



## Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(JV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra)

MD/MMC/

17.07.2017

### TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of recommendation in support of the candidature of Ms. Neelam Saxena Chandra for the "Bharat Gaurav Award" under the writer's category. She is an Engineering graduate from VNIT and has also done her Post Graduate Diploma in IM&HRD as well as in Finance. She belongs to Indian Railway Engineering Services and currently works as Joint Secretary for Union Public Service Commission, India

Even while working in a mundane field of administration, Neelam has retained her sensitivity and vigorously pursued her literary aspirations and has so far authored four novels, one novella, five short story collections and ten children's books. Around seven hundred of her stories /poems have been published in various leading Indian as well as international magazines and journals. Many of her stories / poems have been transmitted by All India Radio. She is a bilingual writer and displayed her literary prowess both in English and Hindi.

Neelam holds a record with the Limca Book of Records 2015 for being the author having the highest number of publications in a year in English and Hindi. She has won second prize in poetry contest organized by American Embassy as well as in a National poetry contest organized by Poetry Council of India 2016. She has been conferred with Bharat Nirman Library award in 2017, Premchand award by Ministry of Railways, Rabindranath Tagore International Poetry award, Freedom award by Radio City for Lyrics along with other awards and honours. She was also listed in Forbes as one among 78 most popular authors in the Country in 2014. She has also been interviewed many times by National Television Channels, leading newspapers and blogs for her literary achievements. She has been invited by premier institutes such as SAARC literary fest, Sahitya Academy for book/poetry reading.

I strongly believe that Neelam has made significant contribution to literary and cultural development of society through her prolific writings especially for children of impressionable age. As such, she is an eligible candidate for the "Bharat Gaurav Award" and therefore I recommend her name for the purpose.

  
17.7.17  
(Mrs. Ashwini Bhide, IAS)  
Managing Director, MMRC