

RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

7th & 8th of March, 2026

12.00 HRS IST | 06.30 HRS GMT

6th Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts.



facebook.com/railenthusiastssociety



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER



www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7th MARCH 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
12.00-12.05	Welcome	Vinoo N Mathur
12.05-13.00	Alaska Railroad – A Journey Through Glaciers	Pankaj Prasad
13.00-14.00	Hikari Service	Dr. Toshiji Takatsu
14.00-15.00	India's Flagship Luxury Trains	Rahul Himalian
15.00-16.00	Rail Cruising, and the <i>Indian Pacific</i> Train	Warren Miller
16.00-17.00	Sleeper Hit: The Return of the Night Train	Monisha Rajesh
17.00-18.00	The Rossiya	Bharat Vohra





RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8th MARCH 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
12.00-12.05	Welcome	J L Singh
12.05-13.00	Toy Train to the Clouds	David Charlesworth
13.00-14.00	Named Trains in US – From Chiefs to Limiteds – Americas Streamliner Era of Passenger Trains	Robert LaPrelle
14.00-15.00	Chasing the Orient Express	Atulya Sinha
15.00-16.00	Deccan Queen – First Lady of the Indian Railways	Ashish Kuvelkar
16.00-17.00	Opening of the Manchester - Liverpool Railway	Dr. David Gwyn
17.00-18.00	Three Iconic Trains - One India	Deepak Sapra
18.00-18.15	Closing Remarks	Vinoo N Mathur





RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



ASHISH KUVELKAR | PUNE | INDIA

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 | 15.00 HRS IST | 09.30 HRS GMT

Ashish Kovelkar is currently associated with the Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (C-DAC) as Senior Consultant and works for the team that has been developing the hardware subsystems for the PARAM series of indigenously developed supercomputers. Notwithstanding his profession, he is a hard core rail enthusiast as his hobbies – trekking along railway track and rail photography – would indicate. He is a member of Indian Railways Fan Club (IRFCA) where he contributes towards maintaining its website and the discussion forum. He has contributed many articles and photographs for railway journals and magazines.

Deccan Queen – First Lady of the Indian Railways

The iconic Deccan Queen, one of Indian Railway's most celebrated trains, will mark its 96th anniversary on June 1, 2026. Electrification of the Mumbai-Pune (then Bombay-Poona) route was one of the enablers for the train to be introduced in 1930. The talk will trace the journey of the Deccan Queen since its inception, her unique attributes that has made her legendary, and the folklore associated with her. The train has many firsts – the first inter-city train in the country, the first to be hauled by electric traction from day one, etc. Its route through the rugged Western Ghats makes the journey picturesque and enthralling.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



ATULYA SINHA | LUCKNOW | INDIA

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 | 14.00 HRS IST | 08.30 HRS GMT

Atulya Sinha joined the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers in 1988. He has extensive experience of railway working in various capacities. He has worked in prestigious assignments such as Divisional Railway Manager, Sonpur Division and Additional General Manager, South Eastern Railway zone based at Kolkata. He retired from railway service in September 2025 as head of the Indian Railway's Rail Wheel Plant at Bela. He has visited Canada, USA, Vietnam, France, China, Czech Republic and Italy on various rail related assignments.

Apart from his professional expertise in mechanical engineering and general administration, he is interested in many aspects of the railways, particularly history and heritage. He is an active member of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society and has written numerous articles and delivered many talks on railway related topics in various forums.

Chasing the Orient Express

The Orient Express was not just a train; it was the name of a series of luxury trains that connected much of Europe before the era of air travel – an early attempt at standardization, which foreshadowed the problems of globalization. At its peak, the Orient Express used to attract the rich and famous. It also provided the setting for many books and movies, which blended fact with fiction. With the growth of air travel and road networks, regular services are discontinued now, though some special trains with that name are operated from time to time.

The speaker's interest in this iconic train was sparked while visiting the Sirkeci railway museum during a family vacation in Istanbul in 2019. Since then, he has been "chasing the Orient Express" by reading and gathering information about this legendary train, though he is yet to travel on its modern version!

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

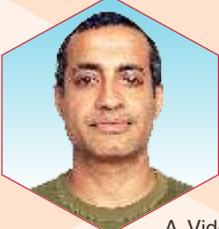
ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



BHARAT VOHRA | NEW YORK CITY | USA

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 | 17.00 HRS IST | 11.30 HRS GMT

A Video Editor by profession, Bharat Vohra was born into a railway family, with both, his father and grandfather, working with the Indian Railways at that time. At an early age, Bharat often accompanied his father in the latter's Inspection Carriage; beginning his tryst with trains and all things railways – a bond that would last, and only get stronger, well into his adult life. Bharat has been sketching trains since his childhood, and a lot of his work has since been published. For his graduating year thesis, whilst at University of New York, Bharat made a documentary on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. Having visited all seven continents, he is an avid traveller. A regular blogger, he maintains a large collection of his travel photographs on Flickr. Railways remains a common thread amongst his travel and visuals, his travel inspiration coming from train journeys far and wide.

The Rossiya

Bharat Vohra's talk will cover his and fellow rail enthusiast, Saqib's, rail journey through Russia, on board Train # 2, the *Rossiya*. The two undertook the 9288-km (5771-mile) long trip in May of 2014, spanning 8 time zones, 7 days and 6 nights, from Moscow in Europe in the West to Vladivostok in Asia in the East. He will highlight life on board, and sights along the route of the legendary and iconic Trans-Siberian Railway, the longest journey by rail anywhere in the world.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



DAVID CHARLESWORTH | GRA | UK

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 | 12.00 HRS IST | 06.30 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. A member of the GRA, David Charlesworth (born 16 June 1954 in Chesterfield, Derbyshire) is an industry-trained English fine arts artist and author with a wide portfolio including graphic design and illustrations. He is especially acclaimed for his paintings and drawings of transport and historical subjects at home and in India; he is also regularly commissioned for portraits and book illustrations. He is a regular visitor to India and has travelled on and studied the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in depth. One of his well-known books on the Indian Railways is "No Problem, Sahib" raised by his maternal grandparents, he has been fascinated by India all his life as his grandfather was in India and Burma in 1943.

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

Toy Train to the Clouds

The so-called "Toy Train" from Siliguri in the plains to Darjeeling perched at more than 2000 meters above sea level in the lofty Himalayas is no toy but a regular full-fledged train. Its 610 mm gauge resulting in its small size gave rise to the "toy" sobriquet. David's talk is an illustrated journey in brief up one of the world's most interesting and exciting railways – the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway – highlighting the beauty of the area, some of the problems and its iconic 100-year-old B-class locomotives.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



DR. DAVID GWYN | UK

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 | 16.00 HRS. IST | 10.30 HRS. GMT

Dr. David Gwyn is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, and works as a heritage consultant. He was the lead consultant on the successful bid for UNESCO World Heritage status for 'The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales'. His interest in heritage covers rail heritage as well. For instance, his most recent book is *The Coming of the Railway 1750-1850 A New Global History* published by Yale University Press.

The Opening Day of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway

Opened on the 15th of September 1830, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was the first inter-city railway between two population centres, one an industrial town and the other a port city. Although the Stockton-Darlington Railway that used a steam locomotive had been operating for five years, this was the first to provide a scheduled passenger service. Its opening was thus a major event but it turned out to be anything but smooth. The disastrous events of the day cast a shadow on the early development of the main-line railway. This talk sets out the social, economic and political context to this epoch-making occasion, the running of the first and at that time, the most iconic train not only in Great Britain but the whole world.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



DEEPAK SAPRA | HYDERABAD | INDIA

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 | 17.00 HRS IST | 11.30 HRS GMT

A member of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society, Deepak Sapra started his working life as a member of the Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers. He left the Indian Railways after a short career and after graduating from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, is today the CEO (API & Services) at Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad, in the city where he resides. Apart from his professional life, he is a prolific writer putting mundane events into words that convert the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Deepak is a regular contributor to the magazine of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society and author of *The Boy Who Loved Trains*, the book that demonstrates his love for the railways that exists even today even after he has severed his professional ties from the railways.

Three iconic trains, One India

Through the talk, Deepak Sapra will go on three iconic journeys – the Mumbai (and other suburban) local commuter trains, the Partition trains of 1947, and the COVID Shramik Specials of 2020 to reveal varying facets of India not just around historical events but also through daily life experiences of millions of people. The talk will illustrate that in a diverse country like India it is such trains that make the railways not just a system of transport but 'a way of life' and 'the lifeline of the nation'.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



MONISHA RAJESH | LONDON | UK

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 | 16.00 HRS IST | 10.30 HRS GMT

Monisha Rajesh is a British journalist whose writing has appeared in The Guardian, The Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal. Her first book *Around India in 80 Trains* was one of The Independent's top ten books on India. Her second book, *Around the World in 80 Trains* won the National Geographic Traveller Book of the Year and was shortlisted for the Stanford Dolman Award. Her third book, *Epic Train Journeys* was shortlisted for the National Geographic Traveller Photography Book of the Year. In 2023, she was named in the Condé Nast Traveller Women Who Travel Power List and her new book, *Moonlight Express: Around the World by Night Train* was published last year and is currently shortlisted for the Edward Stanford Travel Writing Award.

Sleeper Hit: The Return of the Night Train

This talk will explore the resurgence in night train travel all over Europe, touching upon the origins of sleeper trains in the late 19th century and bringing us up to the modern-day state of sleeper trains and what they mean to travellers today. Monisha Rajesh spent three years documenting the renaissance of night trains and calls upon her many experiences on board trains such as *The Santa Claus Express* and *The Dacia*, to the infamous *Orient Express*.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



PANKAJ PRASAD | GHAZIABAD | INDIA

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 | 12.05 HRS IST | 06.35 HRS GMT

Pankaj Prasad is a cancer researcher by profession, a mixed-media artist by hobby, and a railfan by heart. He completed his Ph.D. in cancer genetics from the University of Delhi and AIIMS, Delhi. Later, he continued his research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Cornell University in New York City, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Texas, USA.

He started traveling by rail at 1 year old, and the journey has never stopped since. He has been traveling on some of the world's iconic trains across continents, including India, Australia, Indonesia, and America. He has a long list of trains to travel on in the future. As an avid reader of railroad books, he enjoys reading rail-based non-fiction and doing artwork based on his travels. He has plans to finish writing his first nonfiction book by the end of 2016.

Alaska Railroad: A Journey through Glaciers

From 1915 to 1926, approximately 5,000 workers wielding shovels, saws, and spike mauls built nearly 500 miles of track between the harbour town of Seward and the interior hub of Fairbanks. The railroad was operated by the federal government until 1985, when the State of Alaska purchased it for \$22.3 million. Linking top destinations and two national parks, the train offers access to some of Alaska's most epic scenery, winding through untouched mountainous landscapes and over glacier-carved mountain ridges that look down to turquoise waters and the remote wilderness beyond. The Alaska Railroad carries more than 400,000 passengers and 5.11 million tons of freight annually. It has 656 miles of track, 1,381 freight cars, 45 passenger cars, and 57 locomotives. Today, the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) is one of North America's only railroads that carries both passengers and freight, and one of the very few offering whistle-stop service. Join the speaker on this exceptionally iconic rail journey in a \$4 million GoldStar double-deck dome car to discover the Alaskan beauty in the wilderness.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



RAHUL HIMALIAN | NEW DELHI | INDIA

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 | 14.00 HRS IST | 08.30 HRS GMT

Rahul Himalian, a member of the Indian Railways Traffic Service, is a senior rail professional. After working in various capacities in the Indian Railways, he is currently Director (Tourism & Marketing) at Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC Ltd). He was earlier Additional General Manager (Tourism) as well as Group General Manager (West Zone) in the same organisation.

A product of Lawrence School, Sanawar, he later graduated in Bachelor's of Technology in Electrical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, India. He further pursued Masters in Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, where he was highly successful.

In his capacity of Director (Tourism & Marketing) at IRCTC, Himalian is spearheading the businesses of Tourism and Internet Ticketing. He is also the Chairman of IRCTC Payments Limited – a wholly owned subsidiary of IRCTC. Besides, he is in-charge of the Human Resource, Infra, Administration and Official Language Departments of IRCTC.

His hobbies include creative writing, playing violin, squash and performing close-up as well as mentalist magic.

IRCTC and Its Flagship Luxury Trains

India's tourism landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, moving beyond conventional sightseeing to immersive, experience-driven travel. Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), through its flagship luxury trains, is redefining rail travel by seamlessly blending heritage, hospitality and high-end experiential tourism.

Luxury trains represent a niche yet powerful segment of global tourism, appealing to high value travellers seeking exclusivity, comfort and cultural depth. In India, IRCTC plays a pivotal role in the operation, marketing and international promotion of these luxury trains. Among the latter are the *Maharaja's Express*, and *Golden Chariot* luxury trains.

The talk will cover the working and routes of such trains and also give an idea of how these iconic trains are strengthening the country's global tourism footprint.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



ROBERT LAPRELLE | DALLAS | USA

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 | 13.00 HRS IST | 07.30 HRS GMT

Robert 'Bob' LaPrelle, the current President & CEO of the Museum of American Railroads, is a 30-year veteran in the field of historic railway preservation and museums. He has recently led the successful effort to move the Museum to a significantly larger venue in Frisco, Texas. He had given a talk on this shift in one of the earlier conferences of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society.

LaPrelle is a resident of Dallas, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Government and Public Policy, including internships at the LBJ Presidential Library & Museum. He served as past president of Association of Railway Museums (ARM) and is immediate past-president of HeritageRail Alliance (HRA), its successor organization. LaPrelle chaired the Recommended Practices and Museums Advocacy Committees, making annual trips to Washington, D.C. in support of federal funding for museums. He also represents railroad museums at the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Council of Affiliates. Bob currently serves as president of the London-based World Association of Tourist Trams & Trains (WATTRAIN), an international railway heritage advocacy organization.

Named Trains in the US – From Chiefs to Limiteds - America's Streamliner Era of Passenger Train

The talk will cover famous passenger trains during the years just prior to WWII when streamlined diesel-powered trains were first inaugurated. It will take you through to the 1950s and 1960s until the advent of Amtrak. These were iconic trains in their time.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | TOKYO | JAPAN

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 | 13.00 HRS IST | 07.30 HRS GMT

Dr. Toshiji Takatsu, a Doctor of Engineering and a B.S. in Civil Engineering, is a certified Land Surveyor, a Professional Engineer in Construction Work and a Senior Engineer (Study & Planning) of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers. He has held many critical and important positions in the field of Civil Engineering and construction and is currently the Representative Director of the Railway Engineering Co. Ltd., having been its Director earlier. He has also been the Special Technical Advisor of the Japan Consultants for International Business Co. Starting his career in the 1970s, he has excellent knowledge of all aspects of rail construction, both conventional and highspeed.

HIKARI: The Story of the Tokaido Shinkansen

The Tokaido Shinkansen, inaugurated in 1964, was the world's first high-speed railway and remains one of the most influential and iconic transportation innovations of the 20th century. At the center of this achievement stands the Hikari service, which symbolized Japan's technological ambition during a period of rapid economic growth. This presentation explores the historical background that led to the development of the Shinkansen, the engineering breakthroughs embodied in the early 0 Series Hikari trains, and the subsequent evolution of rolling stock up to the latest N700S. In addition, the Hikari played a transformative role in Japanese society by dramatically reducing travel times, reshaping business practices, and stimulating regional development. The presentation also highlights the Shinkansen's unparalleled safety and punctuality record, as well as its cultural significance and global influence on high-speed rail systems in Europe and Asia.

Through historical insights, technological perspectives, and social impact analysis, this talk illustrates why the Hikari remains an enduring symbol of Japan's railway excellence and how its legacy continues to shape the future of high-speed transportation.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



RAIL TRAILS: TALES OF ICONIC TRAINS

A Global Conference
of, by and for
Rail Enthusiasts

7th & 8th of March, 2026 | 1200 Hrs. IST | 0630 Hrs. GMT



WARREN MILLER | SYDNEY | AUSTRALIA

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 | 15.00 HRS IST | 09.30 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 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". Another contribution has been on the story of the first set of locomotives imported from Britain for the East Indian Railway landing up in Australia.

Rail Cruising, and the *Indian Pacific* Train

The presentation will cover the development of rail cruise trains, using examples from various countries and different periods. Rail cruising is a sub-set of passenger rail travel that has its own unique attractions and challenges. Australia is a large area, mostly uninhabited, resulting in its own unique charms as well as problems. The presentation will include a more detailed look at the evolution of the 'Indian Pacific', Australia's iconic train that crosses the continent, linking the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is on this line, which the 'Indian Pacific' traverses, that you have the longest stretch of straight railway track anywhere in the world.

SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

| ASHISH KUVELKAR | ATULYA SINHA | BHARAT VOHRA
| DAVID CHARLESWORTH | DR. DAVID GWYN | DEEPAK SAPRA
| MONISHA RAJESH | PANKAJ PRASAD | RAHUL HIMALIAN
| ROBERT LAPRELLE | DR. TOSHIJI TAKATSU | WARREN MILLER

www.railenthusiastindia.org.in



facebook.com/railenthusiastsociety

ORGANISED BY THE RAIL ENTHUSIASTS' SOCIETY



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 ten 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 34 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 have also taken up the publishing of books. The conference is itself an activity that has become a regular annual feature.



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 |

MODE OF PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION:

- Cheque (In favour of "Rail Enthusiasts Society")
 - Bank Transfer
- State Bank of India, opp. MKR Hospital, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 (India)
A/c No. 65250409615; IFS Code: SBIN0001709
(Please confirm by email)

For any queries please contact Secretary at
railenthusiast2015@gmail.com or by post/courier at
Secretary, Rail Enthusiasts' Society, C-494, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 (India)
Telephone: +91-8130111589

For those residing overseas, please contact the Secretary for details of subscription, etc.