



सत्यमेव जयते

Office of Chief Adviser Cost  
Department of Expenditure  
Ministry of Finance  
Government of India



**INDIAN COST  
ACCOUNTS SERVICE**





*Call on Hon'ble President by officers of 2021 & 2023 batches*



*Call on Hon'ble Finance Minister by officers of 2023 batch*

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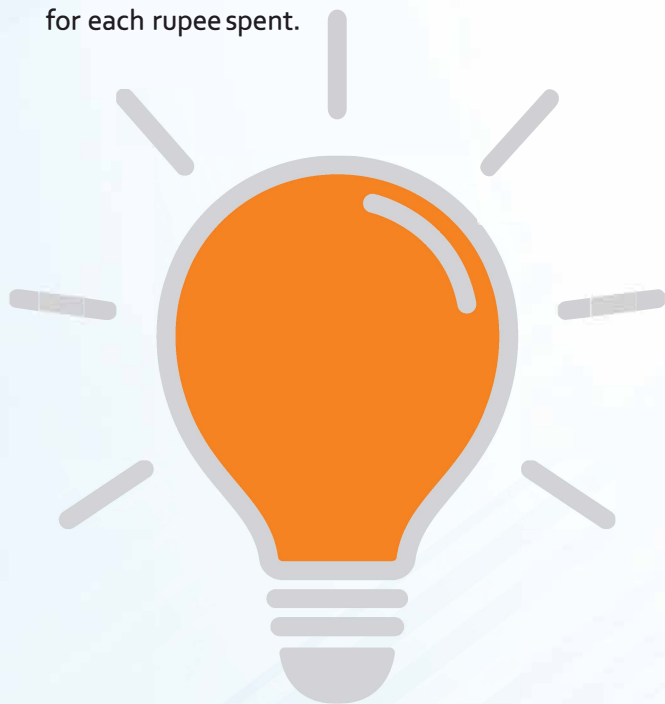
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# Overview

Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) is an organized Group -A Central Service exclusively equipped with professionally qualified Chartered Accountants and Cost Accountants. The officers play a proactive role in rationalising expenditure across government operations, schemes and projects, as well as ensuring transparent assessment of revenues.

With their domain expertise and extensive experience, ICoAS officers proficiently address complex financial and cost management issues including fiscal resource management, budgetary control, project appraisals, cost-benefit analysis, financial analysis, subsidy management, and international trade matters such as anti-dumping duties and safeguard measures under bilateral and multilateral frameworks. Their collective objective is to ensure optimal utilization of public funds and deliver 'value for money', thus ICoAS strives to deliver the most good for each rupee spent.



## Vision

To assist the Government in achieving cost efficiency in operations, schemes, and projects.





## ROLE OF ICoAS

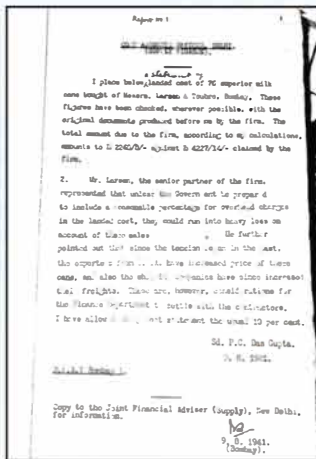
- The role of ICoAS is to complement the efforts of Central Government Ministries/ Departments:
- In optimum utilization of resources through allocation and monitoring of funds, cost reduction and cost control to achieve cost efficiency in operational schemes and projects.
- To aid revenue authorities in transparent assessment of revenues and curb evasions & commercial frauds.
- In fixation of reasonable prices of goods and services.
- To provide a level playing field to the domestic industries against the adverse impact of the unfair trade practices.
- To provide advice on Cost and Financial Management related matters.



Secretary, Expenditure releasing the ICoAS brochure on ICoAS Service Day

# EVOLUTION OF THE SERVICE

1941



ICoAS has its roots in the era of Second World War when Cost Accounts officers were appointed mainly to verify cost of production and to determine fair selling price, including defence purchases on behalf of the Government. The first report on 'Landed Cost of Superior Milk Cans of Messrs Larsen and Toubro, Bombay' was issued by Shri P.C. Das Gupta, Cost Accounts Officer on 9th August, 1941, which is recognised as 'ICoAS Service Day'

1982

The Service rules of the ICoAS were notified on 4th September, 1982 and all the officers of erstwhile CCA pool were inducted into Service.

2015

The present version of Service Rules were revised in 2015.

2021

Last cadre review approved by Cabinet.

1961

In the year 1961, the Central Cost Accounts (CCA) Pool was created under the Department of Expenditure and the Cost Accountants working in various Central Government Ministries/ Departments were grouped in the CCA Pool.

1978

Recognising the importance of the work of the CCA Pool Officers, Government of India, in the year 1978, constituted ICoAS as an organized Group 'A' Central Civil Service on participating offices basis. On the formal constitution of the ICoAS, the then serving personnel/officers in the CCA Pool were absorbed in the service, in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as per the provisions of duly notified Service Rules.



2025

Committee for cadre review due on 2026 is constituted.





*Visiting Finance Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure) in May 2024*



*ICoAS Service Day 2025*





## CADRE REVIEW

- Cadre reviews of the ICoAS have been carried out from time to time with the objective to match the functional requirements of the various Ministries/ Departments; to correct the existing anomalies in the organizational structure vis-a-vis ideal structure prescribed by the DOPT, and to remove the acute stagnation at various levels within the service. The exercise was also directed towards estimating and analysing the structure of the service in future.
- In the last cadre review approved by the Union Cabinet on 25th May, 2021 and the Ministry of Finance notified the same on 20th July, 2021 in which the total strength of ICoAS has been increased to 230 posts.
- Starting with 124 in 1982, the ICoAS sanctioned strength has gradually increased to 230 in the year 2021 as shown in Figure below.

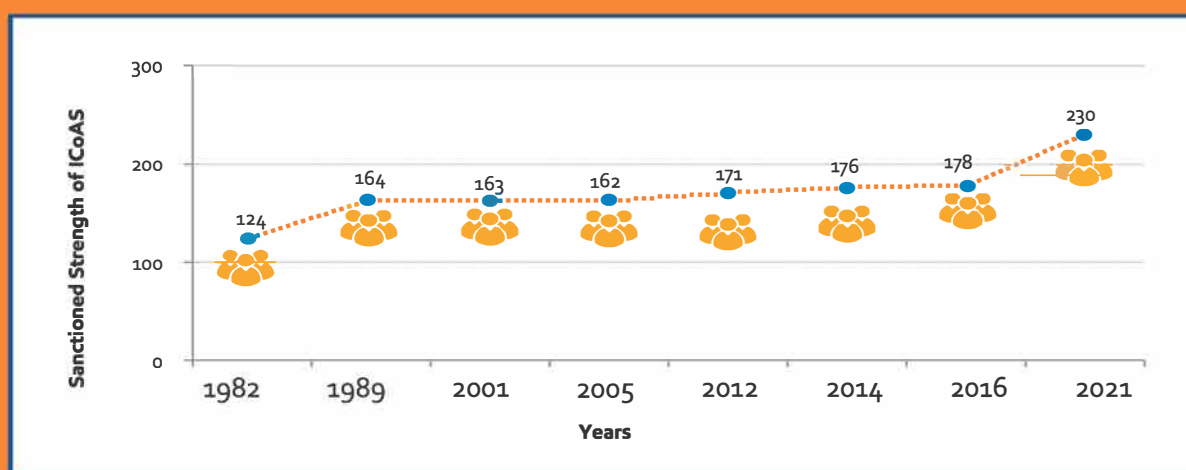


Figure 1 : Evolution of ICoAS sanctioned strength

Post	Sanctioned Strength	Actual Strength as on 31.07.2025
Assistant Director	90	72
Deputy Director	55	33
Joint Director	49	10
Director		26
Adviser	28	16
Principal Adviser	5	5
Additional Chief Adviser	2	2
Chief Adviser	1	1
	230	165

- Service has also initiated fresh cadre review exercise and has constituted a committee for this purpose in July, 2025

# WORK PROFILE

ICoAS officers contribute across a broad spectrum of roles including:

1. Pricing, Costing & Benchmarking
2. Assessment of Subsidy Claims
3. Revenue Enhancement and Financial Investigation
4. Project Appraisal and Financial Advisory
5. Policy Formulation and Scheme Implementation
6. Association with Financial Advisors

These roles are elaborated below:

## I. Pricing, Costing and Benchmarking

ICoAS officers play an essential role in government procurement by determining fair prices. They rigorously verify claims using established costing principles which results into safeguarding public finances and boosts operational efficiencies in government procurement processes. Their contributions strengthen transparency and accountability in financial transactions, thereby promoting

effective utilization of resources for the benefit of the public.

Key offices where ICoAS officers are overseeing pricing matter includes Office of Chief Adviser Cost, Ministry of Defence, Department of Fertilizers, NPPA etc.,

ICoAS officers work in the **Ministry of Defence** towards fair pricing, benchmarking and negotiations for acquisitions across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Their efforts have led to



ICoAS 2023 Batch officers calling on CBIC Chairman & Member in May 2024



impressive savings of approximately Rs.50,000 crores since 2022. In high value purchase cases where single purchase involves thousands of crores of rupee and procurement is on nomination basis from central public sector undertakings, our officers do detailed costing for finalizing the contract price by the competent authority. Similarly, ICoAS officers do benchmark costing before obtaining competitive bids for other cases.

## II. Assessment of Subsidy Claims

To ensure the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of schemes, evaluating financial performance is essential. Many schemes allocate funds provisionally to implementing agencies, pending final scrutiny of actual expenditures.

In this process, ICoAS officers play a crucial role by meticulously vetting claims such as food subsidy requests from state governments, profit or loss claims under price stabilization funds, and price support schemes. These efforts are contributory in reconciling finances, optimizing budget and finalizing accounts resulting into scheme refinement.

## III. Revenue Enhancement, Financial Intelligence and Investigation

ICoAS officers play integral roles across diverse functions within GST Commissionerates, encompassing audit, administration, planning, risk evaluation, and trainings. Their audits have been instrumental in detecting revenue leakages and enhancing compliance measures.

ICoAS officers have also assumed roles in intelligence and investigation agencies such as CBI, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, and Financial Intelligence Unit. These engagements highlight their versatility and proficiency in tackling complex financial irregularities and enhancing transparency across various sectors.

## IV. Project Appraisal

ICoAS officers, known for their financial acumen and analytical prowess, are entrusted with project appraisal and financial advisory roles. Their primary objective is to enhance the quality of developmental expenditure by emphasizing measurable outputs and

conducting impact assessments with precision.

ICoAS officers have been positioned in multi-disciplinary Committees and governing bodies like

- Revised Cost Committees across all ministries and departments
- PATSC of Bharatmala Project
- General Body and Board of Governors of AJNIFM;
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority;
- Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers;
- Expert Committee under NITI AAYOG on Energy Norms for Urea Units;
- Governing Body of Tear Smoke Unit, BSF;

Furthermore, ICoAS officers provide inputs on various proposals placed before the Public Investment Board and the Expenditure Finance Committees.

## V. Policy Formulation and Scheme Implementation

ICoAS officers actively contribute to policy formulation and implementation in various ministries.

In the **Cost Audit Branch** of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, ICoAS officers are pivotal in developing policy frameworks, issuing rule notifications and overseeing compliance with cost accounting records and cost audit rules under framework of Section 148 of Companies Act, ensuring regulatory adherence.

In **Department of Public Enterprises**, ICoAS officers are involved in policy formulation related to Central Public Sector Enterprises, implementing MoU framework, performance evaluation of CPSEs, preparing the CPSE Annual Survey, among other activities.

In **Directorate General of Trade Remedies**, ICoAS officers are an integral part of investigation teams. They scrutinize applications filed to protect the domestic industry, analyze the import data & its trends, verify the injury claimed in accordance with WTO regulations and national legal frameworks, determine the Non-Injurious Price, assess the magnitude of dumping and many more.



In the **Department of Economic Affairs**, ICoAS officers analyze proposals for Central PPP projects from financial, taxation, and legal perspectives and develop support mechanisms. ICoAS officers are also involved in Budget making exercise, Policy analysis of energy sector, and Capacity building.

In the **National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority**, ICoAS officers play a noteworthy role in Pricing of essential medicines and medical devices, monitoring of drug prices, addressing drug price overcharging issues & Enforcement under Drug Pricing Control Order. They have achieved milestones in pricing critical medical products like cardiac stents, orthopaedic knee implants, and anti-cancer drugs.

## VI. Associating with Financial Advisors

ICoAS officers are working in the IFD to assist the Financial Advisors in various ministries like Road Transport and Highways, Home Affairs, Education, Housing and Urban Affairs and Food Processing Industries. They are also handling Finance and Accounts function in Delhi Development Authority & Government Opium & Alkaloid Works factories.

Beyond their primary roles, in various ministries, departments, and organizations, ICoAS officers elevate every task they undertake with their skillset and unwavering commitment.



*ICoAS 2021 & 2023 batch officers undergoing training at ICPS*

# HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

(01.04.2024 to 31.07.2025)

- ➔ Number of Assistant Directors Joined:-30 out of 36 (2025 Batch)
- ➔ 17 Officers promoted to various levels including Additional Chief Adviser, Principal Adviser, Adviser, Director and Joint Director.
- ➔ 12 Officers have been sent on deputation to various ministries and organisation on various administrative and other roles.
- ➔ 8 probationary officers have been confirmed
- ➔ ICoAS officers allocated to new places including M/o Home Affairs (FCRA) and DRDO.
- ➔ Proposal for Empanelment of ICoAS of 1997,1998 and 2002 batch officers holding the post of JS/Equivalent at the centre has been submitted to DoPT.
- ➔ Non Functional Upgradation (NFU) granted to 2 eligible officers.
- ➔ Cadre Restructuring activity has been initiated. A committee in this regard has been constituted.



ICoAS probationary 2025 batch attending training programme at ICAI



## CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

The ICoAS remains committed to the continuous professional development of its officers through well-structured training and capacity-building initiatives. In recent months, Mid-Career Training organised at AJNIFM (13 officers) and officers from the 2023 batch have successfully completed the Professional Training Course (PTC) at AJNIFM (35 officers), specialized training programs conducted by the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) and the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) (attended by 33 and 32 officers respectively).

Officers were also attached to key constitutional and executive authorities to enrich their understanding of governance and policymaking. Notably, 41

officers from the 2021 and 2023 batches had the privilege of calling on the Hon'ble President of India. Additionally, the 2023 batch engaged in high-level interactions with the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, the Finance Secretary & Secretary (Expenditure) and the Chairman of CBIC.

To foster a culture of learning and peer exchange, weekly presentations have been institutionalized within the Cadre. These platforms enable officers to share insights, discuss contemporary policy issues, and stay abreast of best practices in public financial management.























*ICoAS 2023 Batch Officers attending 31<sup>st</sup> Professional Training course at AJNIFM, Faridabad*



*ICoAS 2023 batch officers attended Parliamentary Research and training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE)*



# List of PARTICIPATING OFFICES

 <p>GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE</p>	 <p>भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES</p>	 <p>Directorate General of Trade Remedies Department of Commerce</p>
 <p>आर्थिक कार्य विभाग DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS</p>	 <p><b>M</b> MINISTRY OF <b>C</b> CORPORATE <b>A</b> AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA</p> <p>EMPOWERING BUSINESS, PROTECTING INVESTORS REGULATOR • INTEGRATOR • FACILITATOR • EDUCATOR</p>	
 <p>गृह मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS</p>	 <p>Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education Government of India</p>	
	 <p>Ministry Of Health &amp; Family Welfare Government of India</p>	 <p>OFFICE OF THE JUTE COMMISSIONER MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, GOVT. OF INDIA</p>
 <p>NPPA AFFORDABLE MEDICINES FOR ALL</p>	 <p>Government of India Ministry of Chemicals &amp; Fertilizers Department of Fertilizers</p>	 <p>Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Goods and Services Tax</p>
 <p>लोक उद्यम विभाग DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES</p>	 <p>M F P I MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES GOVERNMENT OF INDIA</p>	 <p>कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग Department of PERSONNEL &amp; TRAINING</p>
 <p>SFIO Serious Fraud Investigation Office</p>	 <p>औषध विभाग Department of Pharmaceuticals</p>	 <p>Government of India Ministry of Defence Department of Defence Production</p>
 <p>Government Opium &amp; Alkaloid Factories Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India</p>		 <p>उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS</p>
 <p>Government of India Department of Food and Public Distribution Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</p>		 <p>निवेश और लोक परिसंपत्ति प्रबंधन विभाग DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT AND PUBLIC ASSET MANAGEMENT</p>
 <p>कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &amp; FARMERS WELFARE भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE &amp; FARMERS WELFARE</p>		 <p>भारत सरकार आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय</p>



*ICoAS officers undergoing Mid career training program at AJNIFM, Faridabad*



*ICoAS officers of 2021 & 2023 batch visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan*



*Call on Hon'ble Finance Minister by 2023 Batch of ICoAS officers*





सत्यमेव जयते

**Office of Chief Adviser Cost**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, C-Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan  
New Delhi-110511, India

Telephone: +91-11-24698435

Email: [web-cac@nic.in](mailto:web-cac@nic.in)

Website: <http://doe.gov.in/office-chief-adviser-cost>