



# Railways: Transcending Cultures through Transportation

2nd & 3rd of March, 2024

12.00 HRS IST | 06.30 HRS GMT



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4th Global Conference  
of, by and for  
Rail Enthusiasts.



# Railways: Transcending Cultures through Transportation

A Global Conference  
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2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2024 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT

## SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

APURVA BHADUR | DR. ARUP K CHATTERJEE | BIJAY BISWAAL | CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DEBASHIS CHANDRA | HARSH VARDHAN | JOYDEEP DUTTA  
PETER LEWIS | RICHARD O'CONNOR | DR. RITIKA PRASAD  
VENKATESWARAN ANAND | WARREN MILLER



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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2024

Time	Title	Speaker
12.00-12.10	Welcome and Introduction	J L Singh/Vinoo N Mathur
12.10-13.00	The Bravehearts of Bhopal	V Anand
13.00-14.00	Indian Steam on Celluloid Screen	Harsh Vardhan
14.00-15.00	Allegorizing Pamban Bridge: Kipling's Bridge Builders to Lord Ram's Army	Dr. Arup K Chatterjee
15.00-15.30	The Definitive Train Scene of Indian Cinema	Apurva Bahadur
15.30-16.00	Off-Track: Re-Defining Realism	Bijay Biswaal
16.00-17.00	Railways in Art	David Charlesworth
17.00-18.00	Sharing Knowledge & Best Practices Across all Cultures	Peter Lewis





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### 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2024

Time	Title	Speaker
12.00-13.00	Railway Bookselling & the Politics of Print in India	Dr. Ritika Prasad
13.00-14.00	Railways in Cinema	Warren Miler
14.00-15.00	Coal & Confetti - Anglo-Indians and the Railways	Richard O'Connor
15.00-16.00	Railways & the Raj: How the Age of Steam Transformed India	Christian Wolmar
16.00-17.00	Evolution of Railway Catering in India	Debashis Chandra
17.00-18.00	"He is our staff" : Railways and our People	Joydeep Dutta
18.00- close	Summing up & closing remarks	Vinoo N Mathur





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APURVA BAHADUR PUNE, INDIA

SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 15.00 HRS IST | 09.30 HRS GMT

An electronics engineer by education, Apurva Bahadur works professionally as a technical writer and technical illustrator, with a special focus on the cross-disciplined engineering domain.

Apurva is a committed Indian Railways enthusiast. He is a train track trekker, traveller, photographer and a student of the railway history of India. As a railway photographer, Apurva tries to spend some of his leisure time shooting images of trains in action, especially at scenic spots near Pune. Most of his 4000+ images are displayed on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/apurva.bahadur>

In his own words, Apurva's hobby is photographing trains against picturesque backgrounds. He has a keen eye for details about trains. He is also one of the founder members of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society and takes an active part in all its activities.

Research inputs for this talk had been done by Souroshankha Maji, another rail buff and member of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society.

#### The Definitive Train Scene of Indian Cinema

Some film buffs define this scene as the 'most defining sequence in film history'.

In his brief presentation 'Definitive Train Scene of Indian Cinema', Apurva Bahadur discusses the scene from a railfan's perspective. The presentation is made with research inputs by Souroshankha Maji, and will focus on the location, railway hardware, anecdotes, discrepancies and the sounds audible in the scene, bringing out how cultural aspects affect the scene.

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DR. ARUP K CHATTERJEE SONIPAT, INDIA

SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 14.00 HRS IST | 08.30 HRS GMT

Dr. Arup K. Chatterjee is Professor of English at the Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Beginning his career as a freelance journalist, in 2014, he was a recipient of the Charles Wallace fellowship, to United Kingdom. He was awarded his Doctorate in Philosophy at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, in 2014-15. Subsequently, he has been a visiting professor at renowned universities in the UK and USA, and recently was a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Among his various activities have been writing, editing and translating. He is the author of the widely reviewed and acclaimed, *The Purveyors of Destiny: A Cultural Biography of the Indian Railways*, *The Great Indian Railways*, and *Indians in London: From the Birth of the East India Company to Independent India*. In addition to his teaching and research, Chatterjee has been a prolific author and has contributed numerous articles on history, literature, culture, and politics to various prestigious magazines, and authoring over thirty peer-reviewed academic papers in globally renowned journals. He has been interviewed at diverse media networks. Chatterjee's forthcoming books include *The Great Indian Railway Saga and the Intellectual History of Adam's Bridge/Ram Setu*. Chatterjee is also an award-winning poet and expert calligrapher, and in his free time, he and his family try to engage in supporting animal rights and welfare of urban animals.

#### Allegorizing Pamban Bridge: Kipling's Bridge Builders to Lord Ram's Army

It was only in the late 19th century when the Indian Railways began acquiring the character that we recognize today, especially in the area of railway bridges. This talk attempts to take two major aspects of the cultural history of India's railway bridges, in terms of discussing Rudyard Kipling's fictional story 'Bridge Builders' (based on the Dufferin or Malviya Bridge) and the history of the Pamban Railway Bridge (estd. 1914). This discussion seeks to unravel and examine the grand allegorical aspect that the British Empire, paradoxically, conferred on the aforementioned bridges, by foregrounding aspects of 'Hindu' religion and actively seeking common ground with legends and folklore of 'Hindu' culture. The paradox lies in the fact that British imperial architecture in India is generally regarded as being of Romanesque, Gothic, Saracenic, Mughal, and similar varieties. It is striking, therefore, how Kipling's fictional bridge builders from 1887-88 manifested themselves during speeches at the inauguration of the Pamban Bridge which involved colonial dignitaries valorizing the legend of Ram Setu. Through a study of rare archival material, this talk intends to make a larger suggestion about being more inclusive and accommodating towards British imperial historiography with fewer inhibitions and preconceived ideas than one generally does when it comes to historicizing Indian Railways for the twenty-first century.

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**BIJAYANANDA BISWAL NAGPUR, INDIA**

**SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 15.30 HRS IST | 10.00 HRS GMT**

Bijayananda Biswal, affectionately referred to as Bijay Biswaal, is a railwayman and self-taught Indian artist of national and international recognition. He has taken his skill across various mediums to a level that few have dreamt of. Beginning with humble ball point pen drawings, he graduated to watercolour and huge canvases. With his unique style and techniques, Biswaal has been the winner of the digital influencer of the year award 2021, and was brand ambassador of WINSORANDNEWTON India for 3 consecutive years. He has creative work experience in Russia, Denmark, Turkey, Qatar, Mauritius, Nepal and Bhutan, besides virtually all major Indian cities.

Among his artistic achievements is that he was the first Indian artist to feature prominently in the nationally televised talk show MANN KI BAAT by the Prime Minister of India in 2015. His awards and accolades are too numerous to list here. The significance of these awards is that they are from countries spread all over the globe. In his own words, he is an artist who defines realism.

#### **Off-Track – Re-defining Realism**

A railwayman by profession, Bijay Biswaal has made a name for himself as an artist. He paints on various subjects but his paintings depicting the railways have a place of their own. In his talk, he showcases some of these paintings and tells the audience how he got into this area and excelled.

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CHRISTIAN WOLMAR LONDON, UK

SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH | 15.00 HRS IST | 09.30 HRS GMT

Now in his 75<sup>th</sup> year, Christian Tage Forter Wolmar is a British journalist, prolific writer and author as well as a well-known rail historian. He is also a Labour Party politician. In 2007, he was named Transport Journalist of the Year. Among his interests, he is an advocate for cycling and is on the board of the London Cycling Campaign. He founded Labour Cycles which encourages the Labour Party to adopt a pro-cycling agenda.

Wolmar is best known for his writings. His books and columns mainly analyse the current state of the British railway industry and also cover railway history. He has long been an ardent critic of rail privatisation and argued that the structure contributed to the series of railway disasters in 1997–2001. He frequently appears on TV and radio, both on history and news programmes, and has a regular spot as a commentator on Talk Radio. He speaks at transport conferences around the world, both on the railways and on his concerns about driverless cars.

Wolmar is best known in India for his book, *Railways and the Raj*. Among his other books are *The Subterranean Railway: a History of the London Underground*, and *Fire & Steam*.

#### **Railways & the Raj: How the Age of Steam Transformed India**

India joined the railway age late: the first line was not completed until 1853 but, by 1929, 41,000 miles of track served the country. However, the creation of this vast network was not intended to modernize India for the sake of its people but rather was a means for the colonial power to govern the huge country under its control, serving British economic and military interests.

By building India's railways, Britain radically changed the nation and unwittingly created the preconditions of independence. While the railways were India's first modern development, their construction ultimately contributed to a stirring of nationalist opinion. Despite the dubious intentions behind the construction of the network, the Indian people quickly took to the railways, as the trains allowed them to travel easily for the first time.

As he has done in the book with the same name, in his talk, Christian Wolmar reveals the full story of India's railways, from its very beginnings to the present day and examines the chequered role they have played in Indian history and the creation of today's modern state.

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**DAVID CHARLESWORTH** GRA, United Kingdom

SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 16.00 HRS IST | 10.30 HRS GMT

The GRA is nothing exciting: it just stands Guild of Railway Artists. There are countless such Guilds in every area of interest and careers but in most cases they just set standards of workmanship which members must maintain. However, David Charlesworth, a member of the GRA, did not confine his work to railway subjects. As an industry-trained, working professional artist and graphic designer he covered every subject, including portraits, in most mediums.

David was apprenticed as a Litho Artist in a large art and photographic studio that was part of a printing company that specialised in carton packaging. In the tradition of apprenticeships at that time, he served under the wing of the studios' elders and was thus educated, not just within the industry but in lifestyle too. He was encouraged, and to a great extent pressured, to develop his art outside of the studio. Staff within the art department were very talented artists: cartoonists, modellers, photographers and even musicians – it was career training of a type and variety impossible to obtain today and for which he is grateful. It totalled six years with day-release for college.

Today, David is a member of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society, UK, and railway subjects form a significant part of his work.

#### Railways in Art

The talk takes a look at a career in art where railways have been a significant part.

It took a few years for the art establishment to appreciate what the French and English masters, Monet and Turner, could see but from then on, railways attracted the attention of most males (and a few ladies) for the next 150 years and particularly in art and photography!

However, rather than talk about them, which would need some research and has been covered many times, the speaker talks about his own contribution to the field – which needed him to do rather less research!

## S P E A K E R S F R O M A R O U N D T H E G L O B E

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**DEBASHIS CHANDRA KOLKATA, INDIA**

**SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH | 16.00 HRS IST | 10.30 HRS GMT**

Debashis Chandra, a three generation railwayman, studied at the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Narendrapur in the Indian state of West Bengal. He graduated in Hotel Management from IHM Calcutta (now Kolkata) in the Arts from Calcutta University. Subsequently, he graduated with Masters in Marketing Management and Operations Management.

His career with the Indian Railways included a number of managerial assignments with catering as his main responsibility. He had other assignments as well that dealt with commercial matter as well as general administration and safety. In 2015, he was inducted into Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and in 2022, retired as the Director Catering Services of the Company. One of his assignments with the Indian Railways was as Manager of the BNR Hotel at Puri.

#### **Evolution of Railway Catering in India**

In his talk, Debashis Chandra will take you through the formative years of the Indian Railways and how the need for catering arose once the distances traversed by trains increased and how various types of outlets like Hindu Tea Stalls, Muslim Tea Stalls, Cafeterias and Refreshment Rooms developed. In all these developments, the requirements of the passengers were kept in mind. Over the years, one of the railways, the Bengal Nagpur Railway (BNR) ran two hotels.

The speaker then takes you through the concept of base kitchens, catering on prestigious trains, food plazas, food courts, etc. He finally discusses a road map for catering services on the railways and how it is affected by the food habits of the area the train is running in.

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**HARSH VARDHAN TORONTO, CANADA**

**SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 13.00 HRS IST | 07.30 HRS GMT**

Professionally an engineer and project manager, Harsh Vardhan is first a steam railway enthusiast interested in heritage and steam preservation. Born in India, he migrated to Canada and is a Canadian national and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) since 2009. Starting as a member of the "Friends of National Railway Museum Society" in India in the late 1990s, he was one of the founder members of the Indian Steam Railway Society and active in setting it up. He has written extensively on the steam scene in India and the need for preservation of this important and significant heritage. Like most Indians, he has been an avid film goer, and is in a good position to combine his interest in steam locomotives with that in films.

#### Indian Steam on Celluloid Screen

Up until the 21st century, most people in India could only afford to travel by trains so it was only natural that these travels captured the imaginations of many and formed life lasting memories of these travels for them. However, there were not many videographers around during the golden age of Steam in India, to capture the beauty of these oft-storied steam hauled trains gliding through the rustic environs of India, to be relived again. Since cinema often imitates life, filmmakers and cinematographers of all ages have often used trains in their work to depict various aspects and emotions of life, and sometimes just the travel from A to B. Some filmmakers used trains in their work so often that you think if they were closeted rail fans as well!

Thanks to their efforts all is not lost and an avid cinema and rail fan can often spot exotic trains and locales in the movies of yesteryear. Harsh Vardhan has been documenting the movies that have featured steam trains and other railway heritage since his younger days when cinema was perhaps the only medium of entertainment for most folks in India. Watching a weekly Sunday movie on national television with family and often neighbours as well on a 20" monochrome TV was something everyone waited for all week and going to the theatre to watch a movie on the big screen was an event!

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JOYDEEP DUTTA KANPUR, INDIA

SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH | 17.00 HRS IST | 11.30 HRS GMT

A founding member of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society, Joydeep Dutta is currently a Professor in the Department of Economics Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He has been a life-long rail enthusiast and also a part of the railway society, since he was born into a railway family. He has been fascinated by diesel locomotives, named trains and the interaction between the railways and society.

Joydeep is currently the Vice President of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society and one of its active members. When not teaching young minds, he is fully taken over by the railways. He has contributed regularly to the magazine of the society as well as participated in its monthly talk series.

"He is our Staff": Railways and our People

Coming of the railways in India in the middle of the 19th century had created a third component in the country's social fabric apart from the traditional civil and defence ones. This compartment was the "Railway Society", a society made up of railway workers and their families, even the extended ones. It is this story of the interaction of these societies that Joydeep Dutta speaks about in this talk with anecdotes and humour. This mingling of the railway society with the traditional ones also created a new breed of hobbyists called the "railway enthusiasts". This talk also traces the growth of this unique hobby in India. Although still not as widespread as it is in the West, it has nevertheless come a long way.

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**PETER LEWIS**, United Kingdom

**SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 17.00 HRS IST | 11.30 HRS GMT**

Peter Lewis is Grammar School educated in Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, with a working career in farming, transport & distribution, cleaning and charitable educational work. Among other activities, he was co-founder of an internet website for rail enthusiasts-Steam Tube. At its height, the website had 1500 members, and an archive of 30,000 photographs and 7,000 videos. His interest in the railway did not end there as he also co-edited a book on the Stratford-upon-Avon & Midland Junction Railway (SMJ).

In 2012, Peter began his association with WATTRAIN (World Alliance of Tourist Trams and Trains), giving a presentation at the inaugural conference at the National Rail Museum at York. For the last few years, he has edited the organisation's newsletter and cared for its website. He now serves as the Communications Director.

Since 2015, he has produced and presented two weekly internet radio shows, which feature over 1,500 interviews with artists, writers, singers, etc.

#### Sharing Knowledge & Best Practice Across All Cultures

In the international world of railway preservation and heritage, one size does not fit all!! Different cultural values affect the way things are done. Some countries have a strong volunteer ethic, others do not. Then there is the question of governance, and how local cultural mores might affect this. Also, cultures have differing standards regarding, for example, safety. We can all learn though, from each other's experiences. With his experience at WATTRAIN and his interest in the railway, the speaker is in a good position to compare and comment on practices the world over and how these practices affect the railway and vice versa.

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**RICHARD O'CONNOR CHENNAI, INDIA**

**SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH | 14.00 HRS IST | 08.30 HRS GMT**

Richard O'Connor is an Assistant Commissioner of Customs & GST based in Chennai, India. An Anglo-Indian hailing from St. Thomas Mount in Madras, Richard has had an abiding interest in his community, its heritage and its history. He has researched into Anglo-Indian settlements in India such as Whitefield, Mcluskiegunj and even some of the railway colonies which helped foster an Anglo-Indian way of life. He has also written about Anglo-Indian contribution to hockey in India and internationally. He has collaborated on the seminal book *The Anglo-Indians: A 500-Year History* by S. Muthiah and Harry MacLure, and has been the architect of the audio-visual documentary *The Anglo-Indians of Madras*. Richard began his career with a two-year stint on the Indian Railways and was first stationed at the Railway Junction of Jolarpet (situated midway between Chennai and Bengaluru), which was once a flourishing Anglo-Indian railway colony.

#### **Coal and Confetti: Anglo-Indians and the Railways**

Anglo-Indians have had, for well-nigh over a century, a symbiotic relationship with the Railways in India. Not only did the Railways and the community appear to need each other, but they also seemed made for each other. For some reason, Anglo-Indians were entrusted with the job of setting up, manning and running the Railways, from an operational point of view, ever since its inception in the country in the 1850s. Perhaps it was their pioneering spirit, perhaps it was their loyalty to duty or perhaps it was their robustness...who knows? Or maybe they were just the right buffer and bridge between the ruler and the ruled.

For their part, the Anglo-Indians grasped the opportunity with both hands and took to the profession like a fish to water. Most of them served as drivers, guards, firemen, fitters and so on, while some were permanent way inspectors, mechanical engineers, carriage and wagon superintendents or station masters. The women taught at railway schools or worked as nurses in railway hospitals. It was a well-oiled machinery and the railways ran smoothly. Every railway junction came to have a railway colony which provided the perfect space for the Anglo-Indian way of life and culture to prosper. Every colony had a railway institute which was the centre of Anglo-Indian social life. Anglo-Indian hockey, Anglo-Indian cuisine and, needless to say, Anglo-Indian music and dance took wing at these colonies. It was a different world entirely, and despite the turmoil and friction between the colonists and the nationalists in the political and social arena, the community managed to live in an ambience of self-sufficient bliss, or as some would have it, a bubble. When that bubble burst, the Anglo-Indians found themselves scattered to all corners of the globe.

## SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

APURVA BAHADUR | DR. ARUP K CHATTERJEE | BIJAY BISWAAL | CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DEBASHIS CHANDRA | HARSH VARDHAN | JOYDEEP DUTTA  
PETER LEWIS | RICHARD O'CONNOR | DR. RITIKA PRASAD  
VENKATESWARAN ANAND | WARREN MILLER

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ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



# Railways: Transcending Cultures through Transportation

A Global Conference  
of, by and for  
Rail Enthusiasts

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2024 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



DR. RITIKA PRASAD CHARLOTTE, USA

SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH | 12.00 HRS IST | 06.30 HRS GMT

Dr. Ritika Prasad is an Associate Professor of History at the Department of History, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, USA. She received her PhD in History (South Asia) at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also holds an MA in Modern History from Magdalen College, University of Oxford, and a B.A. in History from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. She teaches and researches on South Asian history, with a particular focus on colonial and imperial history, nationalism and decolonization, and social history of technology. Dr. Prasad has published widely, including in *Modern Asian Studies*, *Mobility in History*, *Book History*, and *South Asian History and Culture* as well as in public forums like *The Conversation*. Her monograph *Tracks of Change: Railways and Everyday Life in Colonial India* examined how railways became increasingly present and significant in the everyday life of Indians. She is currently working on a book that examines the long-term triangular relationship between newspaper press, the colonial and postcolonial state, and a broader public as it has developed in India over two centuries.

#### Railway Bookselling and the Politics of Print in India

This talk examines the history of the iconic railway bookselling firm of A.H. Wheeler and Co., one of the most recognizable railway booksellers in India. Established in 1877 by a Frenchman and bearing the name of a chain of English booksellers, Wheeler successfully navigated the end of colonial rule and continued to be a presence in contemporary India. Thus, for almost 150 years now, Wheeler's bookstalls have translated the abstraction of a big technology – railways – into the everyday experience of Indians. Generations of railway travellers have encountered it and, as they browse its stalls and purchase books, magazines and newspapers from it, their reading habits have been deeply influenced by Wheeler's retail. By examining Wheeler's institutional history and retail choices, this talk situates railway bookstalls in a mutual process: both of how railway travel became integral to the circulation of commercial print and how this mass consumption of the print transformed the experience of railway travel. It is a pity that of late, Wheeler bookstalls are disappearing from stations.

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**VENKATESWARAN ANAND BENGALURU, INDIA**  
SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH | 12.10 HRS IST | 06.40 HRS GMT

A professional railway man, Venkateswaran Anand joined the Indian Railways as an Officer Apprentice in 1963. During the course of his training, he graduated from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London and Institution of Production Engineers, London. After an illustrious career spread over four decades, he retired as the General Manager of the Southern Railway zone of the Indian Railways. For some time, he was on deputation to the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., to plan and commission the infrastructure for the maintenance of locomotives, carriages and wagons and to commission, operate and maintain the imported tunnelling machinery and other construction equipment. Among his other assignments were Divisional Railway Manager, Western Railway, Bhavnagar and thereafter as Chief Mechanical Engineer, South Eastern Railway, Kolkata, before being promoted as General Manager, Southern Railway, Chennai. Post retirement, he was Advisor to the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation, New Delhi in which capacity he was associated with the manufacture of passenger coaches for the DMRC at Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, Bangalore. He has travelled widely the world over in connection with modernisation of maintenance practices for diesel locomotives, introduction of 3-phase technology and setting up tunnel ventilation arrangements.

#### The Bravehearts of Bhopal

The Railways have shaped culture in India. Among other impacts, Indian Railways have integrated the nation and broken barriers of caste. Their impact on the economy was also far reaching. Railway men have always risen to the occasion both in times of peace as well as war. They have responded to disasters whether man-made or natural. They have rushed in where others fear to tread.

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy, perhaps the largest manmade disaster, was one occasion where railway men saved hundreds of lives, putting their own lives at stake. This talk is a tribute to these unsung heroes, who risked their lives to save others. On the night of 2nd December 1984 nearly 40 tonnes of Methyl Iso Cyanate were discharged accidentally from the Union Carbide Plant, killing and maiming thousands. The after effects are felt to this day.

Bhopal Railway Station is situated very near the Union Carbide plant and was engulfed in the poisonous fumes. The Dy. Station Superintendent saved thousands by re-scheduling trains. The General Manager of Central Railway was amongst the first to reach Bhopal and organized relief. "The Railway Men" is a recently released film about the disaster and chronicles the heroism of the railway men, albeit with a liberal dose of cinematic license.

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**WARREN MILLER SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

**SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH | 13.00 HRS IST | 07.30 HRS GMT**

Warren Miller is a retired electrical engineer, with a passion for the railways and its history. During his career in international standards development, he travelled widely on the railways of Australia, India, Europe, and Southern Africa. He lives in Sydney with his wife, and has written several articles on rail travel. His hobbies include making models of Indian Railways' trains.

During the course of his travels to India, Warren took a liking for the railways in India and enrolled as a member of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society, the Society's first overseas member. He has been a regular contributor to the Quarterly magazine of the Society, *The Rail Enthusiast*. The articles range from a trip on the Delhi Ring Railway to old vintage Timetables, from an account of the railways in Indian cinema to building models of Indian rolling stock. He has also penned an article titled "Indian Railways Illustrated - On Cigarette Cards". His most recent contributions have been on the story of the first set of locomotives imported from Britain for the East Indian Railway landing up in Australia and the resurrection of a railway in Tasmania. He hosted one of our members from India when the latter was on a visit to Australia. In addition, Warren has participated in the Society's monthly talk series.

#### **Railways in Cinema - Reflecting lives, transcending cultures**

Popular cinema has mirrored human experiences for over 100 years, and when railways are part of a film narrative, they often show the common themes of the railways' effect on people's lives, in diverse cultures and countries.

Societies, traditions, cultures, belief systems all evolved slowly, over 100s or even 1000s of years, yet railways, emerged from the industrial revolution, quickly and spread throughout the world in a space of a few decades. The impact of the global railway revolution was every bit as great as the establishment of the internet in the late 20th century and the effect of railways on all societies was largely independent of local or national traditions.

The presentation will use railway scenes from films from several countries to illustrate how various aspects of railways in peoples' daily lives can be found in world cinema.

## **S P E A K E R S F R O M A R O U N D T H E G L O B E**

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The Rail Enthusiasts' Society is a society of,  
by and for rail enthusiasts

## About Us

A 'Rail Enthusiast' means a person who may or may not be a professional railway man or railway woman, but who has a deep interest in and love for the railways in all or any its aspects. The interest could be in any area pertaining to the railways in India or overseas and may include history, heritage, anecdotes, books and films, railway infrastructure like track, bridges, stations, signalling, etc., railway locomotives and rolling stock, rail operations, rail photography, rail modelling, staff, sports, and so on. The subjects mentioned are only a sample and, in effect, sustained and deep interest in any area pertaining to the railways makes one a rail enthusiast.

Now eight years old, the society was set up to provide a platform for all rail enthusiasts to disseminate knowledge, air their views and exchange ideas regarding the railways in India and overseas.

One of the main activities of the society has been the publishing of a Quarterly magazine – The Rail Enthusiast. Beginning towards the end of 2016, a total of 28 issues have been published so far. Virtually all areas that would interest a rail enthusiast have found place in the magazine, so that it will cater to any rail buff, whatever the interest. Some of the specific topics covered include history and heritage, rail tunnels, rail architecture, Anglo-Indians and the Railways, rail electrification, rail signaling, trip reports, and the like.

Other activities include a monthly virtual talk on a topic of interest to enthusiasts, visits to rail establishments like work sites, stations and maintenance depots, guided rail trips, debates and quizzes for students, training of volunteers for the National Rail Museum, interaction with schools, and so forth. We are also taken up the publishing of books. The conference is itself an activity that has become a regular annual feature.

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# RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY

(Registration No: S-E/792/Distt. South East/2015)

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO BE FILLED BY THE APPLICANT

**FULL NAME:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

(Where you would like to receive all correspondence magazines, etc.) .....

**CONTACT NUMBERS:** **Mob:**..... **Land:**.....

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** .....

**PROFESSION:** .....

**PROPOSED BY:** .....  
(Life or Ordinary Member only) .....

**YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE RAILWAYS**

(Please tick one or more):

- Steam locos
- History & Heritage
- Photography
- Bridges
- Buildings
- Rolling stock
- Rail Modelling
- Others (Please enter .....  
.....)

**OTHER INTERESTS**

(if any): .....

**CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- |   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE MEMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:   | Rs. 1000   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORDINARY MEMBER  | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION: | Rs. 3,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP  | <input type="checkbox"/> ONE-TIME PAYMENT:    | Rs. 10,000 |

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- Cheque (In favour of "Rail Enthusiasts Society")
  - Bank Transfer
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A/c No. 65250409615; IFS Code: SBIN0001709  
(Please confirm by email)

For any queries please contact Secretary at  
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