

रूपा श्रीनिवासन
ROOPA SRINIVASAN



सदस्य वित्त
रेलवे बोर्ड
पदेन सचिव, भारत सरकार
रेल मंत्रालय
MEMBER FINANCE
RAILWAY BOARD
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

Message from Member(Finance) for IRAS Day 2024

Dear Colleagues,

On the occasion of IRAS Day, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all members of the Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) cadre. Today, just five years away from completing a century of existence, let us reflect on the remarkable journey of this service, which was established in 1929. Over the decades, IRAS has evolved from its traditional role- not just maintaining the accounts of a vast railway network, but also providing strategic financial management advice to the Railways.

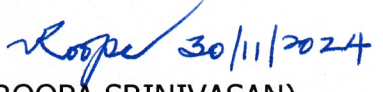
The legacy of the IRAS is built on its steadfast commitment to ensuring fiscal discipline, transparency, and efficiency in managing the financial and accounting aspects of the Railways. From manual maintenance of accounts, we now have a sophisticated online payments system, developed inhouse by our officers with support from other stakeholders, who have also by leveraging advanced technologies like ERP systems and data analytics, and navigating complex economic scenarios, succeeded not just in developing the applications but also seamlessly integrating it with other components of the system becoming thereby a vital MIS tool. This transformation is an ongoing process, with modifications being made as required.

Over the years the cadre has proven its mettle, by using its expertise and experience in advisory role, while being embedded in the system. This has helped in transforming the financial governance of the Indian Railways, thus enabling it in its mission of connecting and empowering the nation. With growing CAPEX support from the Government, which this year stands at Rs 2,52,000 crores, the challenges for the Finance and Accounts Officers, is to ensure that these provisions are both fully and properly utilised keeping in view the objectives of the Railways and that of the nation as a whole. We also have a role to play in enhancing railway revenues, remaining alive to the possibilities of enhancing this in every way. We must remember at all times that we are a commercial organisation, too.

IRAS officers are involved in every part of the Railways and this is our strength. Traffic Accounts, Stores, Finance, Expenditure, Budget, Workshop, Production Units Administration- we are involved in it all. This gives both depth and strength to our analyses of proposals. We can take pride in the way the IRAS cadre has consistently demonstrated resilience, innovation, and professionalism across fields, which make us such well-rounded officers.

As we move forward, we need to always keep in mind that as auditors our role should also be to uphold the highest standards of integrity. We must however remain alive to the need for quick responses in a swiftly moving world: as is popularly said- change is the only constant. IRAS officers must therefore equip themselves in every which way – through training etc. with the latest developments in the area we work in. I express my deepest gratitude to each member of the IRAS family for your unwavering dedication and contribution to the work of nation building. Let us continue to build on our legacy and strive for excellence in all that we do.

Wishing you all a very Happy IRAS Day!


(ROOPA SRINIVASAN)