



**Shahzad Shah, IRAS**  
**Financial Commissioner (Railways)**

भारत सरकार  
रेल मंत्रालय, (रेलवे बोर्ड)  
नई दिल्ली-११० ००१  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(RAILWAY BOARD)  
NEW DELHI-110001

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### Season's Greetings

At the outset, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for expressing your good wishes on my assumption of the charge of the post of Financial Commissioner (Railways).

On this occasion, a few stray thoughts and a few general observations to share with you.

The time is tough, we have to become tougher.

With the decision of Budget merger and season of change and improvement, we need to take a fresh look not only at our working but also on all aspects of accounting procedures and policies.

Major initiatives have already been taken on Indian Railways in general and Accounts Department in particular to transform the existing rules, procedures and methodologies. These need to be taken up as priority measures so that the targets set are achieved.

A prime concern for us is to recapture the natural competitive advantage the Railways have in the transportation sector. For that, the prices of our product should be attractive, which can only be achieved by controlling and reducing the costs.

All out efforts have to be made to ensure savings in all spheres of activities irrespective of the area of working.

Rigorous internal check and result achieved through it have to be followed up for desired improvement. Accounting Reforms, which have started have to be completed as a model for all government agencies.

IRAS have always been in the forefront right from 1960s when computerisation was taken up and has to remain the catalyst for change even now.

IPAS has to be taken to its natural completion in all areas.

Ensuring prompt and correct pension calculation and payments with rigorous checks to ensure that the correct pension is paid to the rightful recipient. In this context issuance of e-PPO has to be accelerated.

All of you would have come out with some new thoughts and bright ideas for the Rail Vikas Shivar. Even if, your idea was not taken up at the zonal level or national level, there is no harm in discussing deliberating and working out implementation strategies, if it benefits the railways. Changes in procedures are worth trying even if they can bring saving of 10 rupees or generate income of 10 rupees.

Remain competitive, remain confident and keep the ideas and suggestions coming in whether it has to be discussed personally or through e-mails or whatsapp.

Wishing you and all the members of your family all the very best in the coming days.

(Shahzad Shah)