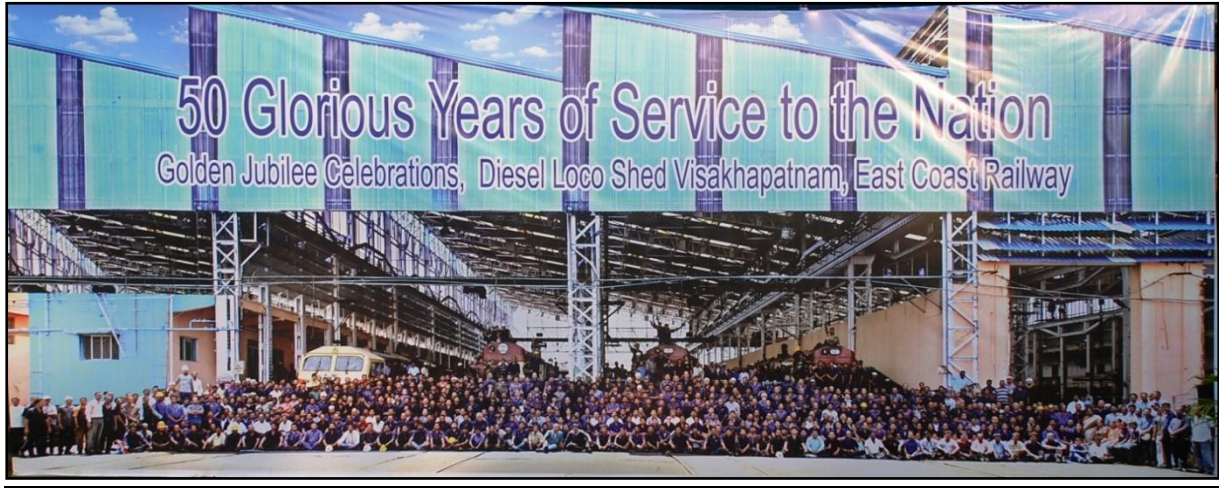
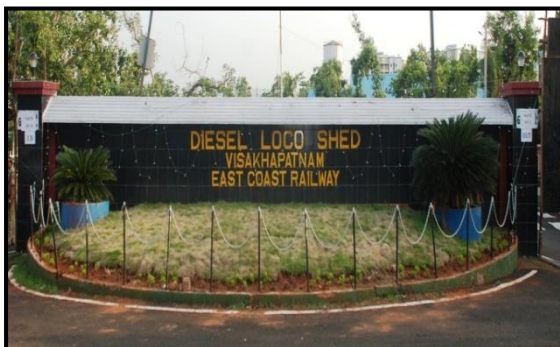


GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS **OF DIESEL LOCO SHED VISAKHAPATNAM**

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Diesel loco shed Visakhapatnam was established in the year 1965, with just 13 WDM1 locos. This year 2015, it celebrated its Golden Jubilee 50 years, with lot of fanfare. Nobody had imagined, that, the shed, after being ravaged by the disastrous cyclone Hud Hud, in the month of October 2014, would redesign and rebeautify itself, to welcome, none other than, Member Mechanical Shri Hemant Kumar as the Chief Guest of the main Golden Jubilee Celebrations on 2nd May 2015.



The Strategy

To organise a function of this magnitude, there had been meticulous planning and forecasting. Several committees and sub committees were formed well in advance. There were different committees to cater to sports, cultural, stage decoration, dais management, VIP movement, catering, rooms, logistics, gifts management and shed beautification. Each committee was headed by an officer, assisted by a team of dedicated supervisors and staff. Regular feedbacks and necessary corrective action were taken. The committees were ably guided by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer of the shed, Shri M.Srinivas, an IRSME officer of 1993 batch. The celebrations for the Golden Jubilee were spread across 2 days.

The Inaugural Function

On the first day, the Inaugural day, the shed had invited the Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Smt Chandralekha Mukherjee, IRTS, as its Chief Guest. She was accompanied by the Chief Motive Power Engineer, East Coast Railway, Shri Arjun Mundiya.



from L to R: Shri Arjun Mundiya, Smt Chandralekha Mukherjee, Shri M.Srinivas

The inauguration was marked by releasing of balloons and pigeons and inauguration of the art gallery.



Releasing of Balloons by the DRM & CMPE to mark the inauguration of celebrations.

The art gallery contained various sketches, paintings and crafts done by the shed staff.



Inauguration of Art Gallery



Inauguration of Loco Model Stall

Various prizes were distributed to the winners of the sports events, conducted, to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

The inaugural day celebrations was marked by a staff lunch, in which, all officers and staff had a combined lunch. It was a rare occasion. Bonhomie and spirit of camaraderie marked the end of day one celebrations.

The Main Function

On the morning of day two, a technical seminar was conducted on the best practices of maintenance of High Horse Power Locomotives. Officer delegates of all major sheds, like, Gooty, Siliguri, Hubli, Bondamunda, Raipur, Andal, Golden Rock Krishnarajpuram and Kazipet, shared their

experiences in maintaining the HHP locomotives.



Delegates at the HHP Technical Seminar

The technical seminar was attended by the Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Coast Railway Shri Prem Chandra, Chief Motive Power Engineer, East Coast Railway, Shri Arjun Mundiya and Executive Director Mechanical Engineering/Traction, Railway Board Shri Vivek Kumar. It was quite an interactive seminar. Lunch was arranged for all delegates.

In the evening, the function was started by 1700hrs. Some 20 former retired SrDMEs, DMEs, ADMEs, ACMTs, SMMs, LFD and EFD were felicitated with a shawl and a memento by the Chief Motive Power Engineer, East Coast Railway, Shri Arjun Mundiya.



Shri Arjun Mundiya Felicitating the Retired Officers

It was a great occasion for all retired officers to take a trip down the memory lane and meet their former staffs and share their joy of being in the shed once again. One retired LFD Shri R.N.Nair, had come all the way from Palghat, Kerala, to grace the occasion and meet his former colleagues. Some of them reminisced their period of service in the Diesel Loco Shed Visakhapatnam. They were aptly cheered by the audience.

The Chief Guest of the occasion, Member Mechanical Shri Hemant Kumar, arrived by 1830 hrs.



Arrival of Chief Guest Shri Hemant Kumar, Member Mechanical, Railway Board

He was accompanied by the General Manager, East Coast Railway, Shri Rajiv Vishnoi, Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Coast Railway, Shri Prem Chandra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Smt Chandralekha Mukherjee and Executive Director Mechanical Engineering/Traction, Railway Board, Shri Vivek Kumar. All the branch officers and other officers of the Waltair division also graced the function. The crowd was in a jubilant mood.

After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and welcome address by the SrDME of the shed Shri M.Srinivas,

the Chief Guest unveiled the beautiful Golden Jubilee commemorative monument.



Golden Jubilee commemorative monument unveiled by Chief Guest Shri Hemant Kumar, Member Mechanical from L to R: Shri SC Sethy, Shri M.Srinivas, Chief Guest Shri Hemant Kumar, Shri Rajiv Vishnoi, Shri Prem Chandra, Shri Arjun Mundiya, Smt Chandralekha Mukherjee, Shri Vivek Kumar

General Manager, East Coast Railway, Shri Rajiv Vishnoi unveiled the WDG4 loco model.



WDG4 Loco Model unveiled by Shri Rajiv Vishnoi, General Manager, ECoR

It was hugely cheered by the audience. The Chief Guest also released a Souvenir, in the memory of Golden Jubilee Celebrations.



Release of Souvenir

All the dignitaries on the dais spoke one after another, on the occasion, and congratulated the shed for completing 50 glorious years.

In his address to the gathering, the General Manager, East Coast Railway, Shri Rajiv Vishnoi, highlighted the contribution of diesel loco shed, Visakhapatnam, for making East Coast Railway, the number one railway zone, in terms of reliability, in the country. He was optimistic that the shed will add more feathers to its cap in future.

The Chief Guest of the occasion, Member Mechanical Shri Hemant Kumar in his address to the gathering appreciated the workmanship of the staff in making the WDG4 locomotive model. He commended the workers for putting the shed back in track within 48 hours, after the cyclone Hudhud devastated the shed. He also announced that the Chairman Railway Board had approved a cash award of Rs 1,50,000 for the shed, on its achievements in the Golden Jubilee year.



The Chief Guest Shri Hemant Kumar addressing the gathering

The highlight of the function was that, all the retired officers of the Diesel Loco Shed who had come to witness the celebrations jointly presented a memento to the Chief Guest, Member Mechanical Shri Hemant Kumar.

Cultural program followed, in which, a beautiful chorus song was sung by the shed artists. A classical dance and a modern group dance was also presented, It showcased the immense talent, the wards of the staffs possessed.

During the function itself, the Chief Guest Shri Hemant Kumar, Member Mechanical Railway Board, had penned down few beautiful lines on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of Visakhapatnam Diesel Shed. This is as follows.

विशाखापट्टनम् डीजल शेड के 50वीं वर्षगांठ पर

डीजल शेड के हो गए, पूरे साल पचास,
 और विशाखापट्टनम्, आज बना कुछ खास।
 आज बना कुछ खास, दिलाए आशा पूरी,
 तीन शतक लोको से रहे न कोई दूरी।
 वह 'धाकड़' कविशाय, नहीं वह कोई पीतल,
 सोने से भी खरा, उतरता है शेड डीजल ॥

— हेमन्त कुमार
 'धाकड़'
 02.05.2015

Soon dinner followed. All the guests were escorted for dinner. However the cultural program continued for the shed staff.

Diesel loco shed Visakhapatnam is already the largest loco shed in India with a holding of 231 locomotives including 3 rail buses. The shed will be homing 100 more HHP locos in next 5 years, which will make it a super shed with 300+ holding. The performance of the shed in terms of availability of locomotives is par excellence, as it is numero uno in the country. This has been possible by great work ethics, efficient man power and super administration. In terms of reliability, it has to improve a little bit to become numero uno in the country.

Celebrating Golden Jubilee is a once in a lifetime achievement. All the staffs and officers are indeed lucky to be part of this great shed, which has reached the zenith.