

Manjula Rangarajan, IRAS



सदस्य वित्त
एवं
पदेन सचिव, भारत सरकार
रेल मंत्रालय
रेल भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
MEMBER FINANCE
&
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAIL BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110001

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you all for the congratulatory messages on my taking over as the First Member Finance of the restructured and reconstituted Railway Board. I am overwhelmed by your affection and support. As you are aware, the Top Management of the Indian Railways has been restructured by reorganising and constituting the Railway Board on functional lines. The formal action initiated by IR towards this end in December 2019 attained fruition this month. As a part of the reconstitution of the Board, the erstwhile post of Financial Commissioner is now 'Member Finance' in Apex Scale.

The institution of the Financial Commissioner was created in September 1924. The Department ceased to be under the Auditor General and became an independent entity of the Railways, headed by the Financial Commissioner. This system played a crucial role for almost a century in the development of IR through the hard work, dedication and brilliance of the officers and staff of the Finance and Accounts Department. In the restructuring of the Railway Board with Members heading verticals to bring in synergies, the fact that the importance and the independence of Finance has been recognised and formalised is worthy of note. We must continue to proactively contribute to the growth and development of the organisation keeping firmly in view the Four Canons of Financial Propriety.

At this juncture, it is appropriate to note that not only our Organisational model but also our financing process and methodology have undergone a change. The way we finance our projects is no longer limited to funding from Government. Any organisation or organism for that matter, which needs to develop and progress, has to continually adopt change. Maintaining "Status quo" is the very anti thesis of progress. Heraclitus, the Greek Philosopher said that the only thing that is constant in life is change. This is as true now as it was

two millennia ago. We must embrace Change, being conscious of the fact that Change does bring challenges in its wake. As Change Managers, we need to understand the philosophy behind the Change, accept, learn and proceed to bring about the desired organisational goals.

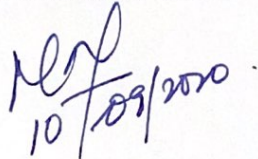
I believe in Communication. In Mentoring. In learning and skilling. It is of utmost importance that the Organisational, methodology and process changes and the goals they seek to achieve are clearly and effectively communicated to everyone. Being stakeholders of the Organisation, we need to create a vision for ourselves individually in terms of our careers and collectively for the good of the organisation. We have to overcome the challenges and remove the bottlenecks that stand in the way of attaining Organisational goals. The Mantra for this is hard work and team effort.

We need to recognise the fact that being seniors makes us Mentors automatically. Let us resolve that we will reach out to our colleagues and share with them our knowledge and expertise and learn from theirs. Knowledge does not come imbedded with birth. It is acquired, learnt. Experienced. In sharing, knowledge multiplies manifold. Ensuring continued existence of robust institutional knowledge and memory is as much our duty as it is the right of the future generations of our organisation.

With all the changes happening around us, in our Ministry, in Private sector, in fact in the very 'way of life', how do we as individuals make sure that we keep pace and deliver? That we can attain self-actualisation? This we do by constantly learning. By keeping ourselves informed of the developments in our field around us. By equipping ourselves such that we are always on top of the pile and the best and the fittest for any assignment. There is any number of areas where expertise is required. Go and learn. Do not get left behind because you do not have the skill sets. Acquire them. We must not settle.

As one era ends and another dawns, all of us stand together shoulder to shoulder transcending both, making history, taking the Organisation forward upward and higher. Stay Safe and Stay Well.

Good Luck and God Bless.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manjula', with the date '10/09/2020' written below it.

(Manjula Rangarajan)