No. 2018/Heritage/ZRHC

New Delhi, Dated: 06.12.2018

General Managers
All India Railways & Production Units
DG/NAIR, DG/RDSO
Director(s) - Central Training Institutes (CTIs)
CAO's of Indian Railways

Ref: This office letter of even number dated 19.04.2018.

Reference above, a draft Indian Railways Heritage Charter to provide broad guidelines for conservation, preservation, restoration, repair and maintenance of Heritage Assets over Indian Railways, was circulated to stakeholders for comments & views.

2. Based on inputs received from stakeholders the draft charter has been updated, which has been approved by the Board (CRB).

3. Indian Railways Heritage Charter(2018) and a sample of Rail Heritage Logo as outlined in Article 3 of the Charter are enclosed for kind perusal and further action please. Soft copies are also available at the webpage of Heritage Directorate under www.indianrailways.gov.in.

DA: The Charter (02 Pages)
& Sample of Rail Heritage Logo

(Subrata Nath)
Executive Director/Heritage
Telefax: 011-23385330
Email: subrata.nath@nic.in/
subnath@gmail.com

Copy to:

Members and Mentors of the Apex Level Heritage Committee, Railway Board

OSD/PSO/Sr.PPS to CRB, MRS, ME, MT, MTR, MS, FC & Secretary for kind information of CRB, MRS, ME, MT, MTR, MS, FC & Secretary please.
INDIAN RAILWAYS’ HERITAGE CHARTER (IRHC)  
(2018)

Preamble:
This Charter outlines the commitment of the Indian Railway Administration to restore, preserve and conserve century old rich railway heritage of India.

Objective:
This Charter aims at providing guidelines for Conservation, Preservation, Restoration, Repair and Maintenance of historic Railway Assets, so as to enable posterity to enjoy and gain knowledge of the past technologies and processes, which have been used during various stages of construction and development of rail-based transportation in India.

Definitions:
- **Heritage Railway Assets** - These include historic and preserved railways, tourist railways, tramways and railway museums, historic fixed and rolling stock, fixed and moving structures and equipment currently in use or otherwise, archival material, drawings, designs and prototype models.
- **Preservation** - The process of keeping a heritage asset safe from decomposition or quality degradation by proper maintenance.
- **Conservation** - The process of stabilising the condition of a heritage asset without undermining its inherent historical or qualitative value in any way.
- **Restoration** - The process of rehabilitating or reconstructing a heritage asset in substantial measure, to regain its previous or original state.
- **Capacity Building** - The process of imparting specialised and customized training to Railway officials for meaningful preservation and conservation of railway heritage assets.

Articles:

➢ **Article 1**: Scientific and technical skills with facilities required to preserve and ensure safety of historic railway assets should be employed for heritage preservation. Where necessary, traditional skills should be redeveloped and nurtured.

➢ **Article 2**: Operation of historic and heritage assets using traditional operating procedures and facilitating their presentation in the public domain is essential for larger appreciation of India’s rich railway legacy.

➢ **Article 3**: The preservation and conservation philosophy of heritage railways and assets located in public spaces should encourage participation of stakeholders and community. A metallic plaque/logo of standard design displaying ‘railway heritage logo’ should be provided on each of the

Continued to page-2

heritage assets for easy identification and community appreciation. Railways should also organize various activities for creating heritage awareness among community through events at Stations and through media.

> **Article 4:** The restoration process of railway assets is highly specialised; this requires understanding of the original designs and specifications, so as to retain and reveal the functional and historical value of such assets.

> **Article 5:** For conservation or restoration of heritage railway assets, the use of original material and techniques is of great importance. If this is not possible due to reasons of safety, legislation or availability, appropriate contemporary substitutes should be carefully identified and documented as part of the conservation or restoration plan.

> **Article 6:** If contemporary safety equipment is required for securing heritage assets, the same should be provided aesthetically and be clearly marked.

> **Article 7:** Wherever later modifications are necessary or missing parts are required to be replaced as part of restoration projects, such modifications need to be visually and materially as near as possible to the original.

> **Article 8:** Preservation and restoration of archival material is a very delicate task. Special skill and utmost care is necessary to preserve such priceless documents by using modern techniques and to bring them to public view. For this, appropriate capacity building measures for railway officials should be undertaken.

> **Article 9:** In view of the steam locomotive being the starting point of railways worldwide and the most visible heritage asset, its preservation and conservation needs special attention. Railways should ensure that the few steam locomotives that are still available in the country be preserved, preferably in working condition or in full steam. Special attention should also be paid to retaining and maintaining operational and maintenance skills as well as equipment for the steam locomotive wherever available. Sufficient staff needs to be engaged as trainees at locations like the Heritage Steam Shed at Rewari to learn and imbibe skills with regard to the steam locomotive.

> **Article 10:** The process of identification, preservation and conservation of railway heritage assets should be mainstreamed as regular activities of the railways.

**Conclusion:**

Indian Railways are at the crossroads of massive technological, operational and structural change, where old ways are giving way to the new. At this juncture, it is important that uniform guidelines are formulated, which will herald holistic preservation of Railways' priceless legacy, across the country. Such an initiative needs to be systematically planned and recorded so as to enable long term sustainability of heritage assets through proper conservation and maintenance over time. This charter aims at fulfilling this vision.

---XX---

Rail Heritage Logo Developed by Asansol Division, Eastern Railway for identification of Rail Heritage Assets