

# INDIAN RAILWAYS TECHNICAL SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

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## MINUTES OF 50TH ALL INDIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & CGB OF IRTSA HELD AT DR. AMBEDKAR ARANGAM ICF CHENNAI ON 27TH & 28TH OCTOBER 2015.

1. **Preamble:** Golden Jubilee & 50<sup>th</sup> All India Annual Conference & CGB Meeting of IRTSA - hosted by IRTSA ICF Unit was grandly celebrated at Dr. Ambedkar Arangam ICF Chennai on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It was attended by nearly 1000 Members including 350 delegates - from all over Indian Railways.

2. **Large procession:** On 27<sup>th</sup> Oct Rail Engineers marched in a procession from ICF Furnishing Division to the conference venue – marching over 3 kms through parts of ICF colony and ICF Shell Division & GM's Office. Members from all over the country raised slogans on the demands of Rail Engineers.

3. **Hoisting of IRTSA Flag:** Er.M.Shanmugam Central President IRTSA hoisted the flag of IRTSA amidst cheers and slogans of "Long live IRTSA" by the members.

4. **Opening Session:** Er.V.B.Naryanan Zonal Secretary ICF sang the prayer song. Thereafter the IRTSA theme song composed by Er.E.Ramesh & Er.V.K.Ramesh electrified all the delegates.

In his inaugural speech Er.M.Shanmugam Central President IRTSA said that as middle management category IRTSA is maintaining good relation with Federations as well the administration even while continuously fighting for its demands. IRTSA contributes its might for improving the performance of Indian Railways. In 50 years of its journey IRTSA has many achievements to its credit and still some more demands have to be achieved - especially Higher Grade Pay, Group 'B' (Gaz) status, good career progression and incentive to Open Line Engineers & staff, he said. He also said that some time the category receives raw deal from the Administration even for small issues.

**Sri.S.K.Bansal Ex-CRSE NR & Ex-President IRPOF** was the Chief Guest for the opening session. He recalled his association with Er. Harchandan Singh General Secretary IRTSA right from 1965 when he was himself a TXR. He said that when struggle is made with conviction & commitment, nothing can stop, what we deserve to get and everyone should fight for common cause rather than individual agenda. He also said that in its fight & persuasion IRTSA should take the cooperation of all unions & federations particularly IRPOF.

0.1 **5. General Secretary Report:** Er. Harchandan Singh General Secretary IRTSA submitted his report for the year 2014-15. He paid rich tributes to all the founder members, office bearers and active members of IRTSA who consistently fought for the common cause all these years and sacrificed a lot with conviction and dedication. and faced victimization especially during the 1974 strike.

He mentioned about State of Economy, Inflation, undue delay in submission of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC, denial of interim relief & DA merger, proposed strike by constituent of JCM, privatization, FDI in Railways, Fare revision, adverse recommendations of Dr. Debroy Committee, unfilled vacancies in safety categories, denial of just demands of Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers, memorandum submitted to 7<sup>th</sup> CPC, oral evidence given by IRTSA to 7<sup>th</sup> CPC, status of court cases filed by IRTSA at Chennai & Chandigarh, adverse working conditions, need for recognition of IRTSA and the challenges of outsourcing & FDI etc.

He announced that in commemoration of Golden Jubilee of IRTSA, a new publication is being released under the title "**Foot Prints of IRTSA – Glimpses of 50 years of Struggle & Achievements of IRTSA**" - compiled by Er.K.V.Ramesh Sr. JGS IRTSA. It gives a glimpse into the history of IRTSA and its proper documentation. He thanked President, working presidents and all his colleagues in CEC for extending their support throughout the year. Er.K.V.Ramesh Sr.JGS IRTSA assisted the GS in presentation of his report. (Please see complete Report of GS on IRTSA Web [www.irtsa.net](http://www.irtsa.net) & VRE)

6. **Statement of Accounts of CEC IRTSA:** Er.O.N.Purohit, Central Treasurer IRTSA submitted statement of accounts for the year 2014. GS report and accounts were approved by the CGB unanimously.

7. Er. Darshan Lal Working President IRTSA praised the contribution made by all predecessors of IRTSA who have sacrificed for the betterment of the category. He urged upon all Rail Engineers to unitedly fight for the rights under the umbrella of IRTSA.

Er.L.N.Pathak Advisor IRTSA expressed his happiness to be with team IRTSA on its Golden Jubilee celebration and appreciated hard work done by IRTSA ICF Zone to make the conference a grand success. He cherished his golden memories with founder General Secretary Harchandan Singh right from 1965 and also said that possibly he may be the only union leader in India to serve in an organisation for 50 years most part of it as General Secretary.

Sri.R.Ramamurthy General Secretary AIOBC ICF unit wished the conference all success.

8. **Zonal Secretaries' Report:** Er.V.B. Naryanan Zonal Secretary ICF, Er. Ashok Chowdhury CLW, Er. N.V.Ramanamurthy Zonal Secretary SC.Rly, Er.R.B.Singh Zonal Secretary W.Rly & C.Rly, Er.Jaya Kumar Zonal Secretary RWF, Er.R.K.Pandey Zonal Secretary NE. Rly, Er.M.Bhatnagar Zonal Secretary RCF & DMW, Er.P.K.Shukla, Zonal Secretary N.R, Er.V.P. Abdul Salam Zonal Secretary S.Rly, Er. Vinod Kumar Zonal Secretary SWR, Er.O.N.Purohit, Zonal Secretary NWR, Er.Mohanty E.Rly and some other CEC members presented their reports of activities in their Zones and at the local levels.

9. **Technical Seminar:** Sri. Ashok K Agarwal General Manager ICF graced the Technical Seminar as Chief Guest. Sri. Abhay K Khanna Former General Manager ICF, Sri. V.R. Subramanian Former CPO ICF and Sri.S.K.Bansal graced the open session as Guests of Honour. HODs & officers of ICF also graced the session. Boys of ICF Silver Jubilee Higher Secondary School performed beautiful dance with IRTSA theme song. A well-made documentary "*Golden Memoires*" on history of IRTSA was presented. The documentary recalled the events from 1965 including the speeches of Er. Harchandan Singh & Er. M. Shanmugam and glimpses of historic moments over the years.

9.1. A power point presentation on the topic "*Enhancing performance & Safety on Indian Railways*" was presented by Er. K.V.Ramesh. He suggested for introduction of 2 to 4 private cabins in each AC 2 tier, AC 3 tier & Sleeper classes – with light weight Aluminium doors and nominal additional Fare which can earn additional revenue of Rs.550 crores annually for the Railways. Presentation also highlighted need to manufacture Aluminum Car body by PUs of IR. Suggestions for optimum utilization of infrastructure available in PUs and Workshops of Railways were also presented by Er. K.V.Ramesh.

9.2. **Address by Chief Guest & Guests of honour:** Sri.V.R.Subramanian Former CPO ICF in his address appreciated social sense and awareness of IRTSA. He thanked the organizers for inviting him for the Golden Jubilee celebration of IRTSA and shared his memories in attending Silver Jubilee conference of IRTSA 25 years back. He expressed his confidence that Engineers of IR have the potential to manufacture High Speed trains at one tenth the cost of imported coaches. Sri.Abhay K Khanna Former General Manager ICF congratulated ICF for commencement of new LHB unit. He appreciated the effort made by ICF to surpass the annual target above 2000 coaches, which was not even thought of three years back. He lauded IRTSA saying that apart from flagging the issues of their category, IRTSA always comes up with many suggestions to improve the performance of ICF and Railways and during his tenure as GM ICF IRTSA worked as common friend to administration & workmen. He specially appreciated two staff council members of IRTSA for their positive role in the staff council and maintaining good industrial harmony.

9.3. **Sri.Ashok K Agarwal General Manager ICF** in his chief guest address expressed his extreme happiness to be with IRTSA members on the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & General Body Meeting of Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association (IRTSA) at ICF. He said that Supervisors act as the linking bridge between the management and the workforce by way of conveying the decision taken by the Management to the Staff and the difficulties faced by the Staff to the Management at the right time. Thus, they play the most constructive role in the healthy growth of the organisation. He appreciated the role of IRTSA in technical inputs for productivity improvements and suggestions given by IRTSA to enhance the outturn to 2000 coaches per annum. Apart from this, IRTSA's role in flagging the issues of Technical Supervisors related to their pay, career, allowances etc is highly appreciable and its endeavour in conducting

technical seminars for improving the performance of Railways is commendable. He said that suggestions given by Er. K.V. Ramesh were very useful, feasibility of implementation will be studied by the Administration in consultation with RDSO.

On the occasion of Golden Jubilee, the GM said "All of you will be having fond memories of your past 50 years, having reached this landmark, a moment of glory & grace. To establish an organization and keep it operational for 50 years is not a small endeavor! This has been possible because, everyone worked together continuously for the growth of this association." GM ICF concluded with good wishes for the members of IRTSA and their family members.

10. **Second Day First session:** Com.S.G.Mishra General Secretary AIRF was the Chief Guest for the session and members of ICFLU/AIRF including its General Secretary Sri. Mohandass graced the session. Session started with felicitation of Com.S.G. Mishra who then felicitated Er.S.Munusamy, President IRTSA, S.Rly Zone who was retiring from Railway service on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. While wishing Munusamy he recalled his qualities of fighting spirit and a person who always wants a change.

Com.S.G.Mishra expressed his zeal to be with IRTSA and said that when Er Harchandan Singh invited him for the Golden Jubilee Conference he could not skip it in spite of some other urgent engagements. Com. S.G. Mishra commended on the vital role of IRTSA during the strike. IRTSA created history in participating in the strike and in many places IRTSA office bearers led the strike. There was heavy victimization after the strike and many office bearers of IRTSA including Er. Harchandan Singh were jailed, he recollected. IRTSA had to come over the onslaught of Government after a lot of sacrifices and as such, on the celebration of 50 years S.G.Mishra said that he salutes IRTSA.

Com.S.G.Mishra added that Dr. Bibek Debroy Committees' recommendation will be a road map for privatization agenda of Government, first target will be the Production Units of Railways, afterwards arm of privatization will engulf workshops & open line. He assured that Federations will not allow massive privatization in Railways. He assured the members of IRTSA that Federations are making their fullest efforts to change the pathetic working conditions, pay, classification & avenue of promotions of Technical Supervisors. He further said that demands of Technical Supervisors before 7<sup>th</sup> CPC by the Federation was made after intensive consultation with Er. M.Shanmugam and Er. Harchandan Singh and with the help of large data supplied by Er. K.V.Ramesh. He specifically thanked M.Shanmugam to make him part of mega event of Golden Jubilee Conference of IRTSA and wished all the best for all the participants .

11. **Resolutions of Demands & Line of Action:** Resolutions of demands were moved by Er. K.V. Ramesh and were unanimously adopted as per copy attached, after incorporating some proposals of Members. CGB authorised the President and the General Secretary IRTSA to decide the Line of Action on Pursuance of Demands after the release of Report of Seventh CPC and issue necessary directive thereon. A Meeting of CEC may also be held early after the release of Report of Seventh CPC – to consider the Report and decide further Line of Action thereon.

12. **Organisational Resolutions:** CGB unanimously adopted Organisational Resolutions on the following main points - as per copy attached herewith:

- i) **Observance of Golden Jubilee & 50<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of IRTSA by all Units & Sub-Units on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2015**
- ii) **Raising of Struggle-cum-Legal funds for fighting the Court Cases (for Group B & Grade Pay) upto the highest Court if required and to fight against anomalies caused by the CPC.**
- iii) **Financial Transparency and Account Keeping of all funds of Association at all levels.**
- iv) **Membership Drive to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December this year and upto 31<sup>st</sup> March every year.**
- v) **Organisational Elections to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March every year at Unit/Zonal & Sub-Unit levels.**

13. **Election to the new body:** Election for new CEC for the year 2015-16 was conducted under the chairmanship of Ers Francis V. Mohan assisted by M.S.V.R.Pandian, Kushal Kumar and K.V.Ramesh. M.Shanmugam, Harchandan Singh and O.N.Purohit were elected as Central President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. *List of CEC elected is being placed on IRTSA Website & VRE.*

14. **Concluding session**: Final session was graced by Dr.M.Raghavaiah General Secretary NFIR as the chief guest. Sri.Suryaprakasam General Secretary SRES, Com.Elangovan Working President DREU, Sh Janakiraman General Secretary DREU, Sri.M.K.Sukumar President ICF MS, Sri.R.Gurunathan General Secretary ICFMS, Com.Krishnakumar UWU/ICF, Joint Secretary Staff Council RWF, Indrasekar Staff Council Member RWF, Ravicahandran President AIOBC S.Rly, Sri.Arokya Samy & Sri.Masilamani President & Secretary of RPF Association, Anna Thozhi Sangam, Sri.MuralikrishanSC/ST Association/S.Rly and office bearers of other unions & Associations participated.

14.1. **“FDI IN RAILWAYS - BIBEK DEPBROY REPORT - MYTH AND REALITY”** (a Book written by Com. Elangovan working president DREU) was released by Dr.M.Raghavaiah. Com.Janakiraman General Secretary DREU in his address complimented IRTSA for completion of 50 years, a great achievement for middle management association without official recognition. Fighting spirit, commitment to cause of the category, readiness for action to reach the target, etc remain basic quality of IRTSA. He thanked IRTSA for extending supporting hands to other unions not only in trade union activities but also for social causes. General Secretary DREU also lambasted the recommendations of Dr. Debroy Committee report and called for united fight against it.

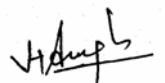
14.2. **Er.M.Shanmugam Central President IRTSA** recalled his association with NFIR & AIRF and great service done by its leaders. Speaking on ICF issues he asked Administration to take decisions magnanimously on staff related matters.

14.3. **Er.Harchandan Singh General Secretary IRTSA** explained about best of relations with both the federations & its leaders. He recalled the cherished & fond memories of long association with the Rail Engineers all over India as well as with the leaders of AIRF both the Federations over the last 50 years - right from the inception of IRTSA.

He explained that IRTSA strongly believed that the struggle of Technical Supervisors cannot be fought in isolation from the rest of the working class as the Railway administration had never treated the Technical Supervisors as part of the middle management cadre— as apparent from unjust denial of Group B to them. He expressed his anguish over non settlement of some of important demands of IRTSA particularly Group ‘B’ (Gaz) status, despite the fact that Railway Board had made formal decision on this issue many years ago and many commitments given by CRB & Board Members to IRTSA as well as to the Federations.

14.4. **Dr. M.Raghavaiah General Secretary NFIR in his address** said that the motivation & pulling capacity of IRTSA made him to participate in 50<sup>th</sup> All India Annual Conference of IRTSA hosted by ICF Zone headed by M.Shanmugam. GS NFIR complimented General Secretary & President IRTSA for leading IRTSA with many worthy achievements with strong cadre behind them. NFIR produced results for betterment of Technical Supervisors on many issues, Miabhoy Tribunal awards, more higher grade posts through Cadre restructuring exercise, bonus for all SSEs, etc are some of the issues attended to by NFIR with sincerity he said. GS NFIR added that all issues raised by IRTSA are attended by NFIR on top priority and he is always ready & happy to respond to M.Shanmugam, Harchandan Singh and K.V.Ramesh. He cautioned the delegates from all over India that Government has no genuineness in addressing the issues of working class particularly of Government Employees. He expressed regret for not being able to produce result in some of the issues pertaining to Technical Supervisors particularly on Group ‘B’ demand, in spite of assurance given by CRB and Railway Board members, Board is evading from making its decision to reality.GS NFIR felicitated Er.Munusamy President IRTSA S.Rly and Sri.A.K.Balram of ICF who played vital role in the struggle.

15. **Grand Orchestra**: The conference **concluded** with electrifying performance by Music troop “Eswari Audios” led by leading veteran film singer Kalaimammani Smt.L.R.Eswari and a vote of thanks to all Guests and participants as well as to the hosts.



**Harchandan Singh**  
**General Secretary IRTSA**

Encl:1. [Resolutions of Demands adopted in 50th Conference](#);  
2. [Organisational Resolutions](#)