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IRTSA delegates meets MoSR

Welcome meeting with Sri.V.Somna MoSR



19.06.2024: IRTSA delegates led by Er.M.Shanmugam, Central President, Er.K.V.Ramesh General Secretary including Er.K.Gobinath Zonal Secretary ICF, Er.Lakshminarayanan JGS and Er. Shantharaman met Sri.V.Somna Hon'ble Minister for Railways at his chamber at Railway Board. IRTSA extends its best wishes to him in his new role as MoSR. IRTSA promised fullest cooperation for efficient performance of Indian Railways. MoSR told that he is more an gross root worker than a leader and will address the problems of Railway employees.

Warm Meeting with AM (Staff) & AM (HR)



19.06.2024: In a warm meeting with Additional Member (Staff) & AM (HR) Team IRTSA highlighted upgradation of SSE posts to level-8 at ICF to meet out higher level of supervision in the manufacturing activities of "Vande Bharat" express trainsets, implementation of cadre restructure from 01.11.2023, relaxation in medical examination for colour vision for Technical Supervisors working in Production Units for promotion to the Group-B Gazetted Service, classification of SSEs in level-8 as Group-B, designation for posts in level-8 & level-9, etc.

AM(Staff) & AM (HR) discussed the issues very patiently and agreed to consider the demands on merit positively. AM (Staff) also appreciated efforts of IRTSA in publishing Guide for the employees appearing in departmental selections.

Cordial meeting with Director General (RHS)



M.Shanmugam Central President, K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA along with other office bearers met DG (RHS) and appealed for changes in eye vision medical tests for promotion from Group-C to Group-B. It was requested that Ishihara's Plates and Edridge's Green Lantern tests for colour vision are very much high standard, which have no application in the working of Production Units of Railways and they may be dispensed for the selection to Group-B posts in Production units.

Minutes of IRTSA CEC Meeting Held on 21.06.2024 at Raavi Conference Hall, Kisan Bhavan, Chandigarh.

21st June, 2024: IRTSA CEC meeting was held at Raavi Hall, Kisan Bhavan, Chandigarh. Er.Harchandan Singh Chairman, Er.M.Shanmugam Central President and around 80 delegates participated in the meeting held between 11.00 hours and 16.30 hours.

Er. Harchandan Singh Chairman and Founder General Secretary of IRTSA was welcomed by Er. K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA and Zonal Secretaries at the conference hall. Er.M.Shanmugam Central President and Er.Darshan Lal Central Working President welcomed the Chairman on the dais. Both of them spoke about hard work and struggle made by Er.Harchandan Singh for the upliftment of Technical Supervisors Category in Indian Railways. Er.Harchandan Singh was accompanied by his wife and daughter. All CEC delegates felicitated Er.Harchandan Singh and his family individually.

Er.M.Shanmugam Central President in his inaugural speech briefed achievements of IRTSA. He explained about activities of IRTSA to achieve 50% upgradation of SSE, CMS, CDMS & other department supervisors for level-7 to level-8.

..... Continued on page - 4

Voice of Rail Engineers – (Previously Published as "THE RAIL SUPERVISOR")

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"SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE"



Editorial**Privatization & restructuring of Railways. On whos' interest?**

As essential part of the nation's infrastructure, Indian Railways owns extensive rail network running length & breadth of the country, carrying crores of passengers and tonnes of freight daily. IR operates schools, hospitals, owns townships, sports facilities and holds shares in various related organizations including construction, consultancy, telecommunication, finance, etc.

Rail Industry globally has seen considerable reforms including privatization in past many years. In India, Government's repeated move to allow private players to run trains on Indian Railway tracks is being resisted continuously not only by staff unions, importantly by public.

International experience on Railway reforms indicates that Government's holding of Railways is helpful even for survival of Railways. Argentina privatized its Railways in 1990s, following severe deterioration most of the Rail routes are brought back under the control of Government. France Railways is 100 percent owned by Government. In Russia all railways are under state control. The state-owned company holds monopoly over the mode of transport. In Spain following the civil war Broad Gauge routes followed by narrow gauge routes were nationalized with regional autonomy, remain under national control.

Long back German railways was private and then nationalized. The DRG was privatised in 1937 by Nazi Germany. Post World War II, occupied Allied administrations split the DR into two state-owned entities. After re-unification of Germany the two were re-merged into the public company in 1994. The company still holds quasi-monopoly in passenger segment.

British Railways was nationalised in 1948 and then privatised from 1994-97, where over 100 companies took over. In 2001, Railtrack (which was established to operate the track and associated infrastructure) went bankrupt and was re-constituted as Network Rail, a quasi-public ownership but effectively controlled by government via its constitution and financing. Here companies reduced investment in order to boost profitability. Ultimately the investment demands became too high and the companies were seeking either to secure government subsidized investment funds or to have the government take over the infrastructure. The government attempted to raise as much capital as possible for investment in track maintenance and renewal by charging for access to companies which in turn raised the cost of travel.

World bank's own evaluation shows that, privatization has not provided workable alternatives to government holding since privatization has not produced sustainable investment that was supposed to be its main benefit. There was no visible proof of overall economic and social benefits, infact some evidence of the opposite. Companies that have taken over the Railways had a clear conflict of interest in their favour. Strong proof that literally hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost, and many more made more precarious. Clear confirmation that passenger services have been ruined.

The conditions and circumstances of the rail industry are not uniform all over the world and even within India. Types of services offered by Railways are not uniform. Rail services of different types and locations face dissimilar levels of competition from other transport modes. The extent of competition to railways from other modes depend on the -

- demographic, geographic, and economic features of the different regions and countries.

In India, Rail Industry is heavily dependent on Government to play its vital role in economic and social development, including employment growth as part of integrated transport policy. Patterns and sources of investment in Railways can be matched to overall goals only by Government's ownership. Government's direct role only can ensure accountability of Indian Railways for honouring its commitments and obligations to the Nation by equipping its work force with tools, technologies and skill sets they need to deliver their contribution for Railway's productivity and safety.

Experience from various countries indicates that the future of Indian Railways requires huge direct public investment, but privatization will make it more difficult by increasing public subsidies. ♦

S&T Workshops, Podanur, S. Rly elects new office bearers

The General body meeting of IRTSA S&T workshop Sub Unit held on 16/05/2024 and elected the following members as office bearers and constituted the Executive committee.

President - Er. VV Gireesh/SSE/EMA1
 Vice President - Er. Ashique/SSE/ESED
 Secretary - Er. R Aranganathan/SSE/TR
 Treasurer - Er. M Sakhivel/SSE/PCO
 Asst Secy - Er. Abhish T/SSE/INS/RS, Er. Dinesh Kumar /SSE/EMA1, Er. Rajeshwary Theeba/SSE/ELAB & Er. Vyshakh P/DMS/SSD
 Org Secy - Er. Rengarajan/SSE/PCO, Er. Saneesh CS/SSE/DRG & Er. Larish Naveen/JE/RS
 Exe members - Er. Robin Paul/CMS/CMT, Er. Jobi Isac M/SSE/RS, Er. T Mani/SSE/MMW, Er. GopaKumar R /SSE/PCO, Er. R Naveen Raj/SSE/RS, Er. K Sethupathy/JE/PC, Er. A Venkathswaran/JE/PC, Er. Junais Kamar T /JE/EMA2, Er. Abinash Bharti/JE/PCO, Er. S Anil Kumar Tatithuri/JE/MS, Er. P Jagadeesh/JE/FS & Er. N Sreelal/JE.
 Advisors - Er. R Sridharan/SSE/FS, Er. J Joseph Manickarayan/SSE/EMA2, Er. C Sasikumar /SSE/PCO & KR Suresh/SSE/PCO

**OA No.1568/2017
 IRTSA Vs UOI
 at CAT Chennai demanding level-7 for
 JE and level-8 for SSE is listed on 02.09.2024**

All Zones / sub-units are requested to deposit membership subscription, Struggle fund, donations, etc. in IRTSA central account Name: IRTSA, Account No: 10083429358, IFSC: SBIN0050540, State Bank of India, RCF, Hussainpur, Kapurthala. (Branch Code-50540) and inform Er. Surjit Singh, Central Treasurer C-301, Silver Palm Apartments, Jalandhar Kunj, Jalandhar-144021 (9714301044)

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**To: Er. A. N. Ganesh Babu, 12/1 Kamaraj Street
 Near Chakravarthy Nagar, Ayanavaram
 Chennai 600023. Mobile No. 8056050118**

IRTSA wishes Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, MP



IRTSA delegates congratulated Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy on his re-election as Member of Parliament once again from North Chennai constituency.

IRTSA thanked Dr.Veeraswamy for his able support and guidance for getting 50% pay level upgradation from level-7 to level-8 for Senior Section Engineers (SSE) and other supervisors in Railways.

IRTSA conveyed thanks on behalf of ICF family for his valid service and solid support against corporatization & privatization of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai.

Intensive discussion with GS AIRF



President & General Secretary IRTSA held intensive discussions with Com.S.G.Mishra GS/AIRF at his chamber in New Delhi. Upgradation of posts of SSE from level-7 to level-8 at ICF for the activities of "Vande Bharat Express" train sets, creation of posts for maintenance of "Vande Bharat Express" trainsets, modification in colour vision test for selection from Group-C to Group-B in PUs, earlier completion of cadre restructure exercise, recruitment of Technical Supervisors in Indian Railways, injustice done to SE(IT) by not including in 50% upgradation to level-8. Situation of employees switched from ministerial cadre to IT cadre through departmental selection is put in anomalous disadvantageous position to their juniors in ministerial cadre was explained to GS AIRF, proper implementation of approval given by DoE for upgradation of 50% of posts in the supervisory cadres from existing level-7 to level-8 and further upgradation of these posts to level-9 after four years of regular service in level-8, clarification sought by CWM, Mech WS/ASR on manually upgraded APAR to PCPO NR, etc were discussed at length with GS AIRF.

IRTSA condoles death of Com.M.Selvaraj, MP

13th May, 2024: Com.M Selvaraj, CPI's MP in 17th Loka Shaba representing Nagapattinam Tamil Nadu passed away in a private hospital at Chennai. Four-time MP opted out of contest in 2024 Loka Shaba general election owing to health concerns.

IRTSA indebted to him for support extended by him to achieve 50% upgradation of SSE, CDMS & CMS from level-7 to level-8. He led Team IRTSA to Railway Minister to represent demands of IRTSA. He has written to Railway Minister and Finance Minister for acceptance of IRTSA's demand.

IRTSA meeting at RWF, Yelahanka

GS IRTSA addressed large gathering of Rail Engineers. Retiring Engineers of RWF & CEC office bearers felicitated. Affiliates of AIRF, NFIR and SC/ST Association joined.

29th May 2024: IRTSA Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) organised a grand meeting at TTC auditorium with large participation of its members. Er.Dayananda Rao, Joint Secretary IRTSA & Member Staff Council RWF coordinated the meeting. Er.Srikanthaswamy Zonal President IRTSA RWF and Er.M.Bapat Zonal Secretary IRTSA welcomed the gathering and gave overview about activities of IRTSA and newly elected GS IRTSA. Er.S.Ramesh, Zonal Secretary NFIR spoke about some of the main demands that need to be addressed immediately.

Retiring Engineers of IRTSA Er.Shiva Shankar SSE/Civil, Er.Manoj.P.Thomas SSE/Mech, Er.Chandra Bose SSE/Mech, Er.Chandrasekaraiah SSE/Elec and Er.Muniyappa JE/Mech were felicitated by IRTSA on the superannuation from Railway service in the month of May 2024. IRTSA CEC office bearers Er.R.Ravi, Er.Sekar, Er.Shantharaman and Er.Jagadeesh Kumar were felicitated by RWF IRTSA.



Important issues pertaining to RWF including non-implementation of 50% upgradation of supervisors from level-7 to level-8 in RWF for want of matching surrender, inclusion of SSE in group incentive system instead of flat 15% incentive bonus, inclusion of civil engineering, canteen and wheel set handling/dispatch staff in group incentive system, increase in strength of Kendra Vidyalaya RWF since many of wards of employees could not get the admission in class-1 and issues on counting of service paid from contingencies were highlighted by speakers.



In his speech K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA briefed about the achievements of IRTSA right from its inception 1965. He briefed about one of the major achievements of IRTSA in 2022, upgradation of 50% SSE, CMS & CDMS from level-7 to level-8 and non-functional financial upgradation to level-9 after completing four years of service in level-8. GS IRTSA briefed about laborious work done by core team of IRTSA led by M.Shanmugam Central President IRTSA in pursuing the Railway board's proposal sent to Finance Ministry. Meeting with Finance Minister, Railway Minister, Minister of state for Finance, Minister of state for Railways, Union Finance Secretary,

..... Continued on page-4

IRTSA meeting at RWF ... Continued from page-3

Special Secretary DoE, Chairman & Members Railways Board and many officials in Finance Ministry and Railways Board several times were briefed by him. He said IRTSA has taken the help of more than sixty members of Parliament to get the proposal approved.

GS IRTSA further said that Team IRTSA continuously met General Secretaries of AIRF and NFIR on this, getting updates and giving updates to them. He said without their whole hearted efforts 50% upgradation might not have been possible.

Some of other major achievements of IRTSA including uniform training period, inclusion of training period for the purpose of pensionary benefits, first class pass for JE, CMA & DMS, revision of rates of incentive bonus, grant of incentive bonus for SSEs at the rate of 15% of basic pay, improving the percentage of higher grade posts to 67%, introduction of ACP/MACPS, etc were briefed by GS IRTSA.

GS IRTSA called on RWF engineers to get ready for facing the challenges ahead. Grant of level-7 for all JEs & level-8 for all SSEs, grant of Group-B status for SSE, CMS & CDMS, formation of 8th Pay Commission, delay in cadre restructure which is due on November 2023, inclusion of training period for the purpose of MACPS, implementation of MACPS w.e.f. 01.01.2006, indiscriminate outsourcing of all Railway activities which is one of the major reason for increasing work pressure of JEs & SSEs, etc were briefed by him.

GS IRTSA requested all RWF members to submit their annual membership subscription and struggle fund as decided by CGB IRTSA. He also asked CEC members of IRTSA to attend the CEC meeting to be held at Chandigarh on 21st June 2024.

Er.K.T.Harish Zonal Treasurer proposed vote of thanks. The meeting ended with refreshment. ♦

IRTSA CEC Meeting continued from page- 1

He said only a group of IRTSA members strongly contributed for the pursual activities at New Delhi visiting Railway Board and Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for highlighting the issue and submission of memorandum. He said SSE should be given replacement pay level-9 equivalent to 3rd CPC pay scale of 840-1040 & 840-1200 and to achieve the target every one should contribute. He suggested for action program at New Delhi including mass dharna, demonstration, procession, seminar, etc.



In his emotional address Er.Harchandan Singh said that IRTSA was founded by young apprentice mechanics of Lucknow and Chennai and soon after it spreads its wings all over Indian Railways. He said it has been his mission that, if “something has to be done, should be done” and started IRTSA when he was 3rd year apprentice mechanic. He recalled his earlier system of working where he may require to work upto 3 AM and toured around Indian Railways to establish IRTSA all over Indian Railways. There are many achievements made by IRTSA for the category of Technical Supervisors over 58 years he said. He recalled those days of massive stagnation among Technical Supervisors with three grades in Chageman and three grades in foreman. Hard efforts made by IRTSA enabled to clear the stagnation to some extent. He said in Kancharapara workshop one of the IRTSA office bearer used to wear his name badge as A.K.Rao (Chageman for 22 years). Since then IRTSA's efforts has brought relief to the category. 50% upgradation implemented w.e.f.01.11.2022 has brought some relief to the category which needs to be improved further he said. He said classification of SSE as Group-B one of the major demands of IRTSA could not be achieved till date. He appealed to all the CEC members to revive IRTSA in weaker areas and to further expand its activities. He thanked all the members for extending their full support during his long tenure of General Secretary and wished every one all the best. Mrs.Jagjit Harchandan Singh and daughter of Er.Harchandan Singh thanked all IRTSA members wished IRTSA and its members all the best.

Er.K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA in his report briefed about various meetings held with CRB & CEO, Member (Finance), Member (T&RS), Member (Infrastructure), DG (RHS), DG(HR), AM(Staff), AM (HR), AM(Mech), AM (PU) and other officers in Railway Board in persuasion of some of the main demands of IRTSA. GS said that, Central President & General Secretary IRTSA along with CEC office bearers meet Com. Shiv Gopal Mishra, General Secretary, AIRF, Dr. M.Raghavaiah General Secretary, NFIR at regular intervals to pursue the demands. General Secretary also briefed about meeting held with various members of parliament including Chairman Parliamentary Committee. President & General Secretary met Union Finance Secretary, Additional Secretary (DoE) and other officials in Ministry of Finance.

..... Continued on page - 5

Sad & sudden demise of Shri.R.Ravi

Shri. R.Ravi,

Caring friend,
dependable
companion, great
organiser, team
performer, sensible
leader, loyal cadre,
person of integrity,
travel enthusiastic and
so many

Master in welding,
responsible &
accountable at work,
robotic welding exceled
on your hand, your
charm reduced
pressure of colleagues

and so many

Caring son, loving husband, friendly father, trustworthy for relatives and so many

No IRTSA function is complete without you, multifaceted, fill the gap where ever required, at Chennai or out station you were available & committed for the task and so many

Sports lover, you are our cricket team captain, partner in badminton court you cover more than 2/3rd of the court, primarily responsible for maintaining badminton court, and so many

All in one, leaving memories behind, you left too early.

IRTSA CEC Meeting continued from page - 4

General Secretary's report indicated about participation of Central President & General Secretary in various programmes organised by other unions, including participation in Mass Dharana "Against privatization and scrapping of NPS & extending OPS to all employees", "Oppose the Privatization of production of Vande Bharat trains which have been designed and are being built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai", "Pensioners Welfare Association's" meetings, etc.

In his report General Secretary appreciated fine efforts made by various zones and sub units for organising meetings in their respective areas during the visit of General Secretary. He said RCF & RWF two production units organised largely attended meeting in their zones. General Secretary address at Alambagh Workshop Northern was attended by Rail Engineers of Alambagh work shop, Charbagh work shop, RDSO engineers, CMT and open line Engineers. General Secretary address through video in the seminar organised by Carriage & Wagon Workshop Liluah Eastern Railway and meeting at South Central Railways sub units Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati and Coaching Depot, Tirupati conducted meetings at their respective places were briefed in the report.

General Secretary briefed about 15 memorandums submitted by IRTSA on various important current issues. He informed that IRTSA's memorandum for Formation of 8th Central Pay Commission was forwarded to Department of Expenditure by DoPT through O.M dated 20.03.2024. Report mentioned about inordinate delay in cadre restructure exercise. Cases of promotions in the pre-revised pay structure between 01.01.2006 and the date of notification of RS (RP) Rules 2008 and the subsequent merger of the pre-revised pay scales of the promotional and the feeder posts in a common Grade -fixation of pay and Grant of notional annual increment (as due on 1st July/1st January) for the pensionary benefits to those employees who have retired/retiring on 30th of June/31st December before drawing the same, are two major demands already reached its finality but orders issued so far, said GS.

General Secretary also briefed about OA 1568 / 2017, IRTSA Vs UOI, at CAT Chennai, pleading pay level-7 for JE and pay level-8 for SSE.

General Secretary appealed to CEC members and all other members to immediately contribute membership subscription and struggle fund.

Er. Surjit Singh, Central Treasurer presented financial statement consisting of receipt and expenditure. He appealed all zones and sub units to immediately contribute membership subscription and struggle fund.

Zonal Secretaries' report and CEC office bearers' speech

Er.K.Gobinath Zonal Secretary ICF in his detailed report explained various meetings and submission of memorandums to Parliamentary Standing Committee, CRB, Member (T&RS), Member (Infrastructure), AM (HR), AM (ME) and AM(PU) during their visit to Chennai. He also explained about meeting with GS NFIR. Zonal Secretary report also explained meeting with GM, PCME, PCPO and other officers for representing ICF zone's issue. He explained various zonal activities including celebration of 58th Foundation Day, Pongal Celebrations, Farewell to GM ICF on his superannuation and cricket tournament organised among Technical Supervisors of ICF and Southern Railway sub units at Chennai.

He said ICF has already reached 600 annual membership and contributed Rs. 3 lakh in the year 2023.

Er.Jagtar Singh, Zonal Secretary RCF, expressed his happiness for the participation of Er.Harchandan Singh in the best spirit and health. He mentioned about successful completion of 58th CGB and participation of large contingents from RCF. He explained about meeting organised at RCF during the visit of K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA on 27th March with large participation of members. Memorandum was submitted to GM RCF on current demands at RCF during the visit of GS IRTSA. He briefed about memorandum submitted to Member (T&RS), DG (HR), DG (Safety) and AM (PU) during their visit to RCF. He briefed about participation by RCF members in various agitations and representation to RCF administration on various zonal issues.

Er.Akilesh Viswakarma Zonal Secretary NR explained about long meeting held at Alambagh work shop on 29th March during the visit of General Secretary IRTSA. The meeting was attended by engineers from Alambagh workshop, Charbagh workshop, RDSO, CMT organization and Engineering department from Northern Railway. In his brief telephonic address from New Delhi Com. S.G.Mishra General Secretary AIRF wished IRTSA meeting all success. In his guest address Sri.Vivek Khare CWM Alambagh work shop appreciated contribution by IRTSA in maintaining industrial relation in the workshop. He highlighted various current issues including incentive & PCO allowance for SSEs on the basic pay at level-8 among some of them. He said various issues of Northern Railways are settled locally on proper representation. He briefed about provision of A/Cs for incharge SSE rooms and renovation of SSE rooms and offices.

Er.Subratadas of Eastern Railway briefed about seminar conducted by IRTSA on topic "Energy Conservation and Sustainable Development" which was graced by Sri.Yatish Kumar, CWM Liluah. Er. K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA addressed the seminar through recorded video. He promised to activate Eastern Railway sub units to contribute in all events of IRTSA.

Er. M.A.Thousif Khan, Organising Secretary CEC expressed his thanks on behalf of South Central Railway Zone for successful completion of 58th All India Annual Conference and Central General Body Meeting of IRTSA hosted by IRTSA/SCR. He conveyed his thanks for Central President IRTSA for promotion orders issued for four JEs on his representation. He said equal rank supervisors cannot control equal rank supervisors and hence exclusive designation should be given to SSEs in level-8 and level-9.

Er.M.Bapat Zonal Secretary, RWF said that, It is with immense joy and pride that we gather here today for the first time under the esteemed leadership of our new General Secretary, Sri K. V. Ramesh. On behalf of myself and the entire RWF team, he expressed sincere belief that under his capable leadership, the IRTSA flag will soar to unprecedented heights. He said RWF Engineers are expressing deep concern regarding the non-implementation of 50% upgradation. He said IRTSA/RWF unit is steadfast in its commitment to securing justice for all engineers and submitted memorandums to the GM, PCPO, and PCME, and have discussed these issues extensively. However, due to certain administrative reasons, some problems remain unresolved, leading to dissatisfaction among our members.

..... Continued on page - 6

IRTSA CEC Meeting continued from page - 5



Er.Bedi Secretary, Amristar workshop Northern Railway said that due to non-clarification in upgrading grades given in previous years APARs, financial upgradation under MACPS for 24 employees are pending. He also suggested for issue of IRTSA pocket diary or pouch uniformly throughout Indian Railways. He also asked for uniform implementation of installation of air conditioners in SSEs rooms and offices.



Er.Ravi Pandey Secretary, Charbagh workshop Northern Railway thanked IRTSA central leadership for their tireless efforts towards achieving goal and briefed about frequent interactions being held with GS AIRF. Er.Gopal Marik of Eastern Railway promised that he along with other office bearers will strengthen IRTSA in Eastern regime.

CEC IRTSA observed two minutes silence in respect of Er.R.Ravi Joint Secretary IRTSA passed away on 31st May 2024. CEC IRTSA expressed its deep condolences to his family.

Er.Darshan Lal once again briefed sacrifices made by Er.Harchandan Singh for the last 57 years since inception of IRTSA and many achievements made for betterment of the category. On behalf of entire IRTSA he wished Er.Harchandan Singh & his family a healthy life. Central President & General Secretary honoured Sh M. K. Bhatnagar and Sh Harminder Singh for organising the CEC meeting wonderfully. The meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by General secretary IRTSA.

Long Live IRTSA. Jai Hind.

K.V. RAMESH General Secretary/IRTSA

RESOLUTIONS ON THE LINE OF ACTION & ORGANISATION MATTERS ADOPTED IN THE CEC MEETING OF IRTSA

HELD ON 21.06.2024 AT KISAN BHAVAN, CHANDIGARH

1) Resolution on line of action: CEC IRTSA, resolved to authorise Chairman, President and the General Secretary IRTSA to continue to pursue all the demands and to decide on the Line of Action as required especially in view of the developments in respect of the above said issues and other main demands of IRTSA.

2) Membership drive: CEC advised all Units & Sub-Units of IRTSA to undertake intensive drive for Membership of IRTSA @ Rs.400 PA and complete the same within 2 months and send the Central Quota (@ 50% thereof to Central Treasurer and Unit Quota @20% thereof to the Unit Treasurer early, as per Constitution.

CEC appealed to all Rail Engineers to enroll as active Members of IRTSA for their welfare and upliftment. CEC asked all Units and Subunits of IRTSA to approach every Rail Engineer / Technical Supervisor in their area for active participation in the activities of IRTSA.

Central quota may be sent Er.Surjit Singh, Central Treasurer C-301, Silverpalm Apartments, Jalandhar Kunj, Jalandhar-144021 (9714301044). Account name IRTSA at SBI Kapurthala branch A/C No. 10083429358, IFSC Code: SBIN0004913

3) Struggle-Cum-Legal Fund: There is urgent need to effectively pursue some of the vital demands with the Government, Railway Board, all this will require funds & as such the CEC appealed to all Technical Supervisors to contribute at least Rs.500/- to the struggle fund & to send the same at the earliest to the Central Treasurer along with Central Quota.

CEC authorized the President and the General Secretary IRTSA to consider & decide the amount as per requirement and appeal for the same accordingly.

4) 59TH Conference & CGB meeting of IRTSA: CGB decided to hold 59th Annual Conference & Central General Body Meeting of IRTSA at RCF Kapurthala in the month December 2024. Exact date will be decided by host zone in consultation with General Secretary and President.

5) Continuance of CEC office bearers for the year 2025: All CEC office bearers elected in 58th All India Annual Conference and Central General Body Meeting held on 7th November 2023 at Secunderabad will continue for the year 2025. Changes in the list of office bearers (if required) will be put up for the approval of CGB to be held at RCF. ♦



Railway Board & Government orders

RB File No. PC-VII/2024/HRMS/10, dated 24.06.2024

Sub: Opening of window period for review and submission of representation in respect of APARs finalised through HRMS for the year 2022-2023.

A demand has been raised by the staff federations to open the window period for review and submission of representation in respect of APARs finalised through HRMS. 2. The demand was examined in consultation with the concerned directorates in detail taking into account of all related factors such as number of APARs pending at each levels selection already finalised etc. After due deliberation, it has been decided by the Competent Authority to open the window period for review and submission of representation in respect of APARs finalised through HRMS for the year 2022-2023 for a period upto 15th July,2024.

3. All the field units are requested to take necessary action to finalise the pending APARs at review stage and the representation thereof pending if any. It may be noted that the window being opened as a one-time dispensation and no further request for opening the window will be entertained. This will not be considered for reopening finalised selections. 4. This issues in consultation with Establishment Directorate and approval of Competent Authority.

DoPT O.M. No. 28/3/2024-P&PW (B) Gratuity 9559

Subject: Enhancement of maximum limit of Gratuity to Central Government employees on reaching the dearness allowance rates 50% - Implementation of recommendation of the 7th CPC. -reg

Understand is director to refer to this department OM No38/37/2016-P&PW A (i) data 04.08.2016 regarding revision of provisions regulating pension/gratuity/commutation of pension/family pension/disability pension ex-gratia lump-sum compensation etc in implementation of the government's decision on the recommendations of seventh central pay commission,

2. Department of Expenditure wide their OM No. 1/1/2024-E(II)B dated 12.03.2024 has received instructions regarding enhancement of dearness allowance rates from 46% to 50% of the basic pay with effect from first January 2024.

3. Accordingly, as per government's decisions in implementation of the recommendations of the 7th CPC, the maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity under the central civil services (pension) rules 2021 or the central services (Payment of Gratuity under National pension system) rule 2021 would be increased by 25% i.e from Rs.20.00 lakh to Rs.25.00 lakh with effect from First January 2024.

4. All the Ministries/departments are requested to bring the contents of this order to the notice of controller of accounts/pay and accounts officers and attached or subordinate offices under them.

5. This issues in consultation with Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure wide ID note No:I(8)/EV/2024 dated 27.05.2024.

6. In so far as the person serving in the Indian Audit and accounts department are concerned, this order is issued in consultation with Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as mandatory under article 148(5) of the Constitution of India.

7. Formal amendment to the CCS (pension) Rules, 2021 and the CCS (Payment and Gratuity under NPS) Rules, 2021 will be notified separately.

RB order No.D-43/11/2017-F(E)III (RBE No. 58/2024.) dated 28.06.2024

Subject:- Clarification regarding admissibility of interest over and above the threshold limit of Rupees Five lakhs deducted towards SRPF.

In terms of the State Railway Provident Fund Rules contained in Chapter 9 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code (IREC) Vol. I (1985-Edition), the amount of subscription in respect of a subscriber shall be 8 1/3% i.e. one-twelfth of the subscriber's emoluments for that month.

2. Subsequently, Rules 905, 908, 909, and 910 of the Rules ibid have been amended vide Advance Correction Slip (ACS) No.144. As per the said amendment, the sum of the monthly subscription by a subscriber under SRPF during a financial year together with the amount of arrear subscriptions deposited in that financial year shall not exceed the threshold limit (at present Five Lakh) referred in sub clause (i) of the clause (c) of the Explanation below sub rule (2) of rule 9D of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 [as inserted vide Notification No. G.S.R. 604 (E) dated 31.08.2021 of Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue (Central Board of Direct Taxes)].

3. Further, instructions/clarifications were issued vide Board's letter No. D- 43/11/2017-F(E)III dated 16.01.2023 to regulate the cases where the deductions of subscription under SRPF had already crossed or was likely to cross the threshold limit of Rs. 5 Lakh for the financial year 2022-23.

4. With regard to payment of interest on subscription exceeding ceiling of Rs. 5 lakh for financial year 2022-23 deducted towards GPF, the matter was reviewed by Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare (DoP&PW) in consultation with Ministry of Finance and it has been decided that where the amount of total subscription towards GPF in the year 2022-23 has exceeded Rs. 5 lakh, the interest on the excess subscription may be paid, subject to applicable income tax.

5. The aforesaid clarification contained in para 4 above shall also apply on Railways for payment of interest on excess subscription deducted towards SRPF for the financial year 2022-23 subject to applicable income tax.

RB File No. PC-VII/2024/I/7/5/5, dated 04.06.2024

Sub: – Revised Rates of various allowances upon Dearness Allowance being raised by 50%
Ref: Board's letter bearing RBE No. 26/2024 dated 15.03.2024

Vide Board's letter under reference, the rates of Dearness Allowance were raised to 50%. Consequently, multiple references have been received from the Staff Federations regarding revision in the rates of various allowances whose rates were slated to be revised upon DA reaching 50%.

2. In view of the same, a list of such allowances whose rates shall be revised with DA reaching 50%, along with the revised rates is enclosed at Annexure-I.

3. The revised rates of these allowances shall be applicable with effect from 1st January, 2024.

4. Clarifications, in any, will be handled by the concerned Dtes handling with such allowances.

5. This issues with the concurrence of the concerned Directorates of Railway Board.

.... Continued on page-8

Railway Board orders Continued from page - 7

Annexure-1

REVISION IN RATES OF ALLOWANCES CONSEQUENT TO DA REACHING 50%

Allowance	Rate when DA reaches 50% (Rs. Per month)		
1) Special Train Controllers' Allowance	Rs. 6250		
2) Risk and Hardship Allowance for Track Maintainers (R3H2)	Pay Level	Allowances	
	L-9 & above	Rs.4250	
	L-8 & below	Rs.3375	
3) Breakdown Allowance	Category	Pay Level	Amount/month
	Helper Gr.II Helper Gr.I/ other staff Gr. D Staff	L-1	Rs.338
	Tech Gr. III	L-2	Rs.506
	Tech Gr.II	L-4	Rs.675
	Techn Gr.I	L-5	
	Supervisory (Erstwhile Mistry)	L-5	
	Sr. Tech/JE and staff in higher grades	L-6 & above	Rs.844
4) National Holiday Allowance	Level in Pay Matrix	Rate of allowance	
	1&2	Rs.480	
	3 to 5	Rs.596	
	6 to 8 (limited to Non-Gaz. staff)	Rs.788	
5) Special LC Gate Allowance to Track Maintainer posted as Gatemen (R3H3)	Pay Level	Allowances	
	L-9 & above	Rs.1500	
	L-8 & below	Rs.1250	
6) Health and Malaria Allowance (R3H3)	Pay Level	Allowances	
	L-9 & above	Rs.1500	
	L-8 & below	Rs.1250	
7) Nursing Allowance	Rs. 9000		
8) Dress Allowance	Category	Per year	
	Officers of RPF RPSF	Rs.25000	
	PBOR of RPF, Stn. Masters	Rs.12500	
	Other staff	Rs.6250	
	Nurses	2250 pm	
9) Hospital Patient Care Allowance & Patient Care Allowance (R1H3)	Pay Level	Allowances	
	L-9 & above	Rs.6625	
	L-8 & below	Rs.5125	
10) House Rent Allowance	City Classification	As % of Basic Pay	
	X	30%	
	Y	20%	
	Z	10%	

11) Post Graduate Allowance	Category	PG Allowance (per month)	
	Railway Doctors having PG qualification	Rs.2813	
	General duty doctors not possessing PG Qualification or unrecognized PG Qualification	Rs.1688	
12) Railway Accounts Examination Allowance	Category	Rates (Rs. p.m.)	
	Clerks Gr. II (Accounts Clerk)/ Typist on passing App-II Exam		
	Sr. Accounts Assistant/ Accounts Assistant Stock Verifier/ Typist/ Stenographer on passing App-III 24 Exam	1 st year	Rs. 450
		2 nd year	Rs. 788
13) Annual Allowance	Category	PG Allowance (per month)	
	Railway Doctors having PG qualification	Rs.2813	
	General duty doctors not possessing PG Qualification or unrecognized PG Qualification	Rs.1688	
14) Project Allowance	Pay Level	Allowances	
	L-9 & above	Rs.4250	
	L-8 & below	Rs.3375	
15) Compensatory (Construction /Survey) Allowance	Pay Level	Allowances	
	L-9 & above	Rs.4250	
	L-8 & below	Rs.3375	
16) Children Education Allowance*	CEA = Rs. 2813 Hostel Subsidy = Rs. 8438		
17) Special allowance for childcare for women with disabilities	Rs. 3750		

RB letter No. E(GP)2019/2/25, dated 14.06.2024

Sub.: Preparation of integrated seniority lists of Group 'C' cadres for promotions to Group 'B' posts on Indian Railways.

Ref.: Board's letter of even number dated 01.01.2024. References have been received from a few Zonal Railways seeking clarifications on preparation of integrated seniority lists for certain Group-C **Continued on page - 9**

Railway Board orders Continued from page - 8

cadres whose pay structures have since been upgraded in terms of Board's letter no. PC-VII/2019/RSRP/3 dt. 17.11.2022 (RBE No.155/2022).

2. The matter has been examined in consultation with Pay Commission and Establishment Directorates of Board's office. It is hereby clarified that the integrated seniority list of Group 'C' employees eligible for Group 'B' Selections (70%) should be prepared based on Level-7 and Level-6 in terms of instructions contained in Board's letter No. E(GP)2019/2/25 dt. 27.12.2019 and no change is warranted therein.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, O.M. No. I-17015/2(2)/2024/H.III/20, dated 12.06.2024

Subject: – Rate of Interest on House Building Advance (HBA) for Central Government Employees for FY 2024-25.

In pursuance to revision of interest rate by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance vide OM No 9(2)-B(PD)/2024 dated 10.06.2024, the rate of interest applicable on House Building Advance sanctioned to Central Government Employees for Financial Year 2024-25 (i.e. 1% April, 2024 to 31 Mar, 2025) will be 7.44% till further orders.

RB Letter No.E(NG)II/2013/RC-1/Gen/1, dated 03.06.2024

Sub: Appointment on compassionate grounds of ward/spouse of medically de-categorized staff on Railways.

The under signed is directed to refer to PNM/NFIR item No 06/2017 and AIRF PNM item No.16/2013 regarding appointment on compassionate grounds ward/spouse of medically de-categorized staff on Railways and to state that the issue raised therein by both Federations have been considered by Chairman, Railway Board & Chief Executive Officer and it has been decided that the present policy as contained Board's letter No.E(NG)II/95/RC-1/94 dated 14.06.2006 (RBE No.78/2006) will continue.

RB letter No. E(NG)I/2021/TR/16, dated 03.05.2024

Sub: Inter-Railway Request Transfer- Hardships being faced by the staff-Reg.

Ref: i) Board's letter No. E(NG)I/2020/TR/16 dated 01.10.2020 (RBE No. 85/2020).

ii) Board's letter No. E(NG)I/2023/TR/31 dated 01.12.2023 (RBE No. 132/2023).

iii) Board's letter No. E(NG)I/2023/TR/30 dated 26.12.2023 (RBE No. 148/2023).

In terms of Board's letter No. E(NG)I/2020/TR/16 dated 01.10.2020 (RBE No. 85/2020) instructions have been issued that NOC issued in the matters of own-request transfer by the receiving Railway should be valid for a period of six months, and if own-request transfer of the employees concerned are not effected within this period, the NOC in such cases should be mandatorily revalidated. The employees should be relieved on transfer only after re-confirming the validity of the NOC. Pursuant to a demand raised in the DC-JCM, the Ministry of Railways have decided that validity of NOC for transfer may be extended from 6 months to 1 year which should be mandatorily re-validated at the end of its validity.

2. Besides above, it is reiterated that all transfers may be conducted in time bound manner as advised vide Board's letter dated 01.12.2023 and 26.12.2023 under reference. Adherence to these instructions stipulating time-bound release of staff, the requirement of validity of NOC would not be required.

RB letter No. F(E)I/2024/AL-28/34, RBE No. 51/2024 dated 05.06.2024

Sub: Revised Rates of various Allowances upon Dearness Allowance being raised to 50%.

Ref: Board's letter No. PC-VII/2016/117/2/I(RBE No. 26/2024) dated 15.03.2024.

Vide Board 's letter referred above, the rate of Dearness Allowance was raised to 50%. Consequently, multiple references have been received regarding revision in the rates of various allowances whose rates were slated to be revised upon DA reaching 50%.

2. In view of the same, a list of such allowances whose rates shall be revised with DA reaching 50%, along with the revised rates is enclosed as Annexure-I.

3.The revised rates of these allowances shall be applicable with effect from 1st January, 2024.

Annexure-I

REVISED RATES OF VARIOUS ALLOWANCES UPON DEARNESS ALLOWANCE BEING RAISED TO 50%

(i) **Conveyance Allowance:** In partial modification to Board's letter No. F(E)I/2017/AL-4/3, dated 10.08.2017 (RBE No. 89/2017) & dated 11.01.2024 (RBE No. 04/2024), the revised rates will be as following:-

Average Monthly Travel on Official Duty	For Journey by Own Motor Car		For Journeys by other Modes of Conveyance	
	Existing rates	Revised rates	Existing Rates	Revised Rates
In Rs				
201-300 km	1680	2100	556	695
301-450 km	2520	3150	720	900
451-600 km	3105	3881	960	1200
601-800 km	3646	4558	1126	1408
>800 km	4500	5625	1276	1595

(ii) **Conveyance Allowance to Railway Medical Officers:** In partial modification to Board's letter No F(E)I/2020/AL-7/1, dated 10.01.2022 (RBE No. 03/2022), the revised rates will be as following:-

Mode of Conveyance	Maximum Rates (in Rs. p.m.)		Minimum Rates (in Rs. p.m.)	
	Existing rates	Revised rates	Existing rates	Revised rates
(i) For those who maintain their own Motor Car	7150	8938	350	438
(ii) For those who maintain Scooter/ Motor Cycle	2350	2938	175	219
(iii) For those who do not maintain either Car or Motor Cycle/ Scooter	1950	2438	130	163

(iii) **Daily Allowance:** In partial modification to Board's letter No. F(E)I/2017/AL-28/40, dated 08.08.2017 (RBE No. 84/2017), the revised rates will be as following:-

7th CPC Level	Entitlement (in Rs.)	
	Existing rates	Revised rates
14 and above	1200	1500
12 and 13	1000	1250
9 to 11	900	1125
6 to 8	800	1000
5 and below	500	625

..... Continued on page - 10

Railway Board orders Continued from page - 9

(iv) **Special Compensatory Allowances (Subsumed in Tough Location Allowance):** In partial modification to Board's letter No.F(E)/2017/AL-4/5, dated 11.08.2017 (RBE No. 91/2017), the revised rates will be as following:

Category	Cell Name	Pay Level	Existing Rate/month	Revised Rate/month
(I) Special Compensatory (Remote Locality) Allowance:				
(i) Special Compensatory (Remote Locality) Allowance places covered under Part-A & B (Annexure I & II)				
Tough Location Allowance-I	R3H1	L-9 & above	Rs.5300	Rs.6625
		L-8 & below	Rs.4100	Rs.5125
(ii) Special Compensatory (Remote Locality) Allowance places covered under part -C (Annexure III)				
Tough Location Allowance-II	R3H2	L-9 & above	Rs.3400	Rs.4250
		L-8 & below	Rs.2700	Rs.3375
(iii) Special Compensatory (Remote Locality) Allowance places covered under part -D (Annexure IV)				
Tough Location Allowance-III	R3H3	L-9 & above	Rs.1200	Rs.1500
		L-8 & below	Rs.1000	Rs.1250
(II) Bad Climate Allowance				
Tough Location Allowance-III	R3H3	L-9 & above	Rs.1200	Rs.1500
		L-8 & below	Rs.1000	Rs.1250
(III) Tribal Area Allowance				
Tough Location Allowance-III	R3H3	L-9 & above	Rs.1200	Rs.1500
		L-8 & below	Rs.1000	Rs.1250
(IV) Sunderban Allowance				
Tough Location Allowance-III	R3H3	L-9 & above	Rs.1200	Rs.1500
		L-8 & below	Rs.1000	Rs.1250

(v) **Mileage Allowance for journeys by road:** In partial modification to Board 's letter No. F(E)/2017/AL-28/41 , dated 24.08.2017 (RBE No. 103/2017), the revised rates of Mileage Allowance at places where no specific rates have been prescribed either by the Directorate of Transport of the concerned State or of the neighboring States, will be as following:-

	Existing rates	Revised rates
For journeys performed in own car/ taxi	Rs 24/- per Km	Rs 30/- per km
For journeys performed by auto-rickshaw, own scooter, etc	Rs 12/- per Km	Rs 15/- per km

(vi) **Transportation of Personal effects on Transfer/Retirement:** In partial modification to Board 's letter No. F(E)/2017/AL-28/4 I , dated 24.08.2017 (RBE No. 103/2017), the revised rates will be as following:-

Level	Rate for transport by road	
	Existing rates	Revised rates
6 and above	Rs. 50/- per Km	Rs. 63/- per Km
5	Rs. 25/- per Km	Rs. 31/- per Km
4 and below	Rs. 15/- per Km	Rs. 19/- per Km

IRTSA CEC MEETING

General Secretary's Report, Resolution on main demands & organizational resolutions passed in the CEC meeting held on 21st June 2024 are placed in web site www.irtsa.net

New Office bearers of IRTSA Amristar Workshop N.Rly

Post	Name	Official Desg
Branch President	Er. Sukhwinder Kumar	SSE Welding
Working President	Er. J.M. Saxena	SSE Wagon
Sr. Vice President	Er. Ajit Singh	SSE MW
	Er. K. Vasi	SSE TR
Vice President	Er. Surinder Kumar	SSE Machine Shop
	Er. Rupinder Singh	CMS Lab
	Er. Yogesh Kumar	SSE DSL
Branch Secretary	Er. B.S. Bedi	SSE Sub-Assly II
Treasurer	Er. Gurmeet Singh	SSE Planning
Sr. Joint Secretary	Er. A.S. Verma	SSE Machine
Jt. Secy	Er. Ratnesh Khanna	CDMS
Assistant Secretary	Er. Ompal Verma	CRF
	Er. Ramesh Kumar	SSE MW
Org. Secretary	Er. Parveen Yadav	SSE Prog.
	Er. Hitender Guria	SSE Foundry
	Er. Harsajanmeet Singh	JE Sub Assly. II
	Er. Prabhjot Singh	SSE Welding
	Er. Satinderpal Singh	SSE Drg.

For the kind attention of CEC office bearers

- All the CEC communications are being done through WhatsApp group "CEC IRTSA" as well as through other groups.
- A separate record will be maintained for CEC IRTSA office bearers for recording their presence in the meetings, agitations, seminars, etc organised by CEC IRTSA.
- All the CEC office bearers are requested to remit their annual membership subscription, struggle fund and subscription for "Voice of Rail Engineers" immediately and inform respective Zonal Treasurers and Central Treasurer.
- All are requested to mobilize 100% annual membership subscription from their zones & sub units.

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