

CAG Report on Indian Railways

Why in news?

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CAG has recently released a report revealing that there are major lapses in Indian Railways catering services.

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What are the highlights of the report?

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- Articles unsuitable for human consumption, contaminated food stuffs were offered for sale in the railway stations.

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- No reduction in the number of complaints over the years and the major complaints was related to overcharging and quality issues.

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- Unauthorised vendors were operating in platforms and trains.

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- Unfair practices were being followed in the execution of catering services at stations and trains.

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- Hygiene was greatly compromised. The food and water sold at the railway stations and trains are unfit for human consumption.

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What are the factors behind these unhygienic practices?

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- In its report, CAG held that the Policy shifts in catering are mainly responsible for this mess in catering services.

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- Even the new catering policy launched recently is not clear on how zonal railways will be held accountable.

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- In 2005, the Railways gave all catering contracts to IRCTC, its PSU, but took it back in 2010. It gave the contract back to IRCTC under the new policy this year.

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Recap

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CAG Report

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- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), an authority audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments.
- It also audits the accounts of those bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.
- The CAG is also the external auditor of Government-owned corporations and conducts supplementary audit of government companies.
- The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and Committees on Public Undertakings.

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Source: Financial Express

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