

HISTORY OF THE MAGAZINE

The first train in the Indian subcontinent steamed off from Mumbai Railway Station (called Bori Bunder at that time) on 16th April, 1853. Centenary of this event was observed in the form of a Railway Week with great excitement all over the country in April, 1953. At about the same time a need was felt to have an in-house magazine of Indian Railways to cater to the needs of Railway employees and railway users, to keep them updated with all the latest developments taking place in the field of rail transportation and to build a sort of a bridge between the Management and the workforce. Accordingly, the first issue of the 'Indian Railways' Magazine in English language was published in April 1956.

Having an in-house magazine was just one of the several other new ideas that were put into practice during the observance of first Railway Week. The then President of India, Late Babu Rajendra Prasad in the preface of the first issue wrote "*the Magazine will, I hope, fulfill a long felt want and supply authoritative information to the public about the various activities of the Indian Railways and serve as a link between the management and the railway employees*". The then Prime Minister of India, Late J.L.Nehru commented '.....not only should the public be informed of the numerous activities of the Railways and the developments that are taking place, but the public should also be invited to make suggestions for improvement'. Thus the Magazine started its journey with the blessings of all the eminent personalities in the Government like Late Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then Vice President of India, Late Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Minister of Transport & Railways, Late Khandubhai K. Desai, the then Minister of Labour and Late O.V. Alagesan, the then Deputy Minister of Transport & Railways.

The first issue of the Magazine contained articles written by all the Board Members including the then Chairman Railway Board, Late G. Pande and General Managers of all the Zonal Railways that were in existence at that time. The very first issue of the Magazine was widely appreciated and drew wide coverage from a large section of the print media. The Times of India, Mumbai and Delhi reported "*the first issue of Indian Railways has been attractively got up, printed on art paper and with a profusion of illustrations. Each of the Zonal Railways has for sometime been publishing its own Journal containing general articles, short stories and staff news. Indian Railways will now serve as an 'apex journal' reflecting the national role of the Railways in the life and economy of the country.*" Late Dr. H. Gschwind, the then President of Swiss Federal Railways and Late C.G. Massoth, Public Relations Officer, Illinois, Central Rail Road, Chicago also sent their congratulatory messages. The first one year of the Magazine was such a fabulous hit that one of its admiring readers broke into poetry and wrote :

*"I write these lines but few
To convey my congratulations to you
For the first issue of Indian Railways
Which is outstanding in many ways.*

*Its planning and production are very good
And for the mind it contains inviting food
A glance at the issue anywhere
Will show you have taken good care
In presenting to the readers very good fare."
Through good contributions which are all too rare."*