 [4].

## METAL THEFT

### **RISING CABLE THEFT DISRUPTS RAIL (UK)**

Cable theft across the UK has escalated with organised gangs targeting rail corridors, energy grids, utilities and construction sites nationwide. These thefts have caused millions of pounds in annual losses and severe service disruptions. Between 2022 and 2024, metal-theft offences rose by 42%, with British Transport Police (BTP) recording more signalling failures, delays and service cancellations across remote and exposed UK rail lines, where infrastructure is hardest to secure. To counter the surge, operators are adopting new technologies such as seismic detection systems and GPS-based cable tracking, which showed promising results during 60-day trials at six UK sites, preventing all theft attempts and producing no false alarms [5].

### **PRASARANA URGES AN END TO RAIL-CABLE THEFT AMID RISING DISRUPTIONS (MALAYSIA)**

Prasarana authorities have urged the public to stop stealing rail cables after a sharp rise in thefts across Malaysia, particularly in the Klang Valley. As of 18 December 2025, losses from cable theft reached RM20.6 million over three years, with cases increasing from 41 in 2024 to 69 in 2025, a 68% jump. The thefts damage essential signalling and communication systems, causing major service disruptions, safety and security risks for millions of commuters. Authorities warned that despite patrols, CCTV and detection dogs on the Kajang and Putrajaya lines, the problem persists due to high copper demand and called for stricter national regulations and coordinated enforcement to protect critical rail infrastructure [6].

### **RAILWAY SIGNAL THEFT CAUSES MAJOR DAMAGE (CANADA)**

Guelph Police are investigating the theft of copper wire from two railway signal cabinets near York Road and Victoria Road South (Canada), which occurred on a Tuesday afternoon in early January 2026. A railway official reported the incident the next morning, noting that while the stolen wire had low material value, the damage to specialized equipment exceeded \$5,000; the cabinets were unpowered at the time, so train operations faced no disruptions. Detectives urge anyone with information on suspects or witnesses to come forward, as the ongoing probe highlights recurring metal theft risks to critical rail infrastructure [7].

## CBRNE

### MAJOR CBRN MULTINATIONAL CRISIS EXERCISE (MOLDOVA)

On 29 October 2025, the EU Global Threats programme published an article describing a major multinational CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) exercise held in Ungheni, Moldova, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative. The event, organised under Project 106 (TEST), brought together more than 100 participants from 10 Southeast and Eastern European countries to train for realistic, complex CBRN incidents.

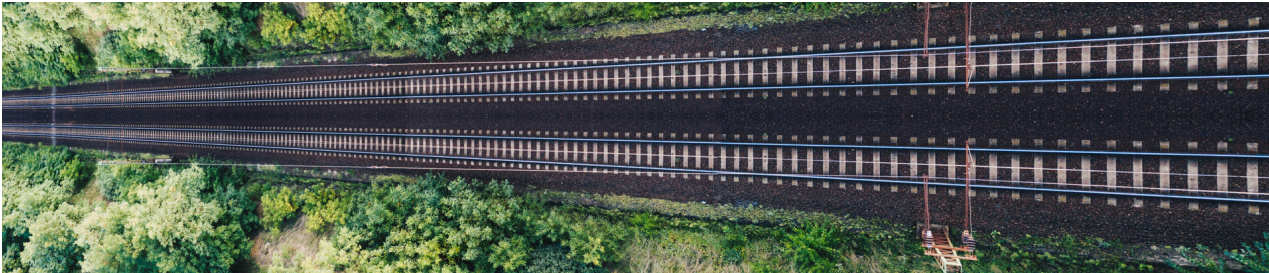
The exercise began with a tabletop session to assess needs and address knowledge gaps, followed by a full-scale simulation at Ungheni train station. Emergency responders from Moldova and partner countries jointly practised coordinated crisis management procedures, supported operationally by the Romanian Border Police. Key outcomes included validating international coordination mechanisms, identifying strengths and areas for improvement in regional CBRN response capabilities, and reinforcing multinational collaboration essential for countering global CBRN threats [8].



## GRAFFITI

### **Berlin Records Highest Number of Rail Graffiti Offences (Germany)**

Berlin experienced the worst rail-related graffiti activity in Germany in 2025, topping all other German cities for vandalism on trains and railway infrastructure. The rise in cases has put increased pressure on both Deutsche Bahn and local transport operator BVG, which face mounting cleanup costs and operational disruptions due to vandalism. Authorities noted that graffiti attacks frequently target parked or overnight trains, suggesting coordinated activity by groups taking advantage of low-visibility periods [9].



## ABANDONED LUGGAGE

### **EUSTON EVACUATED OVER SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE (UK)**

London Euston Station, a key United Kingdom transport hub, was evacuated after police discovered a suspicious package, prompting immediate cordons and a bomb squad response. Officers carried out a controlled explosion to examine the item, which caused temporary train delays and confusion among passengers before the station reopened once the area was deemed safe [10].

### **SUSPICIOUS LUGGAGE TRIGGERS EVACUATION (GERMANY)**

Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof, Germany's major rail hub, underwent a full evacuation on 20 December 2025, after authorities spotted a suspicious piece of luggage on the transverse platform around 7:30 PM. Federal police cordoned off the area, halted all long-distance and regional train services by 8:12 PM, and brought in specialists who examined the item for over four hours until 11:30 PM, ultimately deeming its unusual but harmless contents safe with no danger to passengers. Train operations resumed late that night [11].

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **Europol Warns of Migrant Smuggling on International Trains (EU)**

Europol highlighted increased detections of irregular migrants hidden on international freight and passenger trains, particularly along the Eastern Mediterranean/Western Balkan corridor from Greece or Serbia toward Germany, and the Central Mediterranean route from Italy. Criminal networks facilitate these journeys by concealing migrants in cargo, under vehicles, or atop carriages, often up to 94 per train in small groups, with intact customs seals indicating organized planning; fees reach €1000 per person, prioritizing profit over migrant safety and security amid harsh conditions. Europol urges enhanced rail authority cooperation to counter these threats from groups exploiting trains for third-country movements [12].

## TERRORISM

### **Arrest Over Plot to Sabotage Rail Transport (Germany)**

Authorities in Germany arrested three Ukrainian nationals suspected of preparing arson and explosive attacks on rail freight transport on behalf of Russian state actors. The arrests took place in Cologne, Konstanz, and Switzerland in 2025, after investigators uncovered plans to send parcels containing explosive or incendiary devices designed to ignite during transport. According to federal prosecutors, the group had already conducted test runs using GPS-tracked parcels and had discussed broader sabotage operations intended to undermine Germany's support for Ukraine [13].

### **Suspected Extremist Detained Near Key Brussels Rail Hub (Belgium)**

Belgian authorities arrested a suspect with extremist links near a major Brussels rail hub after identifying potential security concerns linked to radical activity, and they are now investigating whether he was preparing or supporting a possible attack [14].



## SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

### Government Steps Up to Tackle Sexist and Sexual Harassment (UK)

The UK Government reports increased coordination to tackle violence and harassment against women and girls (VAWG) on the rail network. Recent actions include the Safer Streets, Safer Transport Summit, which brought together rail operators, police, local authorities, and charities to improve prevention and reporting. British Transport Police support this effort through regional VAWG working groups and public reporting campaigns, while the Rail Delivery Group reinforces a national zero-tolerance campaign encouraging victims and witnesses to report harassment. Hexham Station itself recorded no sexual offences in 2024/25, but the Government stresses that proactive measures remain essential nationwide [16].

## HYBRID ATTACKS



### HYBRID THREATS RISING AGAINST EU

Hybrid threats targeting Europe's transport systems, especially rail infrastructure, are rising, blending cyberattacks, disinformation, and physical sabotage. ENISA's Transport Threat Landscape 2025 reports that 7.5% of all EU cyber incidents hit the transport sector, with rail operators facing DDoS attacks, vulnerability exploitation, and risks to critical operational systems like signalling and energy infrastructure. EU Home Affairs warns that hostile actors increasingly exploit critical infrastructure, including rail, through sabotage, insider threats, and hybrid interference, prompting stronger resilience requirements under the Critical Entities Resilience Directive [17][18][19].

## BOMB HOAXES



### INDIAN BOMB SCARE CONFIRMED AS HOAX (INDIA)

India's rail network endured a series of hoax bomb threats from November 2025 into early 2026, causing widespread disruptions and panic. On 16 November 2025, the Shridham Express bound for Delhi received an anonymous alert claiming a bomb in a general coach, leading to a full evacuation and inspection at Mathura Junction that confirmed it as a hoax. That same day, false bomb calls triggered chaos in Andhra Pradesh cities of Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, halting services and mobilizing emergency responses.

The pattern continued with the 5-6 January 2026 incident at Mau railway station in Uttar Pradesh, where an anonymous threat prompted the evacuation and thorough search of the Gorakhpur-Mumbai Kashi Express, with no explosives found and authorities labeling it another false alarm [20][21][22].

### HELD OVER FAKE BOMB THREAT ON HIGH-SPEED TRAIN (TAIWAN)

Police in southern Taiwan arrested a woman after she falsely claimed a high-speed rail train traveling between Tainan and Kaohsiung would explode, forcing authorities to evacuate and thoroughly search the train without finding any explosives. She is being investigated on public intimidation charges and the incident comes amid heightened public anxiety and tighter security patrols following a recent deadly mass stabbing in Taipei [23].

## SABOTAGE

### ARSON ATTACK DISRUPTS TGV (FRANCE)

On 27 October 2025, an arson attack on railway infrastructure in southeastern France caused major disruptions along the Paris–Marseille high-speed line, one of the country’s busiest TGV corridors. Fires were deliberately set near critical electrical and signaling equipment, forcing significant slowdowns and cancellations across the southeastern network. French authorities confirmed the blaze was intentional, with Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin condemning it as criminal sabotage. SNCF teams were deployed to repair damaged cable ducts and signaling systems, while thousands of passengers experienced delays [24][25].

### EXPLOSION DAMAGED WARSAW-LUBLIN RAIL LINE (POLAND)

An explosion that damaged the Warsaw–Lublin rail line, a key route for aid to Ukraine, was confirmed by Polish PM Donald Tusk as an “unprecedented act of sabotage.” Investigators found additional damage along the same corridor, reinforcing suspicions of coordinated attacks. Polish authorities identified two Ukrainian nationals working for Russia’s GRU as suspects, saying they fled to Belarus. Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski labelled the attack “state terrorism,” noting it was intended to cause mass casualties. The explosion was followed by additional rail infrastructure damage on the same corridor and the abrupt halt of a passenger train after overhead lines were struck, incidents also deemed likely sabotage. Polish security services raised national threat levels and deployed military units to protect rail and critical infrastructure [26][27][28].



## FRAUD

### TICKET

#### **Fake Online Tickets Target Heritage Railway's Popular Santa Services (UK)**

Heritage railway services in the UK have recently become the target of online ticket fraud, with scammers selling fake tickets for highly popular festive events. At Chasewater Railway, staff reported that an online reseller had been distributing counterfeit tickets for the railway's sold-out Santa Train events. Multiple families arrived with invalid tickets, prompting the railway to issue urgent warnings via social media and to advise victims to report fraud to their banks and avoid attending, as seats could not be guaranteed. The railway, which relies heavily on seasonal income, also contacted police regarding the scam [29].

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

#### **Railway Stations Emerge as Key Nodes in Expanding Cannabis Trafficking Networks (India)**

Railway stations across India are increasingly being exploited as high-traffic transit points for cannabis (ganja) smuggling, with recent cases revealing both organized patterns and regional surges in trafficking activities.

At Agartala Railway Station, Tripura Railway Police and the RPF conducted a targeted operation on 22 December 2025, arresting one drug peddler and seizing 10.240 kg of cannabis worth approximately ₹2 lakh from an auto-rickshaw in the station parking area. In Tamil Nadu, Trichy Railway Junction has seen an even sharper escalation. Ganja seizures via inter-state trains tripled in 2025, rising from 29.8 kg in 2024 to 86.5 kg seized across 11 incidents by December 2025. Authorities noted shifting smuggler tactics, including abandoning contraband during inspections, using disposable SIM cards, and diverting to buses and auto-rickshaws to evade increased railway surveillance [30][31].



## KNIFE ATTACK

### TRAIN STABBING: ONE SUSPECT, STAFF HERO CRITICAL (UK)

A 32-year-old British man has been confirmed as the only suspect in a mass stabbing on a London-bound LNER train on 1 November 2025, after police released a second man who was initially detained. The attack left 11 people injured, including a railway staff member who intervened to protect passengers and remains in life-threatening condition.

British Transport Police (BTP) emphasised that the incident is not being treated as terrorism, noting that the suspect was not known to counter-terrorism authorities and appears to have acted alone. Emergency services responded within minutes, and the train made an emergency stop at Huntingdon station, where armed officers arrested the suspect. Passengers described scenes of panic, with travellers fleeing through carriages to escape the attacker, who was reportedly armed with a large knife. Police and government officials praised the “heroic” actions of the critically injured staff member, saying lives were saved due to his intervention. Meanwhile, investigators continue to work through the suspect’s background, motives, and potential links to several knife incidents reported earlier the same day [32][33][34].

## STONE PELTING

### RAILWAYS BATTLES STONE-PELTING SURGE (INDIA)

Between July and December 2025, Indian Railways experienced a sharp rise in stone-pelting incidents, recording 1,698 cases in just six months. These attacks repeatedly disrupted passenger services, damaged coaches, and endangered both travellers and railway staff.

In response, authorities arrested 665 individuals connected to these events, reflecting the Ministry of Railways’ zero-tolerance policy and commitment to treating stone pelting as a serious criminal offence. To counter what was described as an escalating and widespread security threat, railway authorities strengthened surveillance and patrolling across vulnerable sections of the network.

Within this broader context, several trains carrying Maha Kumbh pilgrims faced stone-pelting attacks near Jalgaon, Maharashtra. Notably, coaches of the Tapti Ganga Express suffered shattered windows, although no injuries were reported [35][36].

## SECURITY MEASURES

### RPF BOOSTS RAILWAY SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT (INDIA)

In December 2025, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) significantly intensified security enforcement across the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), delivering a month marked by strong crime-prevention actions and humanitarian support. RPF operations led to 17 theft arrests, major seizures including narcotics worth around ₹3.16 crore, crackdowns on touting and stone pelting, and over 2,600 prosecutions under the Railways Act.

The force also demonstrated exceptional humanitarian commitment by rescuing 36 minors and three women, recovering stolen and left-behind property, saving a passenger from an accident, and even assisting two childbirths at railway stations [37].

### 20TH UIC WSC HIGHLIGHTS FUTURE-FOCUSED RAILWAY SECURITY IN RABAT (MOROCCO)

The 20th UIC World Security Congress, held on 2–4 December 2025 in Rabat, Morocco, brought together over 200 participants from 30 countries to discuss the future of global railway security. The event, jointly organised by UIC and ONCF, focused on the theme “Tomorrow’s Railway Security: Combining People and Technology.”

Participants explored how human expertise, paired with emerging technologies such as digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and advanced surveillance systems, can strengthen security across the rail sector.

The congress provided a platform for knowledge-sharing, innovation showcases, and strategic dialogue, including an exhibition area with technical partners highlighting the latest developments and solutions in railway security.

Speakers emphasised the growing importance of rail security amid rising geopolitical tensions, cyber-threats, and the need for resilient and secured, passenger-focused transport systems. The event reaffirmed global commitment to enhancing security, operational coordination, and international cooperation within the railway community [38].



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