

RAILWAY SENTINEL



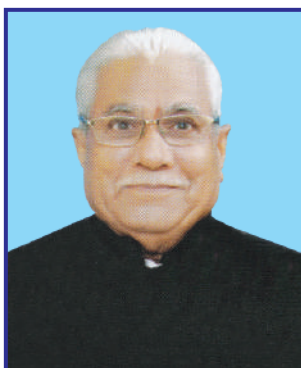
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION

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From the Desk of Editor



Dear Subscribers and Railwaymen,

First of all I congratulate all of you for organising Bhook Haddal/Dharna and Pradarshan on 12th October, 2022 in protest of stopping the recruitment and Privatisation of some of the activities on Indian Railway's and changes in Labour Laws by Government of India, Cancellation of NPS scheme and application of Old Pension scheme to all railway employees, payment of DA Arrears for a period 01-01-2020 to 30-06-2021 and Resolving all pending demands of Railwaymen at Mumbai Central, Bandra, Valsad, Surat, Udhna in Mumbai Division and Parel and Churchgate GLO. In case of Baroda division, programme was organised at Bharuch, DRM office – PRTN, Baroda Yard, Godra & Anand. In case of Ahmedabad the programmes were organised at DRM office, Sabarmati, Viramgam, Gandhidham, Palanpur & Mehsana. In case of RJT programme was organised at DRM office, Hapa, Surendra Nagar. Bhavnagar division had organised programme at DRM office-BVP, BVP workshop, Jetalsar, Junagadh, Veraval, Porbundar and other places. RTM division had organised it at DRM office RTM, Indore, Ujjain & Chittorgarh. Dhahod workshop and other local branches had organised programme at Dhahod. Pratapnagar Workshop, SBI workshop & Ajmer GLO office had also organised whole day Dharna.

A warm welcome was given to me on arrival of 12952 at Mumbai Central by Comrades of BCT division lead by Com. Prashant Kanade, Jitu Singh, Morya, Thakur, Milind Raut and many other comrades for a very big achievement of AIRF for permitting the travelling of all eligible railway employees in AC EMU local.

I congratulate Com. Nikhil Joshi, Jitendra Satapara and their entire team for successfully organising All India Women's Conference at Dwarka/Okha on 15th & 16th September, 2022. I also congratulate Women Wings of all the divisions/units for their participation in large numbers in All India Women's Conference at Dwarka. I wholeheartedly congratulate entire team of WREU Women wing.

We also thank Smt.Praveena Singh, Smt.Jaya Agarwal and Kum. Champa Verma and all Women leaders of all Affiliated Unions of AIRF for their co-operation and Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF for his guidance and participation.

ADI division had organised branch council, education class and public meeting at Gadhidam on 11-09-2022. Myself, Com. Dinesh Panchal, Ghanshyam Yadav, Suresh Bhanushali have addressed the Education camp. The Election of both the branches of Gandhidham was also held.

A cadre restructuring meeting at Board's level was held on 13-09-2022 and Preliminary discussion was also



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held. I also attended National Working Committee Meeting of HMS held on 10-09-2022. Railway Sentinel congratulates General Secretary/AIRF for payment of 78 days PLB to all eligible employees timely.

I have visited ADI on 24-09-2022 and had a activist meeting at Vatva and conducted the meeting of DOB and Branch Secretary and Chairman on the same day and had a discussion for strengthening the organisation.

I attended the All India Signalling Staff Maintenance Association meeting at Nadiad alongwith Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, Com. Panchal and team, Com. Sanjay Pawar Com. Santosh Pawar and their team. The WREU/BRC had organised a conference of BRC division in Community Hall Nadiad in which Com. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, J.R.Bhosale, Santosh Pawar and others were felicitated on their arrival at Nadiad. The meeting was largely attended by the Comrades of Baroda.

I have attended Branch Council and retirement function of J.D. Jadeja at Jetalsar on 27-10-2022 & retirement function of Shri Mishra at Vatva on 28-10-2022. During the period I have visited Baroda, Chuchapura.

Now the AIRF is holding its 98th Annual Convention at Puri on 29th & 30th November, 2022 for demanding 8th Central Pay Commission, Holding of Election on Indian Railway for Recognition of Union as per existing modalities and resolving all pending demands of railwaymen.

22nd GBM of All India Committee of Railway Women Workers at Dwarka

AIRF and its affiliated unions have always taken appropriate initiate for Women Empowerment that is the reason; women are playing an important role in the Trade Union Movement at the National as well as International levels. AIRF believes in equality and equal opportunity and this reflects confidence and faith in the Railway Women Workers, and it reflects in work culture of AIRF 22nd General Body Meeting of All India Committee of Railway Women Workers, was held at Dwarka hosted on 15-16 September by Western Railway Employees Union.



In the huge organized event of Annual women conference of AIRF Women more than 500 women from corner to corner of nation were present. The zeal and passion of women leaders and activists was at the highest level.

General Secretary AIRF com S G Mishra, Women Chairperson HMS Com. Champa Verma, Women Chairperson AIRF Com Jaya Agarwal, Women Convener AIRF Com. Praveena Singh, Zonal General

Secretary NFRMU Com Ashish Bishwas and all women zonal chairpersons & conveners with their women troop were present to attend the conference. Chairperson WREU started the conference with the welcome of distinguish guests and then enlighten the lamp ceremony was offered.

Welcome speech was delivered by **General Secretary WREU Com J R Bhosale** said that this federation is led by Com. Manibenena Kara who was president of AIRF at the time when very rare women were even in Railways and hence this is great responsibility of the women present here to maintain the legacy. **General Secretary AIRF Com. S G Mishra** delivered the inaugural speech, he said during the year I attended Annual conferences of many of the Zones, where in the participation of women activists always motivate and built confidence to entire trade union movement. He said that the 97 Annual General convention of AIRF at Ujjain women committee proposed a resolution regarding nationwide campaign 100% Paid Child Care Leave, this resolution was unanimously adopted and included in the General Resolution. This is matter of proud that this campaign is shaped in well and started with the strategy to give the fruitful result to this campaign. This is appropriate time and floor to thanks each one Zonal General Secretary/ Leaders and their Women team who tirelessly contributed to made successful this campaign. The huge numbers of collected signatures were received in the AIRF office was really matter of satisfaction and confidence. Further the memorandum for 100% paid Child care Leave was handed over to Cabinet Secretary on 5th September 2022, Cabinet Secretary ensured that appropriate action will be initiated. During the period women comrades put their steps forward and move to fight their issues by themselves resultant in taken by AIRF. It is matter of satisfaction that now Women leadership is more committed to keep forward their potential in the forthcoming challenges, may be Secret Ballot Elections, Privatization/Corporatization/Contractorization, NPS and other Future Course of Action hence leadership in AIRF are ready to give higher positions/responsibilities to the women leaders in the organization by our affiliates, and they are delivering good results in making AIRF strong, moving forward in this direction he announced that the structure of AIRF women committee is enlarged by incorporating one post from each zone of Women Organizer in addition to Chairperson and Convener. AIRF and its affiliated unions are well aware that, without involving women in the union, we cannot succeed. He conclude, I believe that, with the support and active participation of women, the confidence of the leadership will be boosted and strengthen the AIRF to meet the challenges ahead the Railwaymen as well as Railway Industry. Our Women Wing is marching forward steadily and strongly to give new direction to Trade Union Movement under the banner of AIRF.

Com. Praveena Singh Convener Women's Wing AIRF said that It is inbuilt conviction that women are capable of less work than men or less efficient than men. It is need of time to intended to assist women and men trade unionists to face up the challenge equality presents and make changes in the unions, changes at work and changes in our attitudes to each other. At the Negotiation Forum Women Representatives represent their issues strongly and sharing their responsibility equally. In the direction of women empowerment, our affiliates have formed Women Committees, right from Branch to the apex level and have remained quite active throughout the year by holding different programmes on several occasions, wherein there had been massive participation of the women workers, which is a matter of satisfaction for us. AIRF and its affiliated union's women committee are fully committed towards Welfare of the Railwaymen and their families. During the intervening period our affiliates, all over the Indian Railways, conducted various non-bargaining activities for the welfare of the Railwaymen and their families, Conception of idea is one thing but nurturing it and giving it visible shapes is another.

Com. Champa Verma, Women Chairperson HMS said the report is presented here is only is testimony to the progress that has been made so far on the development front. It also serves to be an active

reminder of the miles to be traversed, goals to be achieved and hopes to be translated into success with even greater and vigorous efforts. When I say all this, one point that is most important to be realized is the necessity of individual and further cumulative effort of each one of us, a prime realization of the fact that each one of us shares equal responsibility in contributing to the mission that we have set for ourselves.



Com Jaya Agarwal Chairperson Women's Wing AIRF presented the report of activity and thanked General Secretary for his relentless endeavour and continuous support towards women recognition, participation and empowerment related issues. In any organization the ideologies and visions flow from apex to grass root level and he has made applaud able efforts for not only penetration of these ideologies but also ensuring freedom, confidence and comfort throughout the organizational environment. Within the period of 22 years, Reports of the Zonal Women Activities have been published from time to time in our Monthly Journals – "Indian Railwaymen and Bhartiya Railwaymen as well as uploaded on the website of AIRF – www.airfindia.org and airfindia.com. She concluded her speech with the major achievement for women worker due to tireless effort of AIRF i.e Maternity leave to surrogate mother, maternity leave to the mother whose child dies immediate after birth and exemption of single mother from periodical compulsory transfers. She said with this now this is our turn to be more committed to strengthen the union and stand first in any call from union.

Women committee of WREU along with the leadership left no stone unturned to success the conference utmost. Com J R Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU along with the Zonal and divisional Leadership took all the responsibility to facilitate each and every woman came to attend the Conference. Com. Smt. Perin Sophia Harsh, Smt.Seema Kaushik, Smt.Shabana Shaikh, Smt.Parul, Smt.Kamla Sharma, Smt. Padmaja, Smt.Rupal Dholakia, Smt.Aika Agnihotri, Smt.Jayshree Rao, Smt.Kumkum Nagendra, Smt.Smita Patel, Smt.Manisha Dhangar, Smt.Parul Desai, Smt.Kakoli Mukherjee have taken lot of pain for making this conference successful. We are thankful for their valid contribution in making All Indian Women's Conference of AIRF a grand success.

While going to Dwarka to attend the 22nd Annual General Meeting of All India Committee of Railway Women Workers on 14th September, 2022, the leaders and activists of WREU-RJT division at all major stations en-route welcomed and garlanded to Com. J.R.Bhosale accompanied by Mrs. Kusumtai Bhosale and other Headquarter office bearers of WREU and women delegates coming from Western, Central, Southern and South Eastern Railways who were also travelling by the same train.

ITF WELL BEING SEMINAR

AIRF organized Well Being Seminar for Railwaymen organized at TN Vajpayee Hall, New Delhi on 6th & 7th September, 2022.

The All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) is not only concerned about the mental health of the employees of the Indian Railways, but has also taken up the initiative to keep the railway personnel in good health in association with the ITF. For this, 125 first responders have been prepared by AIRF through a special training across the country, who will not only find out the reasons for stress with the employees, but will also help them to reach the mental health counsellor.



Inaugurating the Well Being programme, Railway Board Chairman V.K. Tripathi said that medicine is fine, but it is necessary for the railway workers to consider the causes of stress themselves. He said that we also need to consider eliminating the causes of stress in advance. For this, railway workers should practice yoga and meditation regularly.

AIRF General Secretary Shivgopal Mishra while addressing the programme said that I believe that the work of a railway employee is very sensitive, so if he remains under any kind of stress, then it will definitely affect his work.

He said that today when the railway employee goes to work, he goes with great joy but when he comes back he remains irritable. In such a situation, he may be troubled by the working hours or the problems of the workplace.

He said that during the Corona epidemic, when the railway employees used to take the train, at that time his entire family was worried. Anyway, bad news used to come every day during that time. In such a situation, not only the railway employees but the whole family used to live under stress. There have been incidents like suicide in many places.

This is the reason why AIRF has decided that it will now also work on the mental health of the employees. He said that by dividing the country into four parts, we have prepared 125 first responders through special training. Now through them, we will try to reach every railway employee who is under stress. For this, a toll free number will also be started soon, through which we will also be able to directly counsel the employees and their families.

Dr. Syed Asif Altaf, Coordinator of the Well Being Program at ITF, shared his experiences and gave detailed information on mental health. He said that no matter how healthy you are physically, whatever facilities you have, working condition is also good, but if you are not mentally healthy then it is natural to have a bad effect. He said that this problem is not only seen in India, but in many countries of the world. AIRF has taken this issue seriously, it is a very good thing.

Lisa Hazarika of ITF, who assisted AIRF in preparing First Responder, said that unless we accept our problems, it will not be possible to solve them. We don't quickly understand the problem of mental health, by the time we are ready for it, it is too late. The good thing is that today AIRF is not only discussing this, but is also ready to work.

DG RHS Dr Prasanna Kumar said that I have been to many places, I am seeing such an effort for the first time. This is commendable work. He said that the truth is that today 20 percent of the population is affected by this disease. In such a situation, there is a great need for its identification and proper counseling. He said that based on the feedback of the first responder, we will also try to move forward in this direction.

Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager, Northern Railway, said that since a large number of railway employees do safety related work, especially the running staff, their stress seems natural. He expressed confidence that through this program such employees would definitely get some relief.

The program was presided over by Dr N Kanhaiya, President, AIRF. He said that the Federation has accepted this program as a challenge. We will all try our best to make it a success.

Working President JR Bhosale, Treasurer Shankarrao also addressed the program. PED Deepak Peter, CMD Sugandha Raha, Dr. Ashish Sr. DMO BN Tiwari, PCPO Pramila H Bhargava, Zone General Secretary Mukesh Galav, Mukesh Mathur, P.K. Patsani, Ashish Biswas, Amit Ghosh, Women Convenor Praveena Singh, Youth Coordinator Preeti Singh and a large number of people were present. NRMU Delhi Division had a special contribution in the successful organization of the program.

ONE DAY INFORMATION CLASS BY PRTN WORKSHOP BRANCH

WREU Pratapnagar Workshop Branch has organized One day Trade Union Education Class in its union office on 6th September, 2022 for 25 participants by own leave arrangement. After the Union Song, introduction of participants and welcome of CWM & other leaders, the class was inaugurated by CWM PRTN Shri Hemsingh Banoth. He appreciated WREU for conducting informative class and guided the participants on easy and effective working and proper use of Human Resources tools and Management. After showing of WREU Documentary on 100 years history, Com. Vikas Gupte, Zonal Treasurer and Educator with the help of PPT described about the History of Trade union Movement of India and WREU with detailed elaboration. He also delivered lecture on ideology of WREU/AIRF. Com.

Dharmesh I. Ramwani, Org. Secretary of Branch enlightened the participants on use and utilization of HRMS Module. Com. Vinod Manjrawala, Ex. Branch Secretary dealt upon the topic of D & AR. Finally, one hour question hour were handled by Com. Vikas Gupte, Zonal Treasurer & Com. Vinod Manjrawala. Closing was done by speech of Com. Bharat Makawana Br. Chairman & Com. Jitendra Prasad Br. Secy. Whole class arrangement including breakfast & lunch was done by team of Bhanu Pratap, Rajkumar, Harvinder, Prajapati & their youth team members.

01 day Dharna at Sabarmati station by SBI -1 Branch

01 day Dharna from 10:30 to 16:30 hour on 07.10.2022 at Sabarmati station was organised by SBI 1 Branch for long pending 31 demands of employees. More than 300 employees participated in the Dharna. Almost all DOBs under the leadership of Divisional Chairman & Divisional Secretary local branch's viramgam, kalol participated in the Dharna.



Important Railway Board Orders

Railway Board has issued modified list of classified safety category post vide its letter No.E(NG)1/2022/PM1/12 dated 08-06-2022.

Civil Department

SN	Posts
1	SSE/JEs (Track Machine of Open Line and Repair & Maintenance Depot/Workshop
2	SSE/JEs (P.Way)
3	SSE/JEs (Bridges)
4	SSE/JEs (Works)
5	Track Manager Gr. I, II,III,IV (i.e Mate, Keyman, Trackman, Gateman, Patrolman, Trolleyman)
6	Blacksmith, Welder
7	Technician (Track Machine) of Open Line and Repair & Maintenance Depot/Workshop
8	Bridge Technician (Sarang, Rivetter, Welder, Blacksmith, Grinder, Fitter, Machinist, Turner, Driller) of Open Line organization& Bridge Workshop

- 9 Helper of Blacksmith/Welder
- 10 Helper (Bridge Technician) of Open Line organization & Bridge Workshop
- 11 Helper (Track Machine) of Open Line and Repair & Maintenance Depot/Workshop

Electrical and Mechanical Department

SN Posts

- 1 Assistant Loco Pilots, Loco Pilots (Goods/Mail/Passenger)/Loco Pilots (Shunting), Loco Inspectors/Driving Instructors, Power Controller/Traction Loco Controller/Traction Power Controller/Traction Sub-Station Operator, Crew Controllers in all grades.
- 2 SSEs/JEs of Open Line and Workshops including Loco Sheds & Depots.
- 3 Technicians (including Sr. Technicians) of all grades in the trades of Fitter, Electrician, Millwright, Welder, Machinist/Turner, Riveter, Blacksmith, Tower Wagon Driver, Motor Trolley Driver, Traverse Driver, Slinger and Gunner in Open Line and Workshop/Depot, Loco Sheds/DEMU/MEMU Sheds in TRD and TL/AC of Elect (G).
- 4 SPA/Machine, Pump, Compressor Operator.
- 5 Assistant in Level-1 (erstwhile Helper Grade-II and Grade-I Khalasi/Khalsi Helper) attached to Supervisors and Technicians listed in SN-2 above.

Signal & Telecommunication Department

SN Posts

- 1 SSE/JE (Signal)
- 2 Technician/Signal including Blacksmith (Signal)
- 3 SSE/JE (Tele)
- 4 Technician (Tele)
- 5 Assistant (S&T) attached to Technician (Signal) and Technician (Tele)

Traffic Transportation Deptt. (Operating Deptt.)

SN Posts

- 1 All Non-gazetted Station Masters/Station Managers performing duties in Platforms, Yards, Cabins and online (including those still designated as Dy. Station Supdt./Station Supdt. Yard Master/Assistant Yard Master, Cabin Master, Traffic Transportation/Movement Inspector.
- 2 Guards (Goods/Passenger/Mail Express), Asst. Guards/Brakesman.
- 3 Section Controllers/Chief Controllers
- 4 Safety Counsellors/Safety Inspectors
- 5 Pointsman 'A' and Pointsman 'B' (including those still designated as Token Porter/Traffic Porter/Switchman/Leverman/Cabinman)
- 6 Shunting Master/Shunting Jamadar
- 7 Gateman/Gatekeeper (Traffic)

Grant of financial up-gradation under MACPS to the staff appointed from the post/ cadre to another post/cadre carrying same Grade Pay/level (7th CPC)

Railway Board vide RBE No.98/2022 dated 22.8.2022 has conveyed its decision that, Appointment / Promotion from the post of Sr. Commercial Clerk (GP 2800) / Pay Level 5) to Goods Guards (GP 2800 / Pay Level 5) and sr. Commercial Clerk (GP 2800 / Pay Level 5) to Enquiry Cum. Reservation Clerk (GP 2800 / Pay Level 5) should not construed as promotion for reckoning for the purpose of grant of financial up-gradation under MACPS.

Introduction of CBT for promotion to Group B post against LDCE quota

Railway Board has issued orders vide letter no-E(GP)2022/2/4 Dtd-06/09/2022 as regard to introduction of centralized computer based objective type Examination (CBT) for promotion to Group B post(LDCE) on Indian Railways. In accordance with the above 70% selections and 30% LDCE for promotion to Group 'B' post in all departments will be conducted through Centralized CBT w.e.f 01-01-2023.

Clarification regarding travel on RCP in AC EMU Suburban trains

WREU has represented to GM-Western Railway for grant of permission to First Class RCP holders in AC EMU Suburban trains. In this connection Western Railway administration has sought clarification from the Railway Board vide no-C.175/A(AC EMU Trains)dtd-18/01/2018 and E(Pass)768/64 BOL.IV dtd-18/05/2022. Railway Board vide its letter no-E(W)2018/PS 5-2/6 dtd-06/09/2022 has issued clarification on a reference of Western Railway for travelling on RCP in EMU suburban trains. Now employees possessing first Class/First Class A RCP are eligible to travel in AC EMU suburban trains. This matter was pursued by GS-AIRF to the Railway Board vide letter no-AIRF/88(2017) Dtd-14/06/2022.

In this matter Western Railway vide PS No.92/2022 dated 7.9.2022 has advised to all concerned on Western Railway for necessary action for permitting the First Class/First Class 'A' RCP holders in AC EMU Suburban trains.

Recruitment under Cultural cum Scout & Guide Quota

Railway Board was advised vide its letter No E(NG)II/2022/RR-2/1 dtd-27/07/2022 and 21/12/2021 to Zonal railways to pend recruitment against cultural cum Scouts & Guides quotas for the financial years 2020-21 & 2021-22. AIRF vide PNM item no-11/2022 has raised the matter in Railway Board PNM meeting and after due deliberations railway board vide its letter No E(NG)II/2022/RR-2/1 dtd-02/09/2022 and RBE No-108/2022 has advised to all Zonal Railways to process for recruitment against Cultural cum Scout & Guide Quotas for the current Financial year i.e 2022-23.

Reservation in promotion to the persons with benchmark disabilities (PwBDs) – Promotion from group 'C' to 'B'

Railway Board has issued RBE No. 97/2022 dated 18.8.2022 in terms of DOP&T OM No. 36012/1/2020-Estt.(Res.II) dated 17.5.2022 have been adopted mutatis mutandis for grant of reservation in promotion to PwBD (Persons with Benchmark Disabilities) in Indian Railways as identified by Ministry of Social Justice & empowerments' Notification No.38-16/2020-DD-III dated 4.1.2021. Accordingly reservation to PwBD will be granted on selections/LDCE for promotion to the Group 'B' posts in Indian Railways.

Online/CBT mode for Selection of ex-cadre posts of PRS & UTS organization

Railway Board vide RBE No.96/2022 dated 12.8.2022 and 99/2022 dated 22.8.2022 have issued instructions for filling up the posts of ex-cadre posts of PRS & UTS organization preferably in "Online/CBT" mode. Accordingly henceforth a single stage examination (duly including questions on Aptitude/Computer knowledge) for filling up the posts of Console Operator, Hardware Supdt., data Base Supdt., in PRS & UTS Organization.

Relaxation in the condition of acquiring higher qualifications for grant of selection grade under CAS to miscellaneous category of Teachers

On references from the Zonal Railways regarding grant of selection grade to miscellaneous category of teachers who have put in requisite years of service of senior grade but have not been granted selection grade due to non-prescription of requisite higher qualifications. In this matter after consultation with Ministry of Education (D/o) School Education & Literacy) Railway Board vide RBE No. 110/2022 dated 7.9.2022 conveyed its decision to Zonal Railways that, after completion of 12 years of service in senior grade, selection grade may be granted to miscellaneous category of teachers in Railways without insisting on higher qualification.

Exemption of Single Mother employees from the purview of Periodical Transfer to other Stations.

Railway Board vide its letter No.E(NG)I/2022/TR/19 dated 23-08-2022 addressed to All General Managers of Zonal Railway and Production Units and clarified that Single mother employee if she holds a sensitive posts cannot be exempted from the scheme of Periodical Transfer. However, she may be shifted as far as possible to a different seat in the same place/adjoining area to meet the requirements of Periodical Transfer and to avoid any hardship including school admission, surety of girl child, mental stress and tension.

Report on System for Crew review of Running Staff and modalities for Periodic balancing of staff excess/shortage.

Railway Board has constituted a Committee of ED's vide its order dated ERB-I/2022/23/07 dated 08-02-2022 to examine the present system of crew review and recommended modalities for periodic balancing of excess/shortage of staff. The Committee consisted of the following members:-

- i. ED Estt.(N)-Convenor
- ii. ED/TT(S)-Member
- iii. ED/Finance(E)-Member
- iv. TED/EE(RS)-Member

The finding of the Committee has concluded that (1) the merger cadre of Loco Pilot between Electrical/Mechanical may be implemented uniformly across all Railways. All crew may be provided training for operating both types of tractions as may be necessary keeping in mind local circumstances. Administrative control of Loco Running staff may be handled by a single point of command to ensure efficiency in decision making (2) Crew Review should be done on yearly basis (calendar year i.e 1st January to 31st December) duly approved by DRM. The proposal for crew review should be sent from division to HQ well in time so that sanction of GM may be obtained by 15th March and divisions may be advised to submit indents by March. (3) extend process of filling up of post of Running staff through direct recruitment by RRB's is time consuming and generally takes about 2.5 to 3 years. Crew review should be based on 3 years Traffic projection so that any vacancies in anticipated cadre strength can be filled up in planned manner.

Grant of FMA to Railway Pensioner/Family Pension-Change in Option

Railway Board vide RBE No. 137/2022 dated 27-10-2022 has conveyed its decision to all General Manager's that Railway Pensioners/Family Pensioners residing beyond 2.5 kms from Railway Hospital/Health Units and eligible for RELHS shall be allowed opportunity to avail change in option once in a life time from FMA to OPD or vice versa without linkage to change in residence.

Travel entitlement on Passes/PTOs in Train 18 (Vande Bharat Express).

Ministry of Railways has introduced Train 18 (Vande Bharat Express). But serving employees and Pensioners are not granted permission for travelling in Train 18 (Vande Bharat Express) on Privilege Passes/PRCP/Widow Passes and PTOs etc. The matter has been raised by WREU before General Manager, Western Railway vide letter No. ADI/14/2022 dated 07-10-2022 and to AIRF to raise the issue at Railway Board level. Subsequently AIRF vide its letter No. AIRF/82(172)(195) dated 31-05-2022 has represented the matter at Railway Board level for grant of travel entitlement on Privilege Passes/PRCP/Widow Passes and PTOs. Now the Railway Board vide RBE No. 136/2022 dated 28-10-2022 has conveyed Zonal Railways its decision for revised travel entitlement on Privilege Passes/PRCP/Widow Passes and PTOs on Train 18 (Vande Bharat Express) at par with Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains.

Accident Free Service Awards to eligible categories

Drivers (Loco Pilots) / Motorman / Pointsman / Cabinman / Switchman / ASM / SM / Deputy S.S. / S.S. are eligible for Accident Free Service Awards (AFSA) at the time of retirement. However, it has been brought out that AFSA has not been paid to retired employees who had worked in the eligible safety categories before being promoted/posted to non eligible categories such as Traffic Inspectors/Controller/Power Controller/Group 'B' post etc. Now Railway Board vide its letter No.2022/Safety(DM)/AFSA Policy dated 26-10-2022 has clarified that staff of specified safety categories are eligible for grant of AFSA at the time of retirement based on the period of qualifying service rendered in eligible safety categories irrespective of post held by such staff at the time retirement.

Mega Blood Donation Drive

On the call of AIRF Mega Blood Donation camps organized on Western Railway in coordination with Akhil Bhartiya Terapant Yuvak Parishad (ABTYP) on 17-09-2022 on the occasion of birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. These camps were ably organized by the Comrades of Youth and Women's Wing of WREU with the prompt guidance of Divisional Office Bearers. The organizers had good response from the Railwaymen and Public and collected more than 1000 units of blood from these camps conducted on Western Railway and donated to the concerned Blood Banks those who have coordinated with each camp.

Railway Sentinel extends its gratitude to the blood donors as well as the cadre for successfully organizing mass scale blood donation camps.

COVID Vaccination Booster Dose Camp

Workshop branch of WREU/DHD organized One day COVID Vaccination Booster dose camp at Shahid Bhavan. Hundreds of Railwaymen and their family members were benefited by this.

RAS GARBA MAHOTSAV- BVP

Women Wing of BVP division organised the "Ras Garba" program on the occasion of Navratri in WREU office campus on 30.09.2022. The large number of women employees participated in this program from local branches of BVP area.

The "Ras Garba" Program was inaugurated by Sr.DPO Smt. Arima Bhatnagar with Lighting Deep in front of MAA DURGA in presence of Divisional Secretary and Divisional Chairman. ACM Sh. Neela Devi Zala

also participated in program as a special guest. Sr. DPO and ACM/BVP appreciated this type of activity and other activities organized by WREU around a year for women employees which is helpful for women empowerment. An attractive gift was given to all women participants. The required arrangement for success of program were done by Com. Nita Joshi, Br. Secretary, Com. Nainaben Chauhan Br. Chairman under leadership of Com. Kakoli Mukharjee & Com. Parulben Ondhiya Divisional Convenor & Chairperson of Women wings with other comrades of Woman Branch.

Felicitatation function of Com. J.D.Jadeja

A grand felicitatation function was organised on 27-10-2022 to felicitate Com. J D Jadeja, Ch.OS/AEN, Divisional Vice Chairman and Branch Secretary of Jetalsar Branch on his superannuation. Com. Jadeja appointed in Railways on 09-07-1988 and from day one joined WREU and rosed to the post of DOB. Com. J.R.Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU specially attended the function in the well decorated branch office of Jetalsar. All the speakers highly appreciated the service rendered by Com. Jadeja in WREU. Com. Jadeja was also Secretary of Railway Co-operative Society (RECCS) for 22 years i.e 4 consecutive terms from year 2000. The required arrangement for successful holding of this programme was made by JLR Branch Com Umashankar Gupta ,Com Vishnu Com Premkumar ,Com Somalal & team under the guidance of Com. S.K.Srivastava, DS/WREU-BVP.

Protest before General Manager's Officer

A protest meeting was held before the General Manager Office during lunch hours on 9.9.2022 against the inordinate delay in publishing the GDCE examination results and inhuman attitude of administration towards running staff and demanded for 1) Re-instatement of Motorman involved in SPAD cases, 2) Delay in grant of MACP to the eligible Motorman, 3) Inordinate delay in grant of Accident Free Service Awards to the eligible safety staff. WREU strongly opposed for 1) Proposed centralized booking of Running staff, 2) Proposed merger of Running pool with others for Quarter allotment, 3) Proposed unilateral review of HOER for Suburban Crew.

Large numbers of staff including running staff working in suburban section have attended the protest meeting to show the strength, unity and solidarity, meeting was addressed by Com.J.R.Bhosale, General Secretary, Rajan.P, AGS, VikasGupte Treasurer - WREU, Com.PrashantKanade DS-BCT, Com.Jitendra Singh DC-BCT and Com.Nagabhushanam Branch Secretary CCG-Branch.

Com.Shaikh Nasir, Com. Mahendra Rathore, Com.Raj Shekar Menon, Com.Vagaria and other leaders of WREU-GLO & Accounts branches made all necessary arrangements for the success of the protest meeting at GM office.

Protest meeting at BL

On an arbitrary decision of DRM Mumbai central for shifting of Control office at BL to Mumbai and Centralized booking of Crew from Mumbai, a spontaneous protest meeting in front of Area Manager office at BL on 30.09.2022, which was addressed by Com.Sanjay Singh, Com.HussainBelim, Com.Robinson James and others and demanded for a separate meeting with WREU on the matter. Large numbers of running staff and others attended the protest meeting organized by the WREU - BL I & II branches.

Protest on the arbitrary decision of Mumbai Division

Mumbai Division administration has given arbitrary decision through Whatsapp on 29.09.2022 and instructed to send all Chief Loco Inspectors for A medical examination arbitrarily. Large numbers of Chief Loco Inspectors held an urgent meeting with Com.J.R.Bhosale General Secretary WREU in presence of Com.Prashant Kanade, Divisional Secretary and Rajan.P, AGS-WREU and decided to protest against the arbitrary decision. Com.J.R.Bhosale had a telephonic conversation with General Manager immediately, who in turn have given assurance to stop such arbitrary decisions to avoid harassment to the Supervisory staff.

Due to the timely intervention of Com.J.R.Bhosale General Secretary WREU on the matter, Mumbai Division administration has immediately withdrawn its proposed illogical plan for sending CLI's for A-one medical examination and conveyed it to all concerned through WhatsApp.

World Mental Health Day

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day and on the call of AIRF, a seminar organized by Baroda division in which large number of Youth and Women participated, the seminar was inaugurated by Com. J.R.Bhosale, General Secretary and Working President-AIRF in presence of Com. Santosh Pawar, Sanjay Pawar, A.P.Morya and others. The seminar was addressed by a leading practicing Psychologist from Baroda who had helped the participants to improve their mental health through preach and practice of various mental activities.

One day hunger Strike/protest held on entire Western Railway.

On the decision of the standing committee of All India Railwaymen's Federation and his clarion call one day hunger strike/protest on Western Railway held on 12th October 2022 at various places to press upon the significant pending demands of the Railway men. Hunger Strike/Protest enthusiastically organized by the activists of WREU, Youth Wing and Women's Wing at Branch, Division and Workshop level from 10 hrs to 17hrs.



Churchgate Station



BCT Division



BAMY Branch



Parel Workshop



BRC Division



ADI Division



Ratlam Division



RJT Division



DHD Branches



PRTN Workshop

Mumbai Area

Hunger Strike/Protest held at Churchgate station jointly by GLO, GLO Accounts, Churchgate station branch and Grant Road branch in which large number of activist of WREU participated which was lead by Com. Vikas Gupte, Nasir Shaikh, Mahendra Rathod, Rajshekar Menon, J.S.Vaghariya, K.Nagabhushanan, S.K.Soni, B.P.N.Nair, Nelson Moses and others.

Hunger Strike/Protest held in front of DRM office which was lead by Com. Prashant Kanade, Jitendra Singh, and other division office bearers in which activists from DRM-JRH, BCT(Main), CFO, Car Shed, OHE-Open Line and Dadar branches participated. The participant were addressed by Com. Prashant Kanade and Jitendra Singh.

At Bandra Terminus, Hunger Strike/Protest meeting organized at the station premises by BAMY, ADH & BVI branches jointly which was lead by Com. Vinod Morya, Milind Raut, Sharad Shirke, Vivek Pawar, Vinay Sharma and others.

At Valsad Hunger Strike/Protest meeting held by the Comrades of BL-I, BL-II, DRD & BIM branches jointly. The large gathering was addressed by Com. Sanjay Singh, Hussain Belim, Robinson and Prakash Savalkar. Similar protests organized at Udhana, NDB and AN which were addressed by Com. Rajesh Jadhav, Surendra Singh, Sanjay Jha, Chandan Pawar, Praveen Kale and other leaders.

Parel & MX Workshop

Hunger Strike/Protest held at Parel Workshop which was lead by Com. Prashant Deshmukh, Shyam Achrekar, Sanjay Girkar, N.K.Mistry and other leaders. A mass gate meeting was held during the lunch hours at the main gate of the Workshop and the gathering was addressed by Com. Rajan P., Prashant Deshmukh and Sayyed J. Hussain. Hunger Strike/Protest concluded in the evening at 17.00 hrs.

Baroda Division

The Hunger Strike/Protest gatherings held at various places were addressed by leaders of the division and youth team. A mass gathering held at Baroda station premises was addressed by Com. Santosh Pawar, Sanjay Pawar, A.P.Morya and other leaders.

Dahod Area

The Hunger Strike/Protest meeting held in front of Dahod workshop by all the 4 branches of Dahod area under the leadership of Com. Sanjay Kapoor, P.S.Harsh and other leaders. Hunger strike was observed by 38 WREU activists from 8 am to 5 pm. After the hunger strike a huge gate meeting was held in which was attender by more than 500 Railwaymen.

PRTN Workshop

The Hunger Strike/demonstration held in front of PRTN workshop from 8 hrs to 17 hrs and 40 participants including Com. Abhishek Patil, Harvinder Singh, Rajkumar Mallah, Nehal Shah, Bhimraj Atul Waghela, Vinod Malivad observed Hunger strike under the leadership of Com. Bharat Makwana and Jitendra Prasad. A gate meeting was held during lunch hours from 12 hrs to 13 hrs. The gathering was addressed by Com. Bharat Makwana and Jitendra Prasad.

Ratlam Division

Hunger Strike/Protest gatherings organized at Branch level and at the division office which were addressed by local leaders, youth and women's wing leaders including Com. S.S.Sharma and Shabana Shaikh. The gathering held before the DRM office was addressed by Com. Manohar Barath, Narendra Solanki, Shalesh Tiwari, Seema Kaushik, Ranjitha Vaishnav, Namita Kumayu.

Ahmedabad Division

Hunger Strike/Protest gatherings organized at Branch level at various places namely Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Mehsana, Palanpur, Radhanpur, Viramgam and Gandhidham stations which were lead and addressed by all Division Office Bearers, Branch Secretaries and Chairman including Youth and Women's Wing leaders, Gathering at different places were addressed by Com. Dinesh Panchal, G.S.Yadav, Hariram Meena, Baldhari Mahaur, Sanjay Suryabali, Misbahul Hassan, B.P.Gadhvi, Suresh Bhanushali, Rajendra Mishra, D.K.Dangi, R.R.Sheikh, Harshal Jani, Bhola Singh Meena, Pradeep Sinha, Paral Rajvi and Kamla Sharma.

Rajkot Division

Hunger Strike/Protest gatherings organized at Branch level and at the divisions which were lead and addressed by all Division Office Bearers, Branch Secretaries and Chairman including Youth and Women's Wing leaders, gathering at Rajkot was addressed by Com. Nikhil Joshi, Jitendra Satapatra, Abhijeet Shah and others.

Bhavnagar Division

Hunger Strike/Protest gatherings organized at Branch level and at the DRM office which were lead and addressed by all Division Office Bearers, Branch Secretaries and Chairman including Youth and Women's Wing leaders, gathering at Bhavnagar was addressed by Com. S.K.Srivastava, Ajayraj Singh Gohil and others.

GRATITUDE BY EMPLOYEES OF J.C.BANK

The administration abruptly stopped issuing of Privilege passes to the employees of J.C.Bank. The aggrieved employees of J.C.Bank immediately met Com.J.R.Bhosale, General Secretary –WREU and Working President –AIRF and discussed the matter. Com. J.R.Bhosale immediately contacted PCPO and PFA and briefed the matter in relevant to the proposed changes and amendments in the Model SOP as well as Board Directives, both the Principal HODs has agreed with the points brought out by General Secretary-WREU and issued a letter addressed to the CEO-J.C.Bank and directed to issue Privilege Passes to all its employees immediately. The employees of J.C.Bank met Com.J.R.Bhosale at WREU-HQ office and presented a flower bouquet and Shawl and distributed sweets amongst and celebrated the victory.

HELPING HAND OF WREU AND AIRF

Shri Rajendra Salvi, ACCI working under SSE(TL)-BDTS was onboard escorting duty on Awadh Express (Train No.19037) on 23-10-2022. He was suffered massive Heart Attack before Gorakhpur station. His companion immediately informed nearest Railway station and arranged medical facility and subsequently he was shifted to nearest Private hospital for immediate medical care. However the hospital authority has declared that he was died before admission to the hospital. This sad news was conveyed to Shri Sharad Chavan, SSE(TL)-BDTS to Com. Prashant Kanade who has brought out this to the notice of Com. J.R.Bhosale, General Secretary for bringing the body of Shri Rajendra Salvi to Mumbai by Air. Com. J.R.Bhosale immediately contacted General Manager, Western Railway, Com. K.L.Gupta, General Secretary-NERMU and Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary-AIRF and requested for necessary help for bringing the body of Com. Rajendra Salvi to Mumbai as soon as possible. Com. K.L.Gupta immediately sent some of the comrades to the hospital for follow up and necessary arrangements. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary-AIRF contacted CRB and

discussed the matter for immediate action in order to transport the body of Com. Rajendra Salvi by Air to Mumbai. As a result of cordial work of Union/Federation and the administration the body of Rajendra Salvi has brought to Mumbai Domestic Airport at about 9 hrs on 26-10-2022 morning by Indigo Airlines. Com. Prashant Kanade, Divisional Secretary and AGS-WREU, Milind Thakur, Vinod Kumar Morya, Sharad Chavan (SSE(TL)-BDTS), Sanjay Chiplunkar, Rajendra Dalvi were received the corpse of Rajendra Salvi at the Airport and transported to his residence at Nallasopara (West) by an Ambulance which was accompanied by Com. Sanjay Chiplunkar and Rajendra Dalvi. The Funeral held at Nallasopara (West), Hindu Smashan Bhoomi at about 12 hrs on 26-10-2022 which was attended by Com. Rajan, AGS-WREU, Sr. DEE(Coaching), Mumbai Central, AEE-Mumbai Central and large number of employees and neighbors.

Railway Sentinel wholeheartedly appreciates the efforts of leaders of WREU, NERMU, AIRF and the efforts of the administration especially the General Manager, Western Railway and CEO/CRB, Railway Board and paid homage to the departed soul.

VETERAN RETIRED

Com. Khalil Khan M Phathan, Shunting Master-ST & Office Bearer of ST retired from service on superannuation on 30/9/2022. He was very active in union activities since last 35 years and popular among the staff in traffic department in ST and other stations on TV section.

Com. S. M. Iqbal, Vice Chairman of GLO branch and Ch. OS personnel department CCG superannuated on 31.10.2022 after putting more than 40 years of service. He joined WREU from day one and was treasurer of the GLO branch for more than 30 years. He was very popular amongst the staff and officers. A grand farewell function in his honour was arranged by the branch on 31.10. 2022 which was attended by com. Vikas Gupte.

Abhijit M. Shah, Chief OS DAR (E - Vigilance) AIRF working committee member and Divisional office bearer of Rajkot division retired from Railway service on 31.10.2022. He joined as Jr. clerk in 1987. He worked in Branch in various sections. He received 3 appreciation from GM and was awarded by PCPO and DRM. He was office Bearer of WREU since last 20 years and worked in capacity of DOB for last 10 years.

Railway Sentinel wishes them healthy and happy retirement life.

OBITUARY

QUEEN ELIZABETH-III

Elizabeth II was Queen of the United Kingdom from 6 February 1952 until her death on 8 September 2022. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days was the longest of any British monarch and the second-longest recorded of any monarch of a sovereign country. She was born on 21 April 1926 in United Kingdom

Mikhail Gorbachev

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev (2 March 1931 – 30 August 2022) was a Russian and Soviet politician who served as the last leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 to the country's dissolution in 1991.

Gorbachev believed significant reform to be necessary for survival. He withdrew troops from the Soviet-Afghan War and embarked on summits with United States president Ronald Reagan to limit nuclear weapons and end the Cold War. Domestically, his policy of glasnost ("openness") allowed for enhanced freedom of speech and press, while his perestroika ("restructuring") sought to decentralize

economic decision-making to improve its efficiency. Gorbachev is considered to be one of the most significant figures of the second half of the 20th century. The recipient of a wide range of awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mulayam Singh Yadav

Mulayam Singh Yadav was born on 22 November 1939 in Saifai village, Etawah district, Uttar Pradesh. He was an Indian politician, a socialist figure and the founder of the Samajwadi Party. He served 3 non-consecutive terms as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and also served as the Minister of Defence, Government of India. A long-time parliamentarian, he was the Member of Parliament, representing the Mainpuri constituency in the Lok Sabha, and earlier had also represented the Azamgarh, Sambhal and Kannauj constituencies.

With a political career spanning more than six decades, being elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) for 7 times and the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for 10 times, the veteran politician was a prominent figure of his time in Indian Politics. He was often referred to as Netaji (meaning respected leader in Hindi) by party leaders and workers. He died on 10th October, 2022 in a hospital in Gurgaon.

A.D.Nagpal

Comrade A D Nagpal (88 years), Secy HMS left for heavenly abode on 4th October, 2022 in the Hospital at Chandigarh. This is a big loss to HMS and Indian Trade Union Movement. He devoted more than 60 years for the service of workers and socialist movement. He was retired from LIC and Leads the trade union of LIC ,PF federation, Member CBT, Member of the PF Executive Committee & Coal Unions. He was the very close associate of Top Leaders of Socialist movement. He was also leader of Punjab, Haryana and other sectors trade Unions. WREU called for a condolence meeting on 7th October, 2022 at Grant Road office. Com. J.R.Bhosale and other comrades paid rich tribute to the departed leader.

Advocate Sukhdev Kashid, Sr. Leader of Municipal Mazdoor Union breathed his last on 01-09-2022 at the age of 62 years after a brief illness. He joined union in 1982. He was having thorough knowledge about the Labour Laws and represented cases of members in Court of Law successfully.

Himanshu Vaccharajani

Ex. Divisional Vice Chairman of RJT division left for heavenly abode on 15-08-2022

MORBI

135 People died in Morbi Hanging Bridge Tragedy on 30.10.2022.

ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base 2001 = 100)

Month / Year	Base year 2001=100 Average	Total of 12 Months	12 Monthly Average	%Increase Over 261.41* for DA
Sep-21	354	4161	346.75	32.64
Oct-21	360	4177	348.08	33.15
Nov-21	362	4194	349.05	33.69
Dec-21	361	4213	351.08	34.30
Jan-22	360	4233	352.75	34.94
Feb-22	360	4250	354.16	35.48
Mar-22	363	4269	355.75	36.08
Apr-22	368	4297	358.08	36.98
May-22	371	4321	360.08	37.74
Jun-22	372	4343	361.91	38.44
Jul-22	374	4364	363.66	39.11
Aug-22	375	4385	365.41	39.78

*Average Price Index for January 2001

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