



## OFFICIAL ORGAN OF WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION

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### SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE COM. UMRAOMAL PUROHIT & OBSERVANCE OF 'MAZDOOR EKTA DIWAS'

WREU observed 'Mazdoor Ekta Diwas' on the occasion of Second Death Anniversary of our beloved leader, Late Com. Umraomal Purohit, Ex. President, WREU/AIRF/ITF, Ex. General Secretary & Chief Advisor/HMS & Ex Secretary, NC-JCM (Staff Side) on 27th February 2016. WREU organized a Seminar on "Proposed Changes in Labour Laws and its Impact on Trade Unions" in J. A. Sabhagruh, Grant Road, Mumbai, in which representatives of all HMS affiliates in Mumbai participated. Comrades from HMS affiliated unions such as Transport & Dock Workers Union, Swarajya Kamgar Sena (Axis Bank) also participated in Seminar. Com. J. R. Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU, was in chair. Labour leaders, viz. Comrades Shankar Rao Salvi, Sanjay Vadhavkar and Niwrtuti Dhumal (HMS State Council), S. P. Mishra (NRMU), Com. Ajay Kumar Singh (WRMS), Vikas Gupte, Shaikh Nasir, P. B. Bhargava, and P. Rajan (WREU) were



Com. Bhosale, GS/WREU, addressing the Seminar

on dais. At the outset, all the leaders paid floral tribute to Com. Purohit and observed two minutes silence in memory of Late Com. Purohit ji. All the speakers recalled the yeomen services rendered by Late Com. Umraomal Purohit in uplifting the labour class and particularly about his efforts to evolve unity amongst the Labour movement in India. Com. J. R. Bhosale recalled his close association and rich experiences with Late Com. Purohit during his life time. He mentioned that recently he had been at Pathakheda Coal Mines and it was very heartening to know that Koyla Shramik Sabha functioning in the Coal Mines

had named their Hall as 'Umraomal Purohit Memorial Hall'.

**Youth Wing of Mumbai** assisted by activists from BCT Division, CCG-GLO, CCG-Accounts, Parel and Mahalakshmi Workshops organized a Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament in memory of Late Com. Umraomal Purohit with the sponsorship from Maniben Kara Foundation at Mahalaxmi Sports Complex from 23-26 February, 2016. 30 teams from different departments participated in the tournament. A Women team coordinated by Miss. Geeta Pandoria also participated. On 23rd February, the tournament was inaugurated in presence of Com. R. P. Gupta, P. B. Bhargava, Vikas Gupte and S/Shri Dipankar Dee, CWM-MX and Vivek Dixit, Sr. DEE & Sports Secretary, BCT Division in presence of large number of WREU activists, Office Bearers and the Railwaymen. Prior to start of the opening ceremony, two minutes silence was observed to pay tribute to Late Com. Umraomal Purohit.

Semi-final and final matches were played on 26th February. Before start of the match, Com. Bhosale and Shri Vijay Purohit, son of Late Com. Purohitji, garlanded the portrait of Late Com. Umraomalji. Final match was played between teams of DRM-BCT and Train Lighting Parel and the team of DRM-BCT emerged victorious. The trophies/ prizes were distributed by Com. J. R. Bhosale, Shri Shailendra Kumar, DRM-BCT, Shri Kalimmuthu, Dy.CME(M&P), Shri Rajesh Choudhary, Sr.DPO/BCT and Shri Atul Mishra, SPO(W)/PL, in presence of HQ Office Bearers and Divisional leaders. Attractive Trophies and cash awards were given to Winner, Runner-up, Man-of-the-Match, Man-of-the-Series, Best Batsmen, Best Bowler and Best Fielder of the Tournament. Medals were also presented to all the members of the winner and runner-up teams and women team by the hands of the distinguished guests. Com. P. Rajan co-ordinated Opening and Prize giving ceremony programmes very nicely and efficiently.

Comrades of Youth Wing, viz. Vivek Kamble, Chandrahas Manchekar, Santosh Rokde, Vivek

Dhanavade, Rakesh Singh, Bhupendra Pandey, Uday Khot, Nitin Adhikari, Mahendra Rathod took initiative to organize this tournament under the guidance of Prashant Kanade, P. B. Bhargava, Shaikh Nasir, Milind Thakur, Dilip Jadhav and Sanjay Girkar. S/Shri R. S. Khedekar of CFO



DRM-BCT handing over the Trophy to the Winner

Branch/BCT sponsored the Tennis Balls and Shri Abdul Hamid Khan, Assistant Sports Officer and Shri Rangaswamy rendered all the necessary help/facilities for smooth conduct of the tournament.

In the meeting held at **Union Office at BRCP** around 100 Railwaymen were present. Com. Santosh Pawar, Ravikant Baghel, Nitin Shah while remembering the role of Late Com. Umraomal Purohit in getting implemented the modified recommendations of the successive Pay Commissions and improving the status of the Railwaymen, appealed all to be remained united to struggle for implementation of the 7th CPC recommendations with modifications and achieving our pending demands.

**PRTN Workshop Branch** organized a meeting in Union Office/PRTN in which WREU activists and activists of Women & Youth Wings participated in large numbers. The meeting started by lighting lamp before the portrait of Late Com. Umraomal Purohit by Com. Ramesh Zala, Branch Chairman. Com. Zala, R.M. Modak and Bharat Makwana remembered the contributions of Late Com. Umraomalji to the working class in particular and the Railwaymen in general. Com. Atul Diwan (Br. Secy/WRMS) and Com. Jagannath Kashyap (Br. Secy/OBC Assn.) were also present in the function. All the participants paid rich tribute to the leader by showering flowers before the portrait of Com. Umaomalji and observed two minutes silence..

**WREU Dahod Workshop** held a meeting in G. B. Sukhi Sabhakash on 27.02.2016 and remembered Late Com. Umraomal Purohit. A large number of WREU activists and railwaymen were present in the function and paid tribute to Com. Umraomalji, Com. Sanjay Kapoor, Branch

Secretary narrated Com. Purohitji's achievement and his zeal to fight for the rights of the working class. He exhorted the participants to strengthen the unity in the wake of proposed indefinite strike and stated that achieving our legitimate and just rights by struggle and sacrifice will be the real tribute to the departed leader.

### COM. UMRAOMALJI CRICKET TOURNAMENT AT VADODARA

Youth Wing of WREU-BRC organised the "Comrade Umraomal Purohitji Cricket Tournament" at Madhavrao Scindia Stadium at Pratapnagar from 01.02.2016 to 19.02.2016. 34 teams from different departments and branches participated in the tournament. Shri S. K. Verma, ADRM-BRC, inaugurated the tournament on 01.02.2016 in presence of S/Shri Pradeep Banerjee, Sr.DCM and G.S. Yadav, Sr.DPO and large number of WREU activists and Office Bearers. The tournament was played on league basis and final match was played between the teams of BRCP and S&T Dept. of DRM Office. The team of BRCP won the tournament. Special prizes were given to S/Shri Diren Salvi (Man of the Series & Best Batsman), Harish Vasava (Man of the Match) and Rohit Kumar (Best Bowler).

The price distribution ceremony was organized on 19.02.2016 and trophy to the winner and runner-up and prizes were distributed by Shri Ashutosh Gangal, DRM BRC, Shri S. K. Verma, ADRM and Com. Santosh Pawar, DS/WREU. Com. Pawar congratulated Com. Mehul Rao, Sanjay Pawar, J.S. Solanki and other comrades of Youth Wing for making the tournament grand success.

### STRIKE BALLOT / STRIKE NOTICE

As per the decision taken in the CEC meeting held at Vadodara on 29.12.2015, WREU conducted Strike Ballot. On Western Railway, 83.87% employees participated in the Strike Ballot, out of which 99.38% employees voted in favour of strike. All AIRF affiliates also held Strike Ballot on 11-12 February 2016 and the Strike Ballot was very successful and overall 95% employees on Indian Railways casted vote in favour of strike.

NJCA in its meeting held on 08.02.2016 decided that all the affiliates of the NJCA will give Notice of Withdrawal of Labour to their respective employers (General Managers) on 11th March, 2016 and will proceed for Indefinite Strike from 6.00 A.M. of 11th April, 2016 in case no negotiated settlement is arrive at by that time. Since there is no positive response from the Central Government, all the Railwaymen are appealed to be prepared and ready for direct agitation.

### ALL INDIA RUNNING STAFF CONFERENCE

All India Running Staff Safety Seminar was held under the aegis of AIRF at Shanmukhananda Hall, Mumbai on 16th February 2016. Around 3000 employees from running categories from all over Indian Railways attended the Seminar. Com. Nitin Pradhan and his team welcomed all the dignitaries to the dais by offering them bouquet and shawl as also all the delegates in the Seminar.

While addressing the largely attended Seminar, Shri Hemant Kumar, Member (Mechanical) Railway Board informed about the Railway Board's initiative for increasing Simulators, crew friendly lobbies and emphasized about the importance of the running staff in safe running of trains. Com. Venu Nair, General Secretary/NRMU (C.Rly), in his speech mentioned about the strenuous job performed by each and every running staff for safe running and keeping punctuality. He criticized the categorical Associations for their role in weakening the unity and strength of the Union. Com. Rakhal Dasgupta, President/AIRF and Com. S.G. Mishra, General Secretary/ AIRF highly criticized the recommendations of the 7th CPC and government's apathy in resolving the pending issues, including modification of retrograde recommendations of the 7th CPC. He stated that majority of the government employees are in favour of strike and AIRF affiliates have conducted Strike Ballot on 11-12 February 2016 and from the report received it is revealed that 95% of the staff is favouring strike. They further stated that in case there is no positive response from the government, there is no option but to resort to indefinite general strike. Com. J.R. Bhosale narrated the efforts of AIRF for betterment of the Railwaymen, especially the running staff. He also mentioned about the successive Central Pay Commissions and the injustice done by the 7th CPC to Central Government employees. He also mentioned about the recommendations of Justice Rajadhyaksha Committee for regulating the Hours of Employment of Railwaymen and D.P. Tripathi Committee (High Power Committee) to regulate working hours of Running staff and other safety categories. He mentioned about the plight of Loco Inspectors (LIs) and illogical approach of the administration in awarding punishment to LIs for any fault of Loco crew.

The following Resolutions were moved: (1) Improve the duty hours, rest etc. of the Running Staff; (2) Improvement in the service conditions of the Running Staff; (3) Not to impose Stringent Action against the running staff in SPAD cases; (4) Inclusion of all Running Staff & Loco Inspectors in LARSGES Scheme; and (5) Grant of 55% pay element to medically decategorised Running Staff.

After detailed deliberations, all the Resolutions were passed unanimously.

Prior to start of the Seminar a huge procession was taken out from Guru Teg Bahadur Railway Station to the venue of Seminar in which thousands of Railwaymen led by General Secretary and President of AIRF marched to the venue shouting slogans against anti-labour approach of the government. WREU activists and leaders participated in the procession and Seminar in large numbers. NRMU (C.Rly.) hosted the Seminar and Comrades of NRMU made the Safety Seminar a grand success.

### RAILWAY BUDGET 2015-16

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railway presented his second Rail Budget for the year 2016-17 in Parliament on 25th February 2016 with a theme "Overcoming challenges – Reorganize, Restructure Rejuvenate Indian Railways" with emphasizes on three pillars of the strategy, i.e. Nav Arjan (New revenues), Nav Manak (New Norms) and Nav Sanrachna (New Structures). The Budget proposes to eliminate all unmanned level crossings by 2020, boost to e-catering and to set up India's first rail auto hub.

In 2016-17, he target 92% Operating Ratio and restrict growth of Ordinary Working Expenses by 11.6% after impact of 7th CPC, reductions in diesel and electricity consumption. Railways are preparing a Plan size of Rs. 1,21,000 crore in 2016-17 and Revenue generation is targeted at Rs. 1,84,820 crore.

**Financial Performance 2015-16:** Net reduction in Gross Traffic Receipts by Rs 15,744 crore in Revised Estimate (RE) 2015-16 compared to the Budget Estimate (BE) target of Rs 1,83,578 crore. Passenger earnings scaled down keeping in view the persistent negative growth trend since 2013-14 both in the suburban and non-suburban non-PRS segment of travel. Freight earnings impacted mainly on account of low demand from the core sector resulting in resetting the target in R.E. 2015-16 to Rs 1,11,853 crore. Stringent economy and austerity measures adopted to contain the Ordinary Working Expenses due to which budgeted Ordinary Working Expenses of Rs 1,19,410 crore decreased in the Revised Estimates 2015-16 to Rs.1,10,690 crore, i.e. by Rs 8,720 crore. BE provided for an appropriation of Rs. 34,900 crore to the Pension Fund. The pension outgo decreased to Rs. 34,500 crore in RE. Internal resource generation diminished and appropriation to DRF moderated to Rs. 5,500 crore in RE from the BE 2015-16 provisioning of Rs. 7,900 crore. Excess of receipts over expenditure in RE 2015-16 stands at Rs. 11,402.40 crore. Plan size for 2015-16 is currently estimated at 1,00,000

crore. Investment would be close to double of the average of previous 5 years.

**Budget Estimates 2016-17:** Gross Traffic Receipts kept at Rs 1,84,820 crore. Passenger earnings growth has been pegged at 12.4 % and earnings target budgeted at Rs. 51,012 crore. The freight traffic is pegged at 50 million tones and Goods earnings is proposed at Rs.1,17,933 crore. Other coaching and sundries projected at Rs. 6,185 crore and Rs.9,590.3 crore respectively. Pension outgo is budgeted at Rs 45,500 crore in 2016-17. OWE provides for implementation of the 7th CPC. Appropriation to DRF from revenue placed at Rs 3,200 crore and that from Production Units at Rs 200 crore. A withdrawal of Rs 3,160 crore from DRF on net basis proposed though the gross expenditure to be met from DRF in the Annual Plan estimated at Rs 7,160 crore. Rs 5,750 crore proposed to be appropriated to the Capital fund. With a draw-down of Rs 1,250 crore from previous balances in the fund, plan requirement of Rs 7,000 crore for repayment of principal component of lease charges to IRFC met.

The budget formulated Seven Missions for the transformation of IR and Missions will be headed by a Mission Director reporting directly to the Chairman, Railway Board and heading a cross functional team empowered to take all relevant decisions for a timely targeted delivery. For sustainability and social initiatives, it is proposed to tie up with the Ministry of Health for ensuring an exchange between Railway Hospitals and Government Hospitals and to introduce 'AYUSH' systems in 5 Railway Hospitals. The Budget envisages for providing Gangmen with devices called 'Rakshak' for intimating them about approaching trains, and to reduce the weight of the tools carried by them while Patrolling. There is a proposal to provide toilets and air-conditioning in cabs for Loco Pilots.

IR propose to partner with Ministry of Skill Development for skill development on IR premises and open our organisation to 100 students across Engineering and MBA schools for 2-6 months' internships each year. It propose to set-up two chairs; one C T Venugopal chair on Strategic Finance, research and policy development and another Kalpana Chawla chair on geo-spatial technology. It also envisages energy audits for reducing energy consumption in non-traction area by 10% to 15% and all Railway stations will be provided with LED luminaire in next 2 to 3 years.

Action plan drawn up for environmental accreditation, water management and waste to energy conversion. More than 2,000 locations provided with Rain Water Harvesting facility. 32 stations and 10 coaching depots have been

identified for installation of water recycling plants in the coming years. In place of steel sleepers on steel bridges environmentally friendly composite sleepers made of recycled plastic waste will be used over all girder bridges. The budget envisages promotion of tourism through Railway museums and UNESCO world heritage Railways and partnering with State Governments for operating tourist circuit trains.

The following are the highlights:

- Increased quota for senior citizens and women travellers.
- Wifi at 100 stations this year and 400 stations next year.
- Enhanced capacity of e-ticketing system from 2,000 tickets/min to 7,200/min. Supporting 1.2 lakh concurrent users now, as opposed to 40,000 earlier.
- All major stations to be brought under CCTV surveillance in a phased manner.
- Deen Dayal coaches for long distance trains for unreserved passengers.
- Overnight double-decker trains to be introduced on business travel routes.
- IRCTC to manage catering service in phased manner. Local cuisine of choice will be made available to passengers.
- Children's menu, baby foods, baby boards to be made available for travelling mothers.
- GPS-based digital display in coaches for showing upcoming stations.
- 8.5 lakh crore to spent over 5 years for modernization of railway infrastructure.
- 1,600 km of electrification this year and 2,000 km proposed for the next year.
- North-East India, especially Mizoram and Manipur, to be connected through broad gauge soon.
- To install 17000 bio-toilets and additional toilets in 475 stations before the close of this financial year.
- Cleaning of toilets by requests through SMS.

#### **UNION BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, presented his third Union Budget in Parliament on 29th February 2016, giving thrust to infrastructure and agriculture. For the first time in history, the Minister has made a proposal to impose income tax on 60% EPF accumulations provided it is not invested in annuity. There is widespread anger against the same from the working class and the Minister has agreed to revisit the said proposal. The following are the highlights:

- No change in individual tax slabs.
- Proposal to raise tax rebate ceiling from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 for individuals with income not exceeding Rs.500,000. Total Income Tax

exemption available upto Rs. 4,44,200.

- Increased limit of deduction u/s 80 GG in respect of rent paid from INR 24,000 p.a. to INR 60,000 p.a.
- Abolition of Wealth Tax.
- Additional 2% surcharge for the super rich with income of over Rs. 1 crore.
- 100% exemption for contribution to Swachh Bharat, apart from CSR
- Service tax increased to 14 per cent. Further, Swachh Bharat Cess and Krishi Kalyan Cess will be levied at the rate of 0.5% each and in effect Service Tax will be now 15%.
- Additional exemption of Rs.50,000 for housing loans up to Rs.35 lakh, provided cost of house is not above Rs. 50 lakh.
- No Service Tax for houses built under 60 square metres.
- Infrastructure cess of 1% on small petrol, LPG, CNG cars, 2.5% on diesel cars of certain capacity and 4% on other higher engine capacity vehicles and SUVs.
- Allocation of Rs. 150 crore to establish Atal Innovation Mission to draw on expertise of entrepreneurs and researchers to foster scientific innovations.
- Proposes to set up 5 ultra mega power projects, each of 4000MW.
- Renewable energy target for 2022: 100K MW in solar; 60K MW in wind; 10K MW in biomass and 5K MW in small hydro
- Rs. 25,000 crore for Rural Infrastructure Development Bank.
- Rs. 5,300 crore to support Micro Irrigation Programme and 8.5 lakh crore for Farmers credit.
- MUDRA bank will refinance micro finance organizations to encourage first generation SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Rs.70,000 crores to boost Infrastructure sector.
- Housing for all by 2020.
- Six crore toilets across the country under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- Upgradation of 80,000 secondary schools.
- New scheme for physical aids and assisted living devices for people aged over 80 and it is proposed to use Rs.9,000 crore unclaimed funds in PPF/EPF for Senior Citizens Fund.
- Rs. 5,000 crore additional allocation for MGNREGA.
- Govt. to create universal social security system for all Indians.
- AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Assam.
- IIT in Karnataka; Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad to be upgraded to IIT.
- PG institute of Horticulture in Amritsar.

- Kerala to have University of Disability Studies
- Centre of film production, animation and gaming to come up in Arunachal Pradesh.
- IIM for Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh.

### MAKAR SANKRANTI CELEBRATIONS

**PDGR Branch, Grant Road** organized Til-Gud Function in J. A. Sabhagrih on 03.02.2016 in which around 55 women employees, mainly ticket checking staff and commercial staff participated. Com. J. R. Bhosale was the chief guest. Smt. Com. Yashoda Hegde, Com. P. Rajan and Com. B. P. Nair were present on dais. The participants exchanged Makar Sankranti greetings, distributed Til-Gud, Rose flower and attractive gifts. Thereafter, they held various entertainment programmes. Com. Geeta Pandoria anchored the programme and Com. Snehal Dongde, Mrudula Pandit and other colleagues helped to make the programme successful.

**Til-Gud Function** was also arranged at Union Office at Andheri on 9.02.2016, which was attended by more than 45 women employees. The participants exchanged Til-Gud, flowers and well-wishes amongst each other. Attractive gifts were also distributed. Com. Sagar Kulkarni, A. K. Mishra, Suresh Mishra and Satish Bhavsar were on dais. The activists of Andheri Branch rendered all necessary help for arranging the function. Com. Geeta Pandoria coordinated the programme with the active support of Smt. Ulka Bhimasen, Rajeshri Joshi and Jyoti Singh. \*\*

Women's Wing of Valsad Branch also celebrated Til-Gud function in the Union Office on 06.02.2016, in which more than 100 women employees working in Valsad area participated. Smt. Sonalben Solanki, Pramukh Nagar Palika, Smt. Sonalben Patel, Nagar Sevak, Smt. Urmila P. Savalkar and Smt. Lalitaben Raghunath presided over the function. Sister N.S. Hiwale and Sister Savitri also attended the function. Sister Hiwale, W.C. Member of AIRF, addressed the participants on latest situation about 7th CPC and WREU/AIRF efforts for improving the recommendations and its early implementation. The participants exchanged pleasantries and til-gud on the occasion. Com. Smita Patel arranged the function very nicely with the help of her colleagues. Comrades of WREU Valsad Branch Nos.1 and 2 rendered all help for successful conduct of the function.

### RELAY FAST BY WREU-RJT

WREU-RJT resorted to Relay Fast in front of DRM office RJT from 15.02.2016 to 23.02.2016 in protest against negative attitude of the divisional administration and inordinate delay in resolving of staff problems, viz. (1) Abnormal delay in pinpointing by Estt. Branch; (2) Non-considering

name-noting in Station Master category; (3) Abnormal delay in payment of O.T. to Railway staff working at RPL; (4) Irregular issue of orders in SSE(PW) and in Clerical category; (5) Harassment to on-duty Nursing Sister during SBF tour; (6) Unhygienic condition prevailing in MVI, WKR and THR Railway colonies; (7) Wrongly reducing pay of SM/ASM category without issue of show cause notice; and (8) Non-implementation of the report on WKR Railway Institute.

WREU activists from all branches of RJT Division, i.e. OKO, KMBL, JAM, HXP, RJT, Woman Wing, MVI, SUNR actively participated in the Relay Fast. The workers actively participated in slogan shouting during Lunch Hours and also before start of office hours and while closing the office. Com. Mahesh Chhaya, Nikhil Joshi, Himanshu Vachharajani addressed the participants and huge gathering and boosted their morale and exhorted the workers/staff to be ready for Strike from 11th April 2016. General Secretary/WREU also took up the issue at HQ level and ultimately the administration called WREU representatives for discussion on the issues raised by WREU.

Negotiation took place on 22nd and 23rd February 2016 with DRM/ADRM-RJT and finally the administration agreed to solve all the issues raised in the Notice with immediate effect, except a few issues for which some time is required and it is expected that those issues will also be solved within a short period. On 23.02.2016 after the successful negotiations and resolving almost all the staff grievances, Shri Rituraj Mishra, DPO-RJT and other Personnel Officers came at the venue of the Relay Fast and handed over a positive reply of Administration with revised memorandum issued by DRM(E)RJT. Finally, the Relay Fast was ended by offering Lemon water to all participating employees.

Com. Narendrasingh Jadeja, Satish Oza, Nandubha M., Bhavesh Mehta, Bharatkumar, R. P. Chhatrala, Abdul Z., G. N. Jadeja, Mansinh Jadeja, Smt. Kirtida Buch and all Branch Secretaries and Chairmen and other office Bearers actively participated and made necessary arrangements. WREU ZINDABAD - MAZDOOR EKTA ZINDABAD.

#### **SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA**

**WREU Vatva Branch of ADI Division** under the leadership of Com. Vilayat Hussain, Rajendra Prasad Mishra and other office bearers of WREU VTA Branch No.1 met General Manager during his visit at Diesel Shed/VTA on 10.02.2016 and submitted a memorandum on following staff grievances: (1) Very bad condition of Approach Road; (2) Acute shortage of staff (around 156 posts

are vacant) and proposal to fill up these vacant posts is waiting for GM's approval; (3) Provision of Ambulance; and (4) Provision of one minute halt for Jabalpur Somnath Express at VTA for convenience of staff. GM had spot inspection of the approach road from Brizole Railway Crossing to Patel Filter (Bridge) and issued instructions to DRM and other divisional officers present there for Resurfacing the approach road. GM assured to look into other issues favourably.

A delegation of **WREU-RJT** led by Com. Mahesh Chhaya, Naresh Khatwani, Narendrasingh Jadeja, Satish Oza and others met Shri G.C. Agrawal, General Manager, Western Railway, during his visit at Rajkot on 04.02.2016 and handed over a memorandum on staff grievances, viz. (i) Acute shortage of Clerical & Accounts staff; (ii) Irregular pinpointing in Estt. Branch; (iii) Delay in appointment under LARSGESS; (iv) Allotment of sub-standard quarters; (v) Recognition of Sterling hospital for specialized treatment; (vi) Non-conducting of PNM meetings as per schedule; (vii) Mis-utilization of safety category staff; (viii) Non-implementation of Inspection Report on Railway Institute/WKR; and (ix) Unhygienic condition of Railway Quarters/colonies at WKR and THAN.

#### **OBSERVATION OF YOUTH DAY**

WREU-PRTN Workshop Branch observed Youth Day on 12.01.2016 on 153rd birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The programme started from 7.45 A.M. by lighting of Deep (lamp) by Com. Ramesh Zala in front of Swami Vivekananda Statue at Pratapnagar Workshop. All employees have paid their reverence / tribute to Swami Vivekananda by showering Red Roses before his Statue and pledged to work for the welfare of the downtrodden and the country. On this occasion, a pamphlet on various SBF benefits was got printed and distributed amongst the staff for their awareness/knowledge. Youth & Women Wings activists of the Branch beautifully decorated the Workshop with red flags/banners and made necessary arrangements.

#### **ONE DAY TRADE UNION EDUCATION CLASS**

**WREU-PRTN Workshop Branch** conducted One Day Trade Union Programme for new employees recruited after 2004 in Union Office of PRTN Workshop Branch on 12.01.2016, in which 35 employees attended. The Class was inaugurated by Shri Nilotpal Dey, CWM-PRTN. Com. J. R. Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU, explained about history of trade union, WREU/AIRF/HMS. He explained on the 7th CPC, its report and the need to improve the same. He also mentioned about the apathy of the government in not taking cognizance of the workers' concern and negotiating with the organized labour and

exhorted them to be ready to face the challenges. Com. Dinesh Panchal dwelt on 'One Union One Industry', Organisational structure & finance, role of Youth & Women. Com. Vinod Manjrawala made a presentation on NPS on Power Point. Com. R. S. Singh explained service rules and benefits available to railway servants.

**PDGR Branch of BCT** Division organized One Day Trade Union Information Class on 20.02.2016 at J.A. Sabhagruh, Grant Road (West), Mumbai. Com. J.R. Bhosale in his inaugural address, briefly narrated on the history of WREU/AIRF and its ideologies, report of the 7th CPC and future challenges. Com. Shaikh Nasir dwelt upon DAR Rules and Com. Nagabhushanam dwelt on HOER. Com. B.P. Nair welcomed all HQ office bearers and divisional leaders by offering them shawl. Com. O.C. Thomas and his colleagues made all necessary arrangements.

#### **CELEBRATION OF 111TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE COM. MANIBEN KARA**

On the occasion of 111th Birth Anniversary of Late Padmashree Kum. Maniben Kara, Ex President/WREU/AIRF on 13th February 2016, WREU (E&M) Dahod Branch, under the leadership of Com. Mrs. P. S. Harsh, Anjilena Jonson, Com. C. J. Singh, I J Ramwani, R K Das and others, distributed biscuit packets to indoor patients of Dahod Main Hospital and wished them speedy recovery. Dr. D. P. Verma, CMS/Dahod started the distribution followed by other WREU activists. Mrs. P. S. Harsh thanked one and all for participating in the programme.

#### **HONESTY APPRECIATED**

**Smt. Ushaben Pravin Kumar Parmar**, Chief Matron, Rajkot Divisional Hospital & Chairperson, WREU Women Wing-RJT, went to Bank of India's Rajkot Branch locker on 10th January 2016. When she was alone in the locker, she found a plastic box unattended and immediately brought this to the notice of locker in-charge. On opening the box, it was found that the box was full of gold jewelries. The Bank after due diligence enquiry identified the owner and returned the box to its owner.

Asstt. General Manager, Bank of India, vide his appreciation letter dated 25.01.2016 highly praised her honesty and wrote to DRM-RJT hailing her praiseworthy honesty. Bank of India also published her act of honesty in their magazine TARANGAN in honesty column. WELL DONE COMRADE, WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.

#### **VALIDITY OF THE YEAR ENDING PASS/PTO**

Western Railway HQ Office and BCT Divisional administration reduced the validity of the year ending passes/PTOs upto 30th April 2016 by wrongly interpreting Board's letter

No.E(W)2007 PS 5-1/9 dated 31.03.2015. This has created disparity and gross injustice amongst the employees inasmuch as an employee, who avails Pass/PTO on 31st December, 2015 would get validity upto 31st May 2016 and whereas if he avails year ending pass/PTO thereafter, its validity is reduced to 30th April 2016. This gross anomaly was brought to the notice of the CPO vide WREU's letter No. CCG/ 01 /2016 dated 08.01.2016 and thereupon GM(E)CCG instructions to all concerned vide letter No.E(Pass)768/13 Vol.VII dt.16.02.2016 that the validity of full/half sets of Privilege Passes, Post Retirement Complimentary Passes, Widow Passes & Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) should also be 5 months as the year ending passes/PTO are deemed to have been issued last day of the year. GS/WREU was intimated about the same vide letter No.E(Pass)768/13 Vol.VII dt.23.02.2016 enclosing therewith a copy of the circular issued to all concerned.

#### **GRANT OF FAMILY PENSION TO DISABLED CHILD/SIBLING**

DoPT clarified that non-intimation of physical/mental handicap prior to death of pensioner/family pensioner does not make a person ineligible for family pension. A disability certificate issued after the death of the pensioner/family pensioner for a disability which existed before their death may be accepted by the appointing authority if he is satisfied that (i) it renders him or her unable to earn a living; (ii) he/she was suffering from that disability on the crucial date, i.e. on the date of death of pensioner/employee or his spouse, whichever was later. If a disability certificate has been obtained for a permanent disability previously, there is no requirement of obtaining a disability certificate afresh as has already been made clear in rule 54(6) and DoPT's O.M. No.1/18/01-P&PW(E)(Vol.II) dt.30.09.2014 and 5.11.2015. Railway Board circulated the same to all GMs/FA&CAOs of Zonal Railways/ Production Units with instructions to apply the same on mutatis mutandis basis on Railways. (DoPT's O.M. No.1/18/2001-P&PW(E)(Vol. II) dt.25.01.2016 & Rly. Board's letter No.F(E) III/2005/PN1/ 32 dt.24.02.2016)

#### **SCHEME FOR MODE OF FILLING UP OF NG POSTS EXTENDED**

The Railway Board has introduced the Scheme of filling-up of higher grade Non-gazetted posts, classified as both "Selection and Non-selection" on the basis of benchmarking as a Pilot Project and its currency has since expired on 31.12.2015. As this Scheme has facilitated smooth and hassle-free promotions of the NG staff and weeded out the delay in the name of selection, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, vide his

D.O. letter dated 27th January, 2016 addressed to Member Staff, Railway Board, requested him to keep this scheme opened for ever and issue instructions to all Zonal Railways and Production Units.

Railway Board accordingly extended the currency of the existing methodology and benchmarking for promotion till 31.12.2016 vide Railway Board's letter No.E(NG)I-2008/PM1/15 dated 09.02.2016.

### VETERAN RETIRES

Com. Ramesh Chandra Sharma, President/WREU & Divisional Secretary, WREU Ahmedabad Division, retired from Railway service on superannuation from the post of SSE(Loco)KKF on 29th February 2016. He joined Western Railway as an Apprentice (Mechanic) in year 1980 in Ratlam Division. He was posted as Chageman at MSH in 1981 and thereafter transferred to KKF Loco Shed of BRC Division. He served the Railwaymen in various capacities, viz. Secretary of KKF and BRC Loco Branches, Divisional Organising Secretary of BRC Division (1986), Divisional Chairman of BRC Division (1997) and Divisional Secretary from 2003 till his retirement. He was elected as Vice President of WREU in the year 2004 and as President in April 2014 after sad demise of Com. Umraomal Purohit. He also served as Working Committee Member, Zonal Secretary and Asst. General Secretary of AIRF.

He was elected as an Office Bearer of KKF Loco Shed Branch in January, 1982. He worked as a Branch Secretary, KKF Branch and Secretary BRCY Loco. In the year 1986, he was elected as Divisional Organising Secretary of BRC Division and became Divisional Chairman of BRC Division in 1997 and worked as such till formation of ADI Division. On formation of ADI Division, he was elected as Divisional Secretary of ADI Division on 09.03.2003. He was elected as Vice President of WREU in 2004 and as Zonal Secretary of AIRF in 2004. After the demise of Com. Umraomal Purohit, he has been unanimously elected as President of WREU in its Working Committee on 2nd April 2014. He is also Asst. General Secretary of AIRF. He served the Railwaymen in various capacities and is very popular amongst the Railway Workers. His retirement will not affect his position as President of WREU and will continue to serve in this capacity.

Smt. Usha Vijayan, C.A. & Treasurer of WREU SBI Workshop Branch, retired from railway service on superannuation on 31.12.2015. She joined Western Railway as a Typist in PRTN Workshop

on 16.09.1985 and became Stenographer in BRC Divisional office in the year 1986. Since 1994, she was working as a Confidential Assistant in Signal Workshop/SBI. She was very helpful to all workers and took keen interest in solving their problems. A warm send off was arranged at SW SBI Training School Hall to honour her in which large gathering of comrades and officers of EW and SW. She thanked WREU, her colleagues and all others present in the function for extending her support for all these years and for arranging such a warm farewell function.

### ITF NAME THEIR HALL AFTER 'BRO. UMRAOMAL PUROHIT'

International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) named the Conference Hall on fourth floor of its newly constructed Headquarters Office at London after 'Bro. Umraomal Purohit' for honouring Late Com. Umraomalji and to remember his immense contributions to ITF during his tenure as President of ITF for two consecutive terms, i.e. from 1998 to 2006.

#### RAILWAY SENTINEL

(Regd.No. MCW/327/2015-17)

FORM IV UNDER RULE 8 OF P.R.B.ACT

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I, J. R. Bhosale, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**J. R. Bhosale**  
Editor & Publisher

### ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base 2001=100)

Month/Year	Base Year 2001=100 Average	Total of 12 months	12 Monthly Average	% Increase over 115.76* for DA
Feb. 2015	253	2995	249.58	115.60
March 2015	254	3010	250.83	116.68
April 2015	256	3024	252.00	117.69
May 2015	258	3038	253.16	118.69
June 2015	261	3053	254.41	119.78
July 2015	263	3064	255.33	120.57
Aug. 2015	264	3075	256.25	121.36
Sept. 2015	266	3088	257.33	122.30
Oct. 2015	269	3104	258.66	123.45
Nov. 2015	270	3121	260.08	124.67
Dec. 2015	269	3137	261.41	125.82
Jan. 2016	269	3152	262.66	126.90

\* Average Price Index for January 2001