

CELEBRATE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF AIRTWF IN A BIG WAY
Strengthen AIRTWF to save the industry and to achieve
Social Security Act

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation was founded on 01st June 1974 in Kolkatta. It has completed 49 years and entering in to Golden Jubilee year. All the State Committees and Federations are requested to make necessary arrangements for Flag hoisting followed by different activities at the unit levels a mark of Foundation Day and the beginning of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations..

In the 49 years of long journey it has travelled overcoming many hurdles. The Federation organized many struggles at national level including March to Parliament and had many delegations to the ministry and to the Government. The mile stone was 2006. On the occasion of a Parliament March a delegation met the then Honorable Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and discussed on the issues of the unorganized Road Transport Workers particularly the "Social Security Act" for the unorganized Road Transport Workers. The Prime Minister immediately responded positively and endorsed the Memorandum to V.V.Giri National Labour Institute for a detailed study and to make suitable recommendations. The V.V.Giri Institute under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rehman has visited many places in the country both the work places and the residential areas. They have submitted a report to the Government in 2008 recommending for enactment of Social Security Act and amendments to PF,ESI Acts to enable to apply to even one worker working. It is a land mark report in the history of Road Transport Workers in the country.

Unity: AIRTWF strongly believes that the strength of the working class is in their unity and striking power. It tried its best to bring all the Federations functioning in the industry to a common platform to fight unitedly for the betterment of the industry and the welfare of the workers. As a result the "All India Coordination Committee of Road Transport Workers Organisations" was formed. Many struggles including one national strike was organized exclusively in the Road Transport Sector on 30-04-2018.

M.V.Actr Amewndment: The Government of India under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought the Draconian

“Road Safety Bill” in 2014. AIRTWF rose to the occasion and organised Seminars, meetings throughout the country to create awareness among all the stake holders. The Government made several attempts to get the Bill passed in the Parliament. AIRTWF approached the MPs. Tapan Sen, the General Secretary of CITU has taken much pain in mobilizing the support of other MPs and effectively countered the Government in Rajya Sabha. AIRTWF organized many struggles independently and with the All India Coordination Committee of Road Transport Workers Organisations. It is only the Federation appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Select Committee of Rajyasabha and effectively placed the voice in defense of the industry. Simultaneously struggles including strikes were organized independently and unitedly. By doing so the the Road Safety Bill has taken many turn and finally converted as M.V.Act Amendment. Even though that Bill could not be passed by Rajya Sabha till 2019 July.

COVID 19: Covid has shaken the entire world. Lockdown and restrictions were imposed by the Government. During that time even, the AIRTWF responded on all the issues and submitted representations and organized protest actions. Many Committees at the local level have undertaken solidarity and support activities by supplying food, essentials to the poor Road Transport Workers.

Road Safety: The Governments both at the centre and in States have observed “Road Safety Week” just for propaganda purpose and attributed the blame to the Drivers. But AIRTWF has studied the causes for Road Accidents and the international experiences. It has taken up the Road Safety Campaigns to expose the failures of the Government and put forward the real alternatives to reduce the accidents.

National Conventions: AIRTWF organized National Conventions separately for the Private Transport and for the Public Transport. It has adopted declarations and formulated charter of demands. Campaign is going on the declarations.

The 11th National Conference of the Federation has discussed the situation of the industry and the problems of the workers in detailed and decided to take up the major issues. Accordingly it has constituted 3 sub Committees on Social Security, Rider Aap and M.V.Act Amendment. Drafts have been prepared on

these three topics. They will be finalized in the days to come and will be taken to all the Road Transport Workers throughout the country.

AIRTWF recognizes the fact that there is a long way to travel to achieve its aims and objectives. It is committed to the Aims and Objectives listed out in its constitution.

It appeals to all the Road Transport Workers in the country to strengthen AIRTWF for the benefit of the Industry and the welfare of the Workers. It also appeals to all other organizations at different levels to come on to a common platform to save the Industry and to protect the livelihood of the workers.