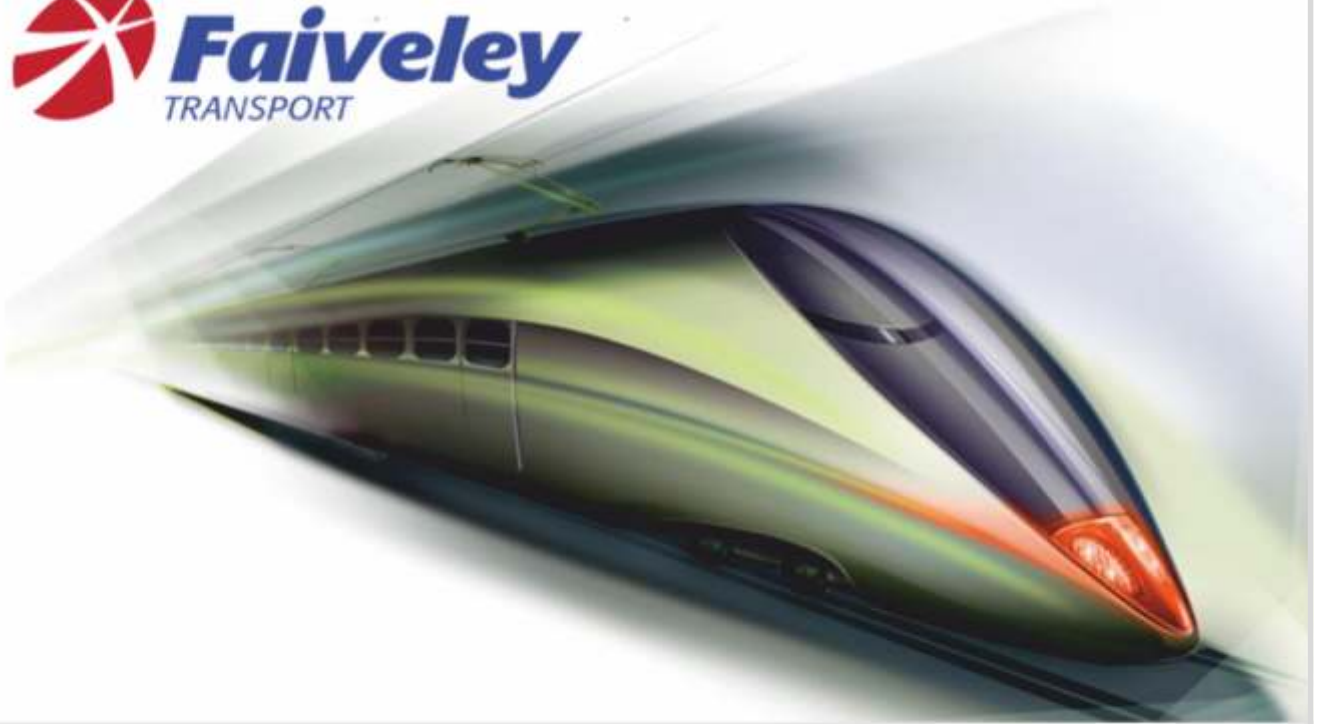


INDIAN STEAM RAILWAYS MAGAZINE

Special Supplement

Winter 2017





About ISRS

The Indian Steam Railway Society is a non-profit organisation formed on 23rd October, 1999, by railway enthusiasts committed to the preservation of steam and other railway heritage.

For Details, please contact :

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Indian Steam Railway Society

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Email: isrs@hotmail.com

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The Indian Steam Railway Society's Magazine encourages readers to contribute to the magazine about issues related to preservation of steam and other railway heritage. Such contributions may include technical papers, humorous articles, information about forthcoming events, memoirs or photographs. All published contributions shall be suitably acknowledged. Please send your contributions to:

Editor

Indian Steam Railway Society

National Rail Museum

Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110021, India

Email: jlsingh@yahoo.com

*Cover photo: One of 3 XG class locomotives built by Beyer Peacock & Co., Manchester, in 1928. After working on the North Western Railway of pre-independence India, the East Punjab Railway and Northern Railway, it can now be seen at the National Rail Museum. Originally with a 0-8-0 wheel arrangement, it was modified to a 2-8-2 alignment in 1943 at the Mughalpura workshop at Lahore.
(Photo: Courtesy J.L. Singh)*

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XV National Steam Congress Programme

- 14.30 Visit to the Exhibition: Guinness Book record holder, Iqbal Ahmed's working miniature steam locomotives
- 15.00 Group Photograph/Registration/Tea
- 16.00 Inaugural session
- 17.00 Keynote address by Mr. Richard Peck, A1 Steam Trust, UK
- 17.45 Soup/Tea break
- 18.15 Technical session
- 20.00 Dinner



L. K. Sinha

President ISRS

14, Poorvi Marg,
Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi-110057

Message

It is my privilege to extend a warm welcome to all Steam Locomotive enthusiasts to the XVth National Steam Congress.

This year we are having, apart from some excellent presentations, an Exhibition which will include another Guinness Book of Records holder Iqbal Ahmed's working miniature Steam Engines and Locomotives. They have to be seen to realise why they are so famous.

In 1990 a group of Steam Locomotive enthusiasts got together in UK and decided to build a brand new locomotive. They chose the Peppercorn Class AI series Pacific loco, and a brand new Tornado made its maiden run in 2008. Mr. Richard Peck will tell us about this in the Keynote Address.

Another similar achievement was closer home in Gurgaon. During our last Congress, we visited the Heritage Transport Museum and saw 2 Steam Locomotives which Tarun Thakral had picked up from a scrap yard in Dehri-on-Sone. Now they are both Huffing and Puffing. Tarun will talk on this.

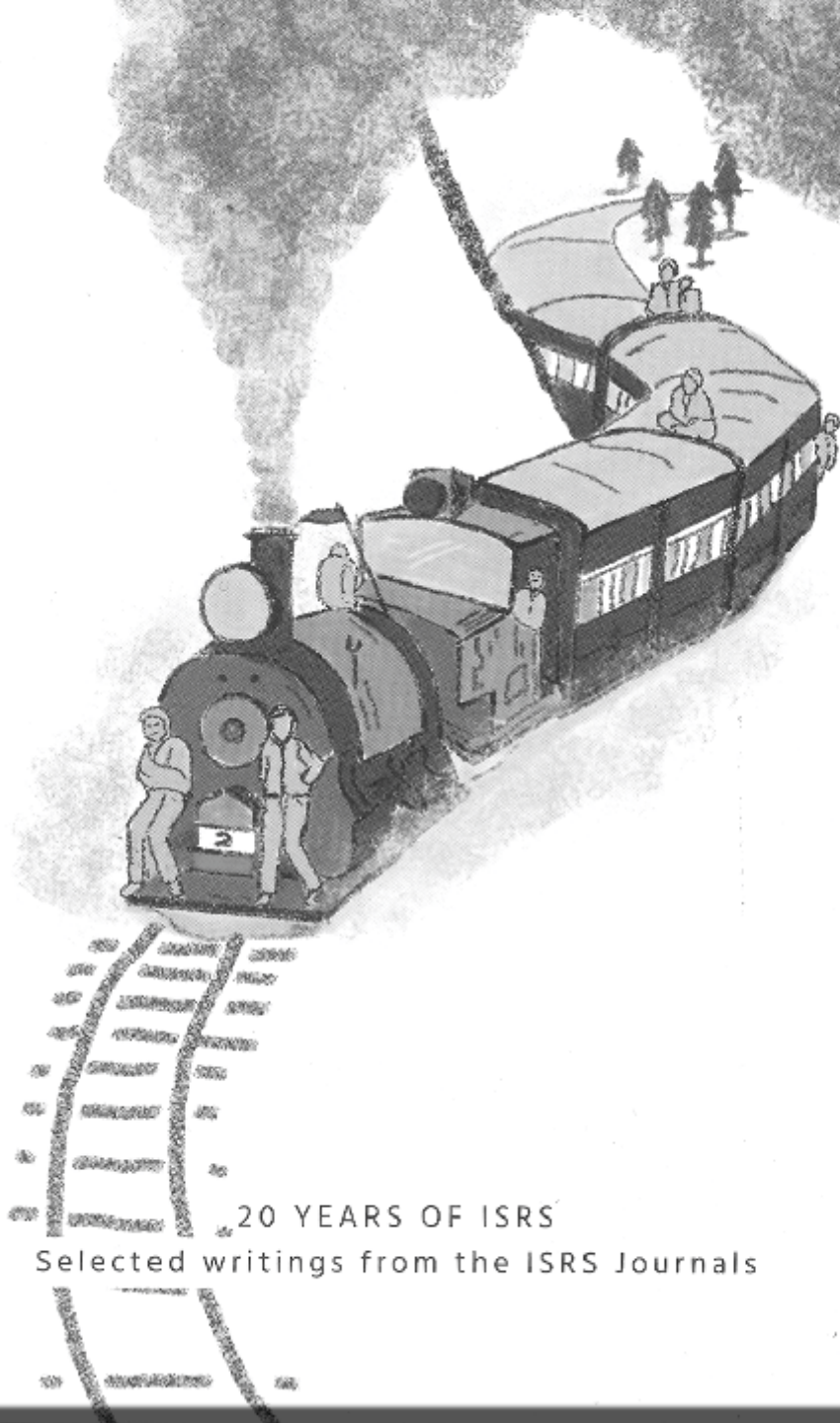
We also have M. Jean-Luc Verset from Alstom who will speak on Electric Locomotives and ICF will give a presentation on Train Sets.

So, enjoy the Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L.K. Sinha', written in a cursive style.

(L.K.Sinha)

STEAMING ON



20 YEARS OF ISRS

Selected writings from the ISRS Journals

STEAMING ON

Yes! The Indian Steam Railway Society (ISRS) is steaming on merrily!!

It has had its ups and downs, but this year it completes 20 years since its inception in the form of “Friends of the National Rail Museum” (FNRM). From FNRM, it was a short but significant step to developing into the Indian Steam Railway Society (ISRS).

Apart from organising a National Steam Congress year after year (this year it is the 15th Congress), another regular feature has been the publishing of an annual magazine that is released during the Congress. This magazine began as a Newsletter of the FNRM and then spread its wings and took the form of the current magazine.

To mark 20 years of the Society, we are departing from the practice of bringing you a magazine this year. You will, therefore, see no magazine, but instead, we have selected articles and writings that have appeared in various FNRM Newsletters and ISRS magazines and put them together in the form of a book titled “Steaming On”.

Be sure you pick up your copy of the book and read not only of steam but also of other stories, events and anecdotes that make up the great rail heritage that we have in our country.

The book is in two parts. For those who came in late, the first part covers the setting up of FNRM and then its metamorphosis into ISRS. The second part is a collection of stories, articles, selected addresses by keynote speakers, steam nostalgia, and so on.

There are many who have contributed to the setting up and growth of the society. But perhaps the one person who can be given credit for sowing the seed that grew into the tree that is the current society, is Harsh Vardhan. Of course, he was fortunate that the then Director of the National Rail Museum was none other than Ashwani Lohani, Working President of the Society for many years and now also the Chairman of the Indian Railway Board. It was Ashwani who nurtured the seed and ensured that it germinated and grew. An extract from “Steaming On”, in the words of Harsh Vardhan, is

reproduced below:

Sometime in mid-1997, I made a visit to the museum as I had been doing regularly since its opening in 1977. I had been to Haridwar recently where I came upon two rusting WP class locomotives (7015 & 7161) that were dumped outside the old steam shed. I had also witnessed and read about the scrapping, disposal and auction of the steam locomotives en masse a few years earlier on Northern and Central Railways. During this visit, I wrote a longish comment in the museum's visitors' book that these two WP class locomotives at Haridwar should be preserved for posterity in working condition. I also lamented the fact that while we were preserving the earlier history of railways in the museum, there had been no recent additions from the modern history while we were busy scrapping the last steam locomotives from the face of the earth.

Surprise! Surprise!! Ashwani Lohani used to be the Director of the museum in those days and actually read the comments in the visitor's book regularly and a few days later I got the call from his office seeking to meet with me. I went to meet Mr. Lohani and we discussed about how there needs to be involvement of people outside the railway establishment to support the museum and preservation activities. I also got a list of people from him who had either written in the museum's visitors' book earlier or had communicated with the museum with an interest in railway history and preservation. Believe it or not, the nationwide list of such people could be counted on the fingers of one's hand!

Over the next few months, I communicated and even met with these people and the consensus was that a society should be formed with the aim of pressurising the museum and railway ministry to pursue preservation aggressively.

Thus, the Friends of the National Rail Museum was born. The inaugural meeting took place at the museum on November 02, 1997. Bill Aitken, who was the society's president then, kept meticulous records of the monthly meetings. We also commenced publishing a Newsletter of FNRM.

Read this and much more in “Steaming On”.

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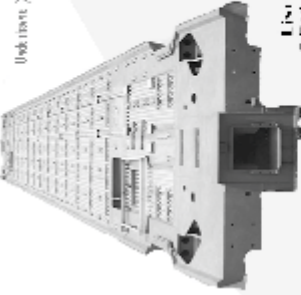
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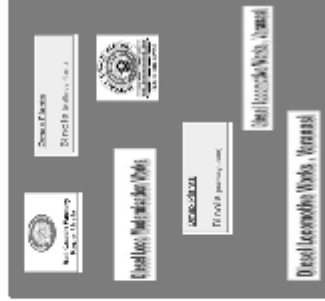
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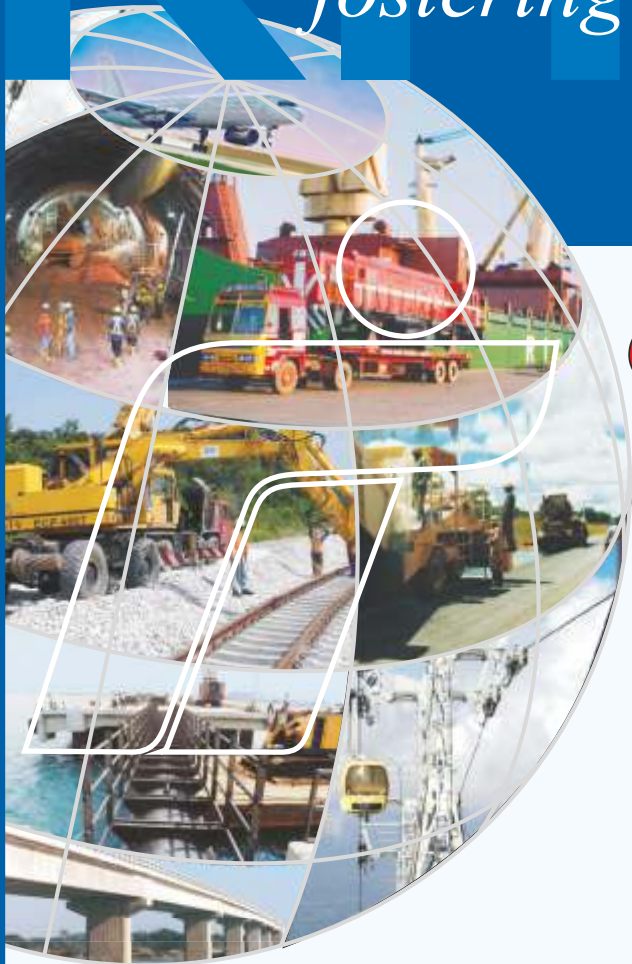


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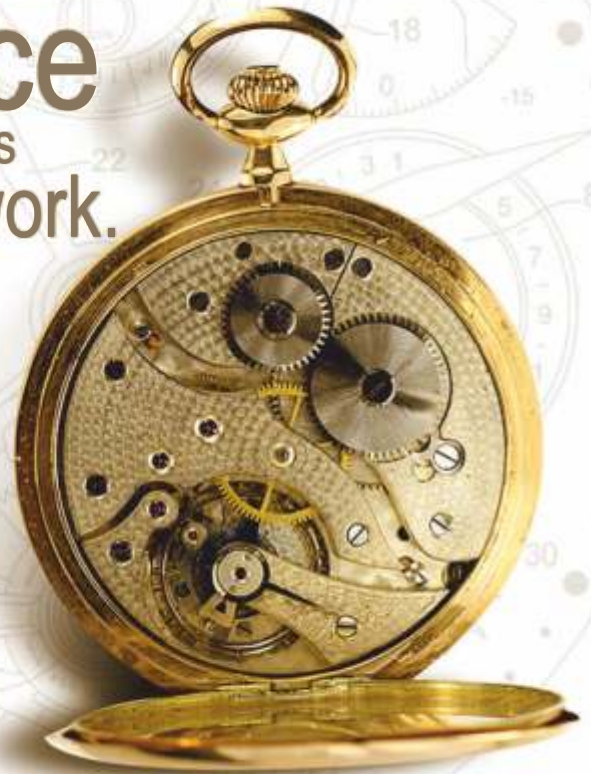
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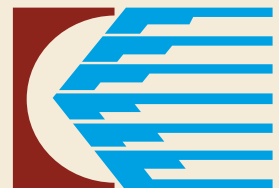
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