



Asia's First Woman Train Driver

Why in News?

Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman train driver, will retire from her remarkable 36-year career with **Central Railway (CR)** on 30th September 2025.

- Throughout her career, she broke **barriers in a male-dominated field**, inspiring generations of women to pursue careers in railways.



Key Points

- Surekha Yadav began her career as an **assistant driver in 1989** and rose through the ranks, becoming the first female train driver in Asia.
- She piloted various trains, including the prestigious **Vande Bharat Express**.
- She was also the **first woman to navigate the Deccan Queen** on the steep Bhor Ghat stretch, one of **India's most treacherous rail routes**.
- Her journey from a small town in Satara to becoming a trailblazer in Indian Railways **reflects determination, resilience**, and the changing perception of women's roles in transportation.