

# Central Railway Sparkles: A Century of Electrification Illuminated

## A Century of Power: Central Railway Celebrates 100 Years of Electrification

On February 3rd, 2025, Central Railway (CR) marked a monumental milestone: the centenary of its electrification. A century ago, on this very day in 1925, the first electric train gracefully traversed the tracks between Bombay VT (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus - CSMT) and Kurla, ushering in a new era of rail travel in India. The celebration of 100 years of Electric Traction in India is being conducted all over IR. Various events & functions are planned from 03.02.2025 to 07.03.2025 over Central Railway on this occasion. The celebrations were a vibrant tapestry of history, technology, and the unwavering spirit of the CR family.



*Night view of CSMT station celebrating 100 Years of Electrification*



*Night view of various station celebrating 100 Years of Electrification*



## A Dawn of Electric Blue:

The celebrations began in the pre-dawn hours as CSMT station was bathed in an ethereal blue light, a symbolic representation of the electric current that powers the heart of CR. The historical and heritage landmark building of CSMT was also adorned in a mesmerizing display of lights on the eve of the centenary.



**Entrance of CSMT station highlighting 100 Years of Electrification**



**Balloon with Logo of 100 Years of Electrification at Entrance of CSMT station**





**Miles of Motivation:** A Walkathon for Progress: As the sun began to rise, over 300 enthusiastic participants, including the General Manager (GM) of CR Shri Dharam Veer Meena, Principal Head of Departments (PHODs), and other officers, embarked on a spirited walkathon. Starting from Nariman Point and culminating at Islam Gymkhana, the walk symbolized the journey of progress that CR has undertaken. A large, eye-catching balloon bearing the logo of the centenary celebration soared above, carrying the spirit of the event.

Several Banners, replicas of trains, selfie points, cut-outs were made by Sanpada carshed showing the 100 years journey of locos and EMUs.

Nagpur Division arranged Sports and cultural activities for shed employees, drawing competitions for school students, technical tours of ELS/Ajni & GMD for college students, a tree plantation drive involving 100 trees, **Prabhat Pheri** & Marathon Run, and felicitation of retired railway employees. Street plays (Nukkad Natak) were also performed to highlight railway electrification's impact.



***Inauguration of Walkathon at Nariman Point by Shri Dharam Veer Meena, GM/CR beginning celebration of 100 Years of Electrification***



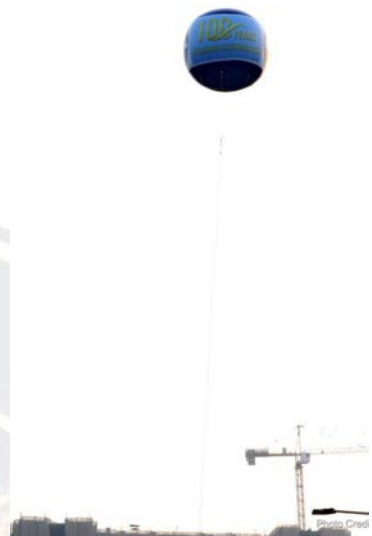




***Glimpse of Walkathon at Nariman Point by GM, AGM and all PHOD's along with family and other officers and staff***







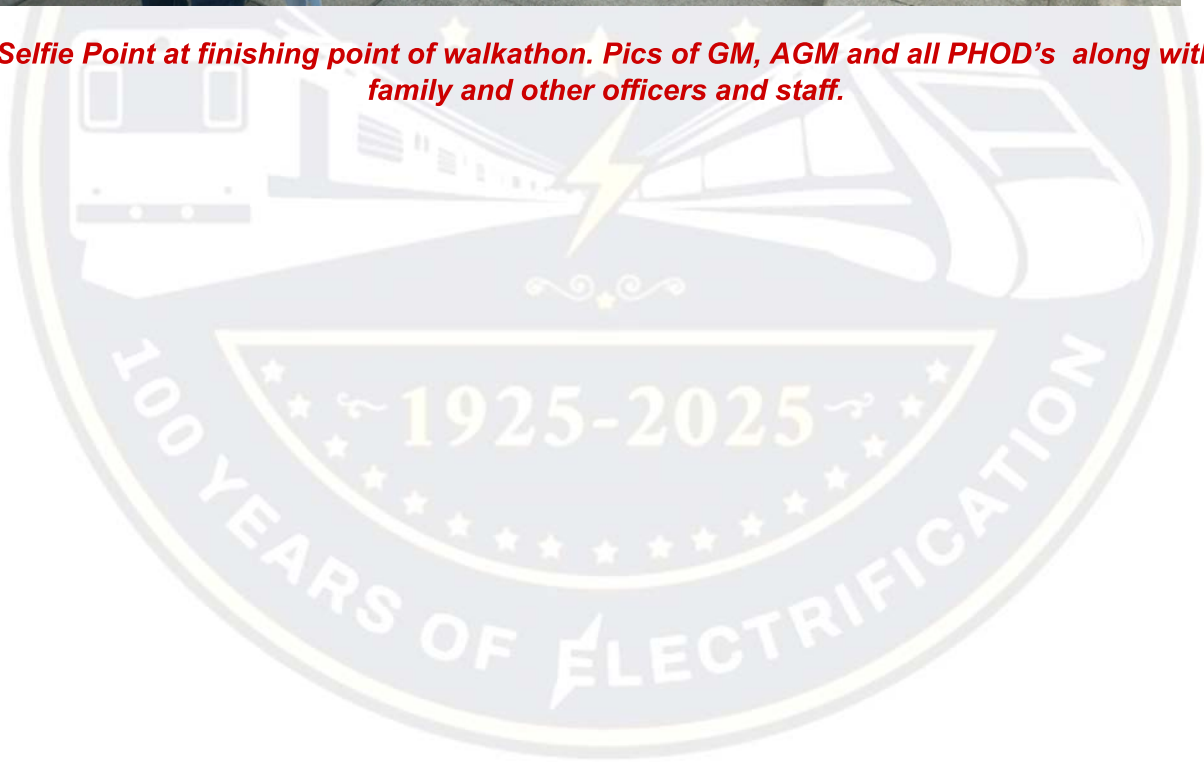
**Walkathon by GM, AGM and all PHOD's along with family and other officers and staff.  
Balloon with Logo at Islam Gymkhana**



**Finishing of walkathon by GM, AGM and all PHOD's along with family and other officers and staff.**



**Selfie Point at finishing point of walkathon. Pics of GM, AGM and all PHOD's along with family and other officers and staff.**





## A Journey Through Time: Unveiling the Electrification Exhibition:

The second session unfolded at the iconic CSMT station, where the GM received a warm welcome. A splendid exhibition was then inaugurated, meticulously showcasing the electrifying journey of Central Railway over the past 100 years. Vintage locomotives, EMU components, and TRD equipment stood alongside displays of cutting-edge modern technology, highlighting the evolution of CR's infrastructure.



***Glimpse of GM, AGM and all PHOD's receiving traditional welcome for inauguration of Nukkad Natak & Exhibition at CSMT.***







**GM/CR , PCEE/CR, DRM/BB, ADRM/OP/BB and CPRO/CR in front of Rangoli of 100 Years of Electrification at CSMT.**







Photo Credit : CPRO/CR



Photo Credit : CPRO/CR

**GM/CR , PCEE/CR, DRM/BB and CPRO/CR receiving traditional welcome before inauguration of Exhibition at CSMT PF No. 7 & 8.**







Photo Credit : CPRO/CR



Photo Credit : CPRO/CR

**GM/CR inaugurating Exhibition titled "Evolution of Technology in the last 100 years of Electrification" at CSMT PF No. 7 & 8.**





GM/CR has launched a unique Wrist Band containing Logo and QR Code providing easy access to the document with comprehensive information about CR's 100-year electrifying evolution at CSMT Station.



***GM/CR inaugurating Wrist Band containing Logo and QR Code at CSMT PF No. 7 & 8.***



***Wrist Band containing Logo and QR Code***

The star attraction was a working model of India's first superfast train, the Deccan Queen, captivating visitors with its intricate details. A virtual reality (VR) system offered an immersive experience, transporting participants back to the first electric train journey.







***GM/CR and other Senior Railway officers with the working model of India's first superfast train, the Deccan Queen.***



***GM/CR and other Senior Railway officers with the Miniature Models of EMUs (1925-2025).***





**GM/CR and other Senior Railway officers viewing the display of Timeline of “Evolution of EMUs”.**



**GM/CR and other Senior Railway officers viewing Miniature working model of Air conditioned EMU.**







**GM/CR and AGM/CR having AR/VR based driving experience of DC & AC EMUs other Senior Railway officers watching the display.**





Adding a touch of artistry to the occasion, the CR cultural program group presented a 'Nukkad natak' at the CSMT concourse informing about Railway Electrification's rich history and legacy, its present state and also spreading a message of safety and awareness.



**GM/CR and other Senior Railway officers watching Nukkad Natak performed by CRCA.**







***GM/CR and other Senior Railway group pic with performer of Nukkad Natak at CSMT.***

The centenary spirit extended far beyond Central Railway headquarters, with all divisions organizing their own commemorative events. The celebrations at Nagpur Division garnered significant attention. The celebrations, inaugurated by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vinayak Garg alongside senior officials, centered around a public exhibition at Nagpur Railway Station showcasing the evolution of electric locomotives. The exhibition featured intricately designed locomotive models from premier Production Units such as Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Patiala Locomotive Works (PLW), and BHEL. Informative standees, posters, and banners provided visitors with detailed insights into the technical advancements and diverse applications of these locomotives. A dedicated LED screen continuously displayed documentaries about the history of railway electrification in Nagpur Division, landmark train inaugurations with electric locomotives, advancements in electric locomotive technology, and maintenance activities at Electric Loco Shed (ELS), Ajni, and Government Maintenance Depot (GMD), Nagpur. To enhance visitor engagement, a special selfie point was installed.

Similar events and exhibitions were organized across major stations in Nagpur Division, ensuring widespread participation from passengers, students, and railway enthusiasts. The exhibition has already garnered tremendous response from visitors, especially students, eager to learn about the electrification journey and the technological marvels of electric locomotives.





## Enlightenment and Entertainment: The CSMT Auditorium Event:



*100 years of Electrification Poster at entrance of Auditorium at CSMT*



*100 years of Electrification Poster and Rangoli at entrance of Auditorium at CSMT*







Photo Credit : CPRO/CR

**Welcome of GM/CR at CSMT Auditorium**



Photo Credit : CPRO/CR

**GM/CR viewing drawing made by children on occasion of 100 years of Electrification at CSMT Auditorium**







Photo Credit : CPRO/CR

**GM/CR felicitating winners of drawing made by children at CSMT Auditorium**



Photo Credit : CPRO/CR

**Drawing made by children displayed at CSMT Auditorium**







***Loco model at display in front of stage at CSMT Auditorium***

The celebrations moved to the CSMT auditorium for an enlightening and entertaining function. Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) inaugurated the proceedings with a warm welcome speech. Dignitaries, including the GM and PHODs, were welcomed with a symbolic gesture – a tree sapling, representing growth and sustainability.







**GM/CR along with other Senior Railway officers & Retired Railway officers at CSMT Auditorium**



**GM/CR & Retired Railway officers lighting lamp**







***GM/CR welcomed by PCEE/CR at CSMT Auditorium***

The Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction (CEE/C) delivered a compelling PowerPoint presentation that vividly illustrated the 100-year electrification journey, captivating the audience with its insightful narrative.







**Shri D.K. Sharma, Retd. GM/CR welcomed by CEGE/CR at CSMT Auditorium**



**Shri Rajeev Agarwal, Retd. GM/NER welcomed by CEE/C/CR at CSMT Auditorium**







**Cultural team performing at CSMT Auditorium**







**Cultural team performing at CSMT Auditorium**



**GM/CR, AGM/CR and PCEE/CR at stage, CSMT Auditorium**







**CEE/C/CR giving presentation at CSMT Auditorium**



**GM/CR inaugurating Documentary at CSMT Auditorium**







*Glimpse of Documentary at CSMT Auditorium*



*Fruit plant sapling given by GM/CR to officers of division at CSMT Auditorium*







***GM/CR felicitating Shri P. K. Shrivastava, Retd. GM/SCR at CSMT Auditorium***

The GM/CR, as the chief guest, inaugurated the documentary highlighting the Railway Electrification, challenging and wonderful journey from 1925 and its present state. GM/CR also addressed the audience with his visionary speech. Following the presentation, the GM gifted fruit plant saplings, specifically chosen to suit the geographical and climatic conditions of each respective division and workshop, as a gesture of commitment to environmental sustainability. After that all dignitaries proceeded to have Lunch.







**GM/CR giving speech felicitating at CSMT Auditorium**



**Officers and staff listening to GM/CR speech at CSMT Auditorium**







**PCEE/CR giving miniature model of first Electric loco Sir Leslie Wilson to GM/CR at CSMT Auditorium**



**Group photos of GM/CR along with Senior Railway officers and Retd. Railway Officers at CSMT Auditorium**



The post-lunch session transitioned into a series of captivating technical presentations from industry leaders, each offering unique insights into the future of railway technology.



***Presentation given by M/s Siemens representative at CSMT Auditorium***

Tata Power inaugurated the session with a compelling presentation on their collaboration with Central Railways, titled "Collaboration with Central Railways: Innovations and Future Prospects." They underscored their pivotal role in supporting Central Railways through their expertise in power transmission and energy management, highlighting how this long-standing partnership has been instrumental in modernizing and electrifying railway infrastructure, ensuring a reliable and sustainable power supply. They concluded by emphasizing how Tata Power's innovative solutions and unwavering commitment to technological advancement are poised to drive the future of railway electrification, guaranteeing safety, efficiency, and sustainability in partnership with Central Railways.

Following this, **Siemens** delivered a presentation on "Advancement in Rolling Stock Technology." Their presentation focused on Siemens Mobility's significant contributions to Indian Railways, detailing advancements in rolling stock and showcasing the technical features of the Siemens EF9K locomotive. Siemens's presentation underscored their century-long commitment to railway electrification, their critical role in advancing rolling stock technology, and the impressive performance capabilities of the EF9K locomotive, reaffirming Siemens's dedication to innovation in rail transportation.







***Presentation given by M/s Alstom representative at CSMT Auditorium***

**Alstom** then took the stage with a presentation on "Digital Solutions for Need-Based Maintenance & Introduction to Robotic Maintenance." Their presentation highlighted Alstom's implementation of Digital Solutions and Need-Based Maintenance (NbM) to revolutionize rail transportation efficiency. By focusing on proactive asset management, NbM enables the minimization of unnecessary costs and downtime, thereby optimizing operational performance.





***Presentation given by M/s Webtec representative at CSMT Auditorium***

**WEBTEC** followed with a presentation on "Fast and Safe Braking Solution for Long Haul Freight Trains," emphasizing innovations designed to enhance railway safety, efficiency, and operational effectiveness. Wabtec Corporation's groundbreaking innovations, including ECP braking systems, LOTO safety protocols, and advanced height safety measures, are pivotal in improving railway operations and worker safety. These technologies contribute significantly to enhancing efficiency, reducing risks, and aligning with global best practices for railway modernization.

**ABB** presented on "Advancing Railway Sustainability and Efficiency," showcasing ABB's cutting-edge technologies in railway electrification and efficiency, with a focus on silicon carbide-based battery chargers, composite converters, three-level traction converter topology, and advanced traction batteries. They concluded that ABB's innovations are transforming rail transport by improving efficiency, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness, enabling Indian Railways and global railway networks to enhance operational performance and move toward a greener, more efficient future.







***Presentation given by M/s Medha representative at CSMT Auditorium***

Finally, **MEDHA** delivered a presentation on "KAVACH: Commitment to Prevent Accidents and Enhance Safety." KAVACH, an advanced Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system developed by Indian Railways, aims to enhance railway safety by mitigating human errors. By integrating real-time monitoring, communication, and automation technologies, KAVACH is designed to prevent collisions and derailments, optimizing railway operations. They concluded that KAVACH represents a paradigm shift in railway safety, significantly reducing human errors and enhancing efficiency. With its scalability, Indian Railways plans to expand KAVACH deployment across the national network, setting a new benchmark in railway automation and safety."

Furthermore, members of the Rail Fan Club showcased their passion by delivering a presentation on Technological Upgradations on Central Railway's Mumbai Division from railway enthusiasts' perspective. Even as non-members of the railway system, their enthusiasm and spirit were truly remarkable.





**Honoring the Pioneers: Recognizing the Pillars of Progress:** The event also celebrated the dedication of retired higher officials who played pivotal roles in the herculean task of DC to AC conversion and 100% electrification. The GM and PHODs felicitated these individuals, acknowledging their invaluable contributions. Retired employees from the electrical sections were also invited and greeted with respect and appreciation. The overwhelming enthusiasm was evident in the participation of even a 96-year-old retired employee, a testament to the enduring connection to CR with the audience remaining fully engaged throughout, a testament to their unwavering spirit and enthusiasm.



***GM/CR felicitating Retd. Railway staff at CSMT Auditorium***







**GM/CR felicitating Retd. Railway staff at CSMT Auditorium**



**GM/CR felicitating 95 year old Retd. Railway staff at CSMT Auditorium**



In his Vote of Thanks, the CEE/OP highlighted that the celebrations had begun a week prior with the 'Inspiring Young Minds' initiative, which engaged the younger generation through various competitions such as quizzes, essay writing, and drawing organized across all Central Railway divisions. The CEE/OP emphasized Central Railway's remarkable journey from 1500V DC trains to the current advancements in railway technology, showcasing how the railway is now utilizing technology on par with developed nations. He touched upon the constraints of DC traction and the significant shift to AC traction, acknowledging the hard work and meticulous planning of railway officers, as well as the dedicated field implementation by railway staff. Looking ahead, he outlined Central Railway's vision of embracing green energy. He concluded by stating that this event was not an end, but rather the beginning of a new era of advanced railway technology across all fields, and that Central Railway will continue to be a vital part of society.



***Vote of Thanks given by CEE/OP/CR***

