# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

**Railways established Electronic Data Processing Centres, way back in 1967, when punch cards were used for entry of data collected from different user departments. It then transformed to the era of Offline Data Entry machines and processing of data through COBOL based software, developed in house using tape system for backup etc. After few years it switched to User friendly data entry screens for user departments for Payroll and Financial accounting works namely PRIME & AFRES, which were supposed to conjure the same miracle as PRS had done to Commercial Department. It digitised the account department's products and services on a standard application package all over the Indian Railways as did PRS to the digitisation of Railway commodities i.e. berths in the trains on a standard platform and application package all over the Railways.**

**PRIME & AFRES, represent the Third Wave in Computerisation in Accounts Department. The First Wave was the setting up of EDP Centres and running of**




**FMIS packages on COBOL system. Here, Accounts and other depts. had to bring their materials to EDP Centre for data entry and then product generation. The proliferation of PCs in the eighties saw the Second Wave in which the PCs came to the desk of the Accounts staff and PC based software were developed everywhere to computerize various works in Accounts Deptt. In piece meal manner. This phase saw independent development of a plethora of application packages by in house talent and also by engaging outside agencies. During this time, Zonal Railways too developed independent packages on Client-server architecture such as EMS of Eastern Railway or ITAS of Northern Railway or TAS of South Eastern Railway. The major deficiency of all these packages, is that these application packages computerized data received in Accounts Department.**

In year 2004, Railway Board vide its letter no 2002/AC-II/37/8 (RBA No. 42/2004) dated 17.11.2004, reorganized the activities of EDP Centres into Information Technology Centre by merging Zonal EDP centres and divisional



computer centres, which by then were manned on Ex-cadre basis. The Date of effect of this reorganized cadre was setup from 01.04.2005. At that time it was thought that in the emerging scenario the data capturing work, which was being done at EDP centres, will be mostly handled by the user department themselves and these centres will transform into resource centres and nodal agencies for service provider for all IT activities of Railways. For this IT Centres were broadly organized in the following section:

1. Computer System Management Section
2. Database Maintenance / Administration Section
3. Computer Network Management Section
4. Application Co-ordination Section
5. Training Co-ordination Section
6. Software Library / Technical Reference Section
7. Data Entry Section

All other Railways except N. E. Railway started using PRIME/AFRES, which was a stand-alone Oracle Based software developed by an out agency. N. E. Railway continued to work on old and obsolete COBOL based software till November 2013. In November 2013 NER jumped to Online Accounting Information Management System / Integrated Payroll & Accounting System, developed by CRIS (Extended & merged version of PRIME & AFRESS). NER was the only old Railway out of 16 Zones, which implemented the IPAS in all its 7 accounting units in one go.



The work and responsibility of IT centre can easily be accessed by

the fact that after the successful implementation of IPAS over NER, Railway Board and CRIS has requested NER IT Centre team to help and assist the implementation of IPAS in neighboring Zones namely E.C Railway, N.C. Railway and W.C. Railway. After successful implementation of IPAS over different zones with the help of IT Centre staff, CRIS asked all zones to spare their technically trained and experienced staff to work with them on deputation. Almost all zones have spared their staff to help CRIS in smooth functioning of their software AIMS/IPAS.

## IT Center Activities:

Following activities are being performed at Zonal IT centre :-

- Implementation of AIMS/IPAS in all 7 accounting units namely Headquarter, Varanasi, Lucknow & Izatnagar Division, Mechanical Workshops (Inclusive of Signal & Bridge workshop) at Gorakhpur & Izatnagar, Construction Organisation.



- Implementation of ARPAN in all accounting units from August-2015 and technical support to HQ pension section for sending E-PPO through ARPAN.
- Co-ordination of AIMS/IPAS for all units, any issue faced by users are sorted through Nodal Railways nominated for each module by Railway Board.
- Compilation of Fixed Asset Register at Zonal IT centre/GKP.
- Traffic accounting and Statistical Reports at Zonal IT centre/GKP.
- Store Accounting & Workshop General Register at Zonal IT centre.
- Zonal IT centre/GKP staff is helping pension section in digitizing pension documents by scanning the old PPOs from the pension records, sending it via e-mail to personnel department for initializing the revision of pension/ family pension as per 7$^{th}$ CPC through ARPAN.
- Sr. EDPM is assigned the Nodal officer responsibilities for Technical vetting of PCs. This requires IT centre to always remain updated with the latest technical advancements/ developments in the IT field.

- In house Software for conversion of consumed electric units according to the current tariffs by officers/ staff residing in railway accommodation has been developed by IT centre staff at Headquarter for uploading in IPAS for recovery from their salary.
- Training of Computer fundamentals Basics, MS-Office, Windows, different modules of IPAS & ARPAN activities.
- Updation and maintenance of NER website, uploading CO6 Data, Traffic data, Budget control, Account current, Progressive RAR and material from all departments.
- e-Inspection software, recently launched under the overall guidance of Transformation cell of Railway Board under MR's & CRB's initiative of "GO DIGITAL". Sr. EDPMs are nominated admins for the same in which all Inspecting officers are supposed the details of their carried out inspection online using their allotted user IDs, prior to implementation of this online software, IT centres were performing offline entry of all the inspections and uploading the details thereof.
- Processing, purchase & installation of Antivirus software for 176 computers of Accounts department in Gorakhpur geographical area by Zonal IT centre/GKP
- Installation and activation of Unicode in 835 computers of all departments in Gorakhpur geographical area by Zonal IT centre GKP on request of Rajbhasha vibhag.



## Staff Strength (Sanctioned / Actual)

### (A) Non Gazetted :

| Sr. No. | Designation | Level/GP | Number of posts on 01.04.2017 after restructuring as per Board's order 2016/AC-II(CC)/37/9 Dated 18.04.17 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ZITC GKP | ITC BSB | ITC LJN | Total |
| 01 | Sr. Engineer/IT | 7/4600 | 17/17 | 05/04 | 09/06 | 31/27 |
| 02 | Jr. Engineer/IT | 6/4200 | 05/03 | 02/01 | 05/05 | 12/09 |

**Note:** 4 posts of SE & 3 posts of JE are vacant after matching surrender due to restructuring & work study of efficiency. Fresh recruitments are banned in NER, First & last batch was inducted in 1991 through RRB.

### (B) Gazetted :

| Sr. No. | Designation | Level/GP | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ZITC GKP | ITC BSB | ITC LJN | Total |
| 01 | Sr. EDP Manager (SG/ JAG) | 13/8700 12/7600 | 1/1 | 1/1 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| 02 | EDP Manager (SS) | 11/6600 | 1/1 | - | - | 1/1 |
| 03 | SSA (SS) | 11/6600 | 1/0 | - | - | 1/0 |
| 04 | Sr. Programmer (SS) | 11/6600 | 1/0 | - | - | 1/0 |
| 05 | Programmer | 09/4800 | 1/0 | - | - | 1/0 |

**Note:** 2 Senior Scale posts of SSA & Sr. Programmer are vacant, Assistant Rank post of Programmer is lying vacant for more than 12 years. (A onetime exemption for holding the selection on open selection basis among all IT staff may be sought, as senior incumbents are not opting for the post of Programmer after notification of post several times)