

मंजूषा जैन
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MEMBER FINANCE
RAILWAY BOARD
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

Dear Colleagues,

As I assume the charge of Member Finance, Railway Board, I am grateful to my elders and seniors for their blessings and my friends and colleagues for their good wishes that have brought this momentous occasion. The responsibility appears immense, yet not daunting, as I draw courage and confidence from the vast talent and robust support of my team of staff and officers. Together, we shall strive to maintain Indian Railways steadfastly on the path of self-sustaining growth.

The role of infrastructure in the building of a nation is pivotal. It constitutes the backbone on which development provides resilient systems and improved environments for the well-being of people. A major infrastructure ministry in the country, IR also stands grandly among the world's top passenger and freight carrying railways. Let us take pride in being a part of this mighty organisation that is the back bone of the world's fourth largest economy. IR offers both, opportunities and challenges. Its dual role as a socio-economic welfare arm of the Government, and at the same time, a commercial entity that must be financially sustainable, demands a fine balancing of responsibilities that the service officers must continue to meet with professionalism, prudence and competence.

The accounts department of IR, led by the Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officers, renders multifarious services through its functions of financial advice and scrutiny, accounting, budgeting, payments to staff and outsiders, internal audit, monitoring of earnings and its accountal, stock verification, liaison with external audit, and handling Parliamentary etc Committees, among others. The wide gamut of its role sets it apart from other accounts services of the country. Despite the merger of the railway budget with the general budget, the responsibilities of managing its earnings and expenditure continue with IR. With the sharp increase in the capital budget of IR in the recent years, the distribution of budget and monitoring its timely and correct spending have assumed greater dimensions, which the service has deftly handled in coordination with the Finance Ministry.

As IR navigates changing and challenging environments of functional and financial survival, the role of the accounts officers demands high skills, tools and techniques,

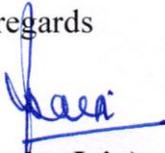
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besides an alert and analytical mind. I, therefore, exhort all accounts officers to continuously engage in skill enhancement and improve working systems with the use of updated IT techniques including AI and Data Analytics.

The Indian Railway Accounts Service has been the hallmark of sterling service rendered to the organisation and the nation. Let us commit to uphold its dignity and value with the highest standards of integrity and competence. On a humane level, let our compassion and faith in each other's strength and support create synergy to make working environments healthy and happy places.

Wishing each team member excellence and satisfaction in their efforts.

Warm regards



(Manjusha Jain)