Rail Lekha Seva Geet

The Anthem of the Indian Railway Accounts Service

Every rupee that the Government spends is public money held in trust, and accounting for it honestly is one of the most significant duties of the State. Since 1929, the Indian Railway Accounts Service has carried out this responsibility for Indian Railways, safeguarding financial propriety, maintaining accurate accounts, scrutinising financial proposals and ensuring that every expenditure is lawful, justified and accountable, while keeping the wheels of progress in motion.

The anthem celebrates IRAS as the force that keeps the Railways moving and the nation advancing, while upholding financial propriety. "कोष से गति, गति से राष्ट्र", the refrain of the anthem, connects the world of accounts and finance with speed, and speed with the progress of the nation, portraying the Railways as the motive force of national development. It presents IRAS as an amalgamation of integrity and service, grounded in sound financial management and good governance. It declares the singular resolve of IRAS: the progress of Indian Railways and, consequently, the nation.

Indian Railways breathes through every line, be it the लौहपथ (the track) or the lines in the Budget. Whenever a new track is laid, a tunnel opens through a mountain or a bridge takes shape over a river, the nation is buoyed by hope. From the Himalayas to Pamban, from north to south and east to west, the threads of Indian Railways bind a billion hearts. Just as the Railways unite a vast nation, IRAS weaves together the ideals of public service and development with the threads of financial discipline and accurate accounting.

The anthem highlights that accounting is not merely about numbers; it is an extension of public service. Every sanctioned rupee carries the sweat of a farmer, the savings of a family and the trust of a citizen. IRAS ensures that every line of the accounts upholds the faith of the citizen and that every portion of public money is spent in the national interest.

The Sanskrit verse,

सेवा परमो धर्मः, कर्म परमो तपः।
दक्षता परमा शक्तिः, सत्यनिष्ठा हि भक्तिः॥

crowns the anthem with a timeless creed: service is the highest duty, work is the highest form of penance, competence is the greatest strength, and devotion to truth is the highest form of devotion. It brings to the fore the virtues and aspirations that have sustained the rich traditions of this Service since its inception nearly a century ago.

The anthem concludes with a call to action, invoking "प्रांजलता, दक्षता और सत्यनिष्ठा", rooted in the triumvirate of Propriety, Proficiency and Productivity, as reflected in the official IRAS logo.

For a Service that works largely out of the public eye, this anthem is a voice, an identity and a source of pride. Set to music, accountability becomes a promise sung aloud, and every officer, present and future, is inspired to carry that promise forward.

The anthem has been written and composed by four IRMS Accounts Probationers of the 2023 batch—Ankesh, Bipin Kumar Singh, Himanshu and Anmol—under the guidance and mentorship of the Director General and the faculty members of the Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM).

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