

**2 March**—Three-car express train operated by third-sector Tosa Kuroshio Railway went out of control in Sukumo City, Kochi Prefecture, running past buffers and crashing into station building, killing driver and injuring 10 passengers

**5 March**—Ferry with some 70 passengers capsized off Phuket Island in southern Thailand, drowning six people and leaving 46 others injured or missing

**6 March**—*Linimo*, Japan's first full-scale maglev started service in northern Aichi Prefecture, running 8.9 km between Fujigaoka on Higashiyama Line of Nagoya City subway and Bampaku Yakusa on Aichi Loop Line to provide access to EXPO 2005 AICHI (25 March to 25 September)

**10 March**—Japan Airlines (JAL) announced FY2005–07 Mid-term Management Plan to integrate parts of three companies under control of holding company—Japan Airlines International (formerly JAL), Japan Airlines Domestic (formerly Japan Air System), and JAL Sales—by end of FY2006

**10 March**—Two commuter trains collided in centre of Buenos Aires, Argentina, injuring 131 passengers and others

**12 March**—Express train derailed in Phu Lôc, central Vietnam, killing at least 11 and injuring about 200 people

**13 March**—New airline in Hokkaido began two round trips each day between Hakodate and Obihiro using Beech 1900D twin-prop aircraft

**15 March**—Train hit pedestrians at manually operated crossing on Tobu Railway's Isesaki Line in Tokyo, killing two people and injuring two others

**16 March**—Domestic passenger plane failed to make safe emergency landing near Varandey, Russia, killing 29 of 53 people on board

**22 March**—Lufthansa German Airlines announced purchase of Swiss International Airlines as wholly owned subsidiary but leaving name unchanged

**25 March**—JR East's Joetsu Line between Echigo Kawaguchi and Echigo Takiya re-opened to full double-track operations after repairs to damage caused by Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake

**27 March**—Hokkaido Chihoku Highland Railway announced decision to close unprofitable 140-km Furusato Ginga Line from April 2006

**30 March**—JR Central announced use of ticket cards with built-in ICs for conventional lines in Nagoya area in FY2006, and on Tokaido Shinkansen in FY2007 with future interchangeable use in JR East and JR West areas

**31 March**—Third-sector Noto Railway closed 61.0-km Anamizu–Takoji section of Noto Line, leaving only Nanao–Anamizu section (33.1 km) in operation

**31 March**—Nagoya Railroad Co., Ltd. (Meitetsu) ended 94 years of history by closing four tramlines

**31 March**—Hitachi Electric Railway (18.1 km between Ayukawa, Omika, and Johoku Oda) in Ibaraki Prefecture closed after 77 years in operation

**14 April**—To strengthen anti-terrorism measures, US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibited passengers carrying cigarette lighters on all domestic flights and any international flight stopping in USA

**15 April**—Fire broke out in downtown Paris hotel, killing 20 people including 10 children

**20 April**—Iranian Air Force Saha Airlines passenger plane caught fire after fuselage hit runway on landing at MehrAbad International Airport in Tehran, killing one child and injuring several people

**21 April**—Express collided with standing freight train in Gujarat, western India, killing 24 passengers and crew and injuring 56 people

**25 April**—JR West commuter train carrying about 700 passengers derailed on Fukuchiyama Line in Amagasaki City, Hyogo Prefecture with first two cars striking trackside apartment and third carriage overturning, killing 107 passengers and injuring many other people; worst rail accident in Japan since 1963

**26 April**—Drunk driver of trailer truck crashed through closed railway crossing, colliding with outbound limited express in Minori Town, Ibaraki Prefecture

**26 April**—Deutsche Bahn AG (DBAG) train struck road-maintenance vehicle on crossing in Unterbergen in Bavaria, Germany and derailed, killing train driver and injuring 15 passengers

**27 April**—Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) approved plan by Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency (JRRT) to build two new shinkansen sections—148.8 km between Shin Aomori on main island of Honshu and Shin Hakodate on Hokkaido, and 58.5 km between Toyama and Kanazawa on Hokuriku Shinkansen—as well as refurbishment of Fukui Station

**27 April**—Express train and bus collided in central Sri Lanka, killing at least 25 people

**27 April**—Airbus held maiden flight of world's largest plane (A380 seating 555 passengers in typical three-class layout). Company has received 154 pre-orders from 15 airlines with first deliveries to Singapore Airlines (SIA) entering commercial service in spring 2006

**3 May**—Shizuoka Prefectural Police helicopter (Italian Agusta A109K2) crashed into house in Shizuoka City, killing all five people on board

**7 May**—Small passenger airplane crashed and burned at Cape York Peninsula in north-east Australia, killing all 13 passengers and two crew

**15 May**—Ferry capsized in river in southern Bangladesh, drowning at least 45 people and leaving more than 40 missing

**19 May**—Japan's Sagawa Express announced plans to establish new airline and enter air-cargo business starting June 2006 with early morning and late-night flights between Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) and New Chitose, Kita Kyushu, and Naha airports, offering cheap overnight shipping services

**22 May**—Groundbreaking ceremony held at site of Shin Hakodate Station (in front of Oshima Ono Station) in Ono Town, Hokkaido Prefecture, to mark start of construction of Shin Aomori to Shin Hakodate (148.4 km) section of Hokkaido Shinkansen

**25 May**—Southern Moscow hit by major blackout, halting subway and trams and trapping more than 100,000 passengers inside subway cars

**26 May**—Narita International Airport Corporation announced first financial statement (for fiscal year ending March 2005) since privatization with annual number of passengers passing 30 million for first time since airport opened in 1978

**2 June**—Narita International Airport Corporation sent proposal to International Air Transport Association (IATA) for six-tier landing-fee system based on aircraft noise levels with quieter planes charged less

**4 June**—Groundbreaking ceremonies held to mark start of construction of 58.5-km section of Hokuriku Shinkansen between Toyama and Kanazawa, and shinkansen station for Fukui City

**9 June**—Nankai Electric Railway requested MLIT to delay plan to stop operations on 14.3-km Kishigawa Line until 1 April 2006 prior to takeover by Okayama Electric Tramway

**9 June**—Express train in northern France collided with truck on level crossing carrying propane gas and other inflammables

**14 June**—Foreign visitors to Japan in 2004 reached 6.138 million (+17.8% over 2003) breaking previous records and first time exceeded 6 million

**17 June**—Varig Brazil Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection and now in talks with TAP Air Portugal about restructuring

**17 June**—Helicopter crashed into East River in New York with eight people on board rescued

**18 June**—New 13.5-km monorail supplied by Hitachi, Ltd., and financed by Japanese yen loan opened in Chongqing, China

**21 June**—Passenger train collided with truck and derailed in southern Israel, killing seven people and injuring about 180

**26 June**—JR East started tests on Sendai–Kitakami section of Tohoku Shinkansen of *Fastech* eight-car shinkansen designed to operate at world record speed of 360 km/h with plans to test up to 405 km/h

**30 June**—Local train rammed stationary train in southern suburbs of Jakarta, Indonesia, killing at least two people and injuring 84

**30 June**—Ferry carrying about 550 passengers smashed into about 20 small boats at wharf in Vancouver, Canada

**2 July**—Two trains collided head on near Bramberg in Austria, killing at least two people, including driver

**3 July**—Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) opened second 6.5-km section of subway network in New Delhi, India, following December 2004 opening of first 4.5-km section in northern part of city

**7 July**—Terrorist bombers attacked three Tube trains and double-decker bus almost simultaneously in London, killing more than 50 passengers and injuring 700 others

**7 July**—All 233 passengers and crew on burning ferry rescued by coastguard vessels and other craft off southern island of Mindanao in Philippines

**9 July**—Tanker at anchor off Onoda in Yamaguchi Prefecture, hit by freighter during night but no crew injured, although removal of ethylene gas from vessel disrupted local air traffic next day

**13 July**—Three passenger express trains operated by Pakistan's national railway collided in southern Sindh, killing 128 passengers and injuring 170 others

**14 July**—Boat capsized on Bandganga River in western Nepal, leaving at least 13 dead and more than 60 missing

**15 July**—Two tankers collided off coast of Mie Prefecture, causing fire and killing six crew members

**15 July**—At least 23 passengers killed after bus plunged about 150 m down ravine in South Africa

**16 July**—Antonov 32 passenger plane on domestic flight crashed near Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, killing all 55 on board

**21 July**—Second terrorist attack on London Tube trains failed when bombs in rucksacks did not fully detonate, but bombers managed to escape arrest

**25 July**—Japanese government announced liberalized tourist visas for Chinese nationals

**28 July**—Train in northern India exploded, killing 10 people and injuring 49 others

**31 July**—Passenger train derailed after ramming freight train on track between Dalian and Changchun in China, killing six passengers and injuring 30

**31 July**—Ferry caught fire off southern Taiwan, killing four people and injuring 35

## MILESTONES

### Mr Katsuo Haneda

Named President of JAL from 1 April, adding to existing duties as President of JAL International. Joined JAL in 1965 after graduating in economics from Keio University, becoming Director in 1995

### Mr Toshiaki Koshimura

Named President of Tokyu Corporation on 16 May. Joined Tokyu after graduating in law from Waseda University in 1964. Became Senior Managing Director in June 2001 after holding posts including Head of Human Resources and Managing Director. Current President Mr Kiyofumi Kamijo to become Board Chairman

### Mr Naoki Hirano

Named Board Chairman of Seibu Railway on 24 May. Joined Ministry of Transport (now MLIT) after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1965. Posts included Director General of Maritime Transport Bureau and Vice Minister of International Affairs, before leaving public sector in 1996 to become JR West Managing Director, Senior Managing Director, and Vice President. Left JR West in 2001, becoming Special Advisor to board of Seibu Railway in February 2005

### Mr Takashi Goto

Named President of Seibu Railway on 24 May. Joined Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank (now Mizuho Financial Group) after graduating in economics from University of Tokyo in 1972. Became Operating Officer of bank in 2001, rising to Managing Director of Mizuho Holdings and taking post of Vice President of Mizuho Corporate Bank in 2004. Became Special Advisor to board of Seibu Railway in February 2005

### Mr Susumu Yamaji

Former Administrative Vice Minister for Management and Coordination, and former President and Board Chairman of JAL died on 27 May. Joined former Ministry of Transport after graduating in political science from University of Tokyo in 1951. Ended career in public sector in 1985 as Administrative Vice Minister for Management and Coordination, becoming President of JAL in December 1985 and serving as Board Chairman from June 1991 to June 1998

### Mr Yorihiro Osuga

Senior Managing Director of Odakyu Electric Railway named President on 31 May. Joined Odakyu after graduating from Waseda University in 1968. After posts including Head of Human Resources and Managing Director, became Senior Managing Director in June 2003. Current Board Chairman and CEO Mr Kunio Toshimitsu and President Mr Toshiyuki Matsuda to leave current posts

## Financial Results of JR Companies

(¥ billion)

Company Name	Fiscal Year	Operating Profit/Loss			Non-operating Profit/Loss	Ordinary Profit/Loss	Extraordinary Profit/Loss	Pre-tax Profit/Loss	Profit/Loss after Tax
		Revenues	Expenses	Profit/Loss					
JR East	2003–04	1897.2	1589.7	307.5	-124.3	183.2	6.2	189.4	104.3
	2004–05	1883.2	1572.5	310.7	-144.8	165.9	4.2	170.1	96.0
JR Central	2003–04	1127.8	800.5	327.3	-209.8	117.5	-3.5	114.0	67.0
	2004–05	1149.3	818.3	331.0	-203.0	128.0	19.7	147.7	90.6
JR West	2003–04	845.9	740.4	105.5	-40.4	65.0	3.5	68.5	37.2
	2004–05	846.5	736.4	110.1	-35.7	74.4	7.8	82.1	48.0
JR Hokkaido	2003–04	89.2	117.6	-28.4	29.9	1.5	-1.1	0.5	0.0
	2004–05	89.1	116.2	-27.1	29.8	2.7	-1.2	1.5	0.2
JR Shikoku	2003–04	36.7	44.0	-7.3	7.6	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.1
	2004–05	31.9	39.5	-7.6	8.9	1.2	-1.1	0.2	0.2
JR Kyushu	2003–04	150.3	152.9	-2.6	8.8	6.2	-0.4	5.9	2.7
	2004–05	160.2	159.7	0.5	8.9	9.4	-4.7	4.6	2.9
JR Freight	2003–04	165.7	161.9	3.9	-1.9	1.9	0.5	2.4	1.6
	2004–05	161.7	158.3	3.4	-2.0	1.4	-0.2	1.2	0.7