

NEWS ITEMS ON AUDIT DIWAS (17.11.2022)

1. Core responsibility to assist Parliament in ensuring executive accountability, transparency: CAG (theprint.in, latestly.com) 17 Nov 2022

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday said one of the core responsibilities of the CAG was to assist the Parliament and state legislatures in ensuring executive accountability and transparency.

While speaking at the inaugural speech of the week-long Audit Diwas celebrations in the presence of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, he said the CAG had been able to perform our tasks with a sense of purpose and duty despite the challenges of newer priorities of governance and changing dynamics of work culture in terms of emerging financial accounting systems and new technologies.

He said, “In recent years, the volume of work and activities has also increased manifold. We need to, therefore, constantly innovate to stay relevant.”

To strengthen executive accountability, Girish Chandra Murmu said the CAG had introduced various innovative audit products for focused engagement such as Departmental Appreciation Notes, Management Letters and Study Reports. He said these products would be useful for the Executive to keep track of our audit findings and also believed that this initiative, along with the CAG’s Audit Reports, would bring tangible benefits in the day-to-day working of the executive.

Girish Chandra Murmu said, “An impactful audit and a responsive executive can improve efficiency to a large extent, which will ultimately impact the lives of ordinary citizens in the spirit of ‘minimum government and maximum governance,’”

He said in this context, a volume of The Compendium on Catalysts in Pursuit of Good Governance had been put together. He said, “The idea is to promote good practices in all our audit and accounts departmental offices” and added that these efforts would yield rich dividends in terms of improving the quality of professional skills and audit products.

Girish Chandra Murmu said, this year, CAG introduced a new system of technical inspection for implementation in all our audit offices and also framed the Peer Review Guidelines for our audit offices in alignment with the best international practices.

Another pioneering effort of the CAG, he said, has been the development of a guidance framework for utilising technology tools, such as remote sensing, geographic information system and GPS for audit planning, implementation and evidence gathering. This would have far-reaching implications in the audit of land and dependent physical resources like forest, water bodies, land use, agriculture, irrigation and mining, among others, he said.

In a ground-breaking move, He said the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB), an inter-governmental body under CAG, recently released the first-ever publication of Asset Accounts of Natural Resources.

He said this data was prepared in line with the UN system of Environmental and Economic Accounts and covers all 28 states and one Union Territory. He said, “We are proud that this

specialised handbook is one of the few examples of Natural Resource Accounting anywhere in the world.”

He also added that “The first such account was formally released in the presence of Honourable Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri Pralhad Joshi ji, in October this year, and we are hopeful that it will enable the government to take decisions on optimal utilisation of natural resources while being mindful of issues of sustainability.” <https://theprint.in/india/core-responsibility-to-assist-parliament-in-ensuring-executive-accountability-transparency-cag/1220575/>

2. CAG as institution has exemplified spinal strength: Vice President ([dailyexcelsior.com](https://www.dailyexcelsior.com)) 17 Nov 2022

Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankar on Wednesday said the country’s apex audit body CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) as an institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength.

Delivering the inaugural speech at the week-long Audit Diwas celebrations, he said the credibility earned by the institution is due to the the painstaking efforts of the successive CAG chiefs that brought this institution where it is today.

“It is indeed satisfying to note that CAG as institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength. This elevated status is consequence of seminal leadership the institution has been benefiting from,” he said.

Impactful and wholesome CAG functioning has generated evolution of transparent and accountable ecosystem, he said and added that such a scenario has “affirmatively contributed to our growth trajectory”.

The Vice President noted that by virtue of constitutional prescription under Article 151 of the Constitution, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India reports are required to be laid before each House of Parliament as also before the legislature of states.

“It is expected such reports receive due attention and consideration of the parliamentarians and legislators,” the Vice President said.

Painstaking efforts of CAG would bear fruit and results with timely legislature and executive actions in tandem and togetherness, he said.

Among others, former CAGs of India, Accountants General of states, officials of the central government and Indian Audit and Accounts Department, apart from members of the Audit Advisory Board of the CAG were present on the occasion.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said beginning Wednesday, several events are being organised to mark Audit Diwas across our offices in the country.

He said that one of the core responsibilities of the CAG is to assist the Parliament and state legislatures in ensuring executive accountability and transparency.

“We have been able to perform our tasks with a sense of purpose and duty despite the challenges of newer priorities of governance and changing dynamics of work culture in terms of emerging financial accounting systems and new technologies,” he said.

In recent years, the CAG said the volume of work and activities has also increased manifold.

“We need to, therefore, constantly innovate to stay relevant,” he said.

Murmu further said, to strengthen executive accountability, the institution has introduced various innovative audit products for focused engagement such as departmental appreciation notes, management letters and study reports.

These products, he said, will be useful for the executive to keep track of audit findings.

“We believe that this initiative, along with the CAG’s audit reports, will bring tangible benefits in the day-to-day working of the executive.

“An impacting audit and a responsive executive can improve efficiency to a large extent, which will ultimately impact the lives of ordinary citizens in the spirit of ‘minimum Government and maximum governance’,” he said.

Audit Diwas commemorates the day the first auditor general took charge of the office in 1860. Over time, the role of the CAG has evolved to assume wider responsibilities to strengthening democracy and governance of the country. <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/cag-as-institution-has-exemplified-spinal-strength-vice-president-2/>

3. Core responsibility to assist Parliament in ensuring executive accountability, transparency: CAG (aninews.in) Nov 17, 2022

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He said in this context, a volume of The Compendium on Catalysts in Pursuit of Good Governance had been put together. He said, “The idea is to promote good practices in all our audit and accounts departmental offices” and added that these efforts would yield rich dividends in terms of improving the quality of professional skills and audit products.

Girish Chandra Murmu said, this year, CAG introduced a new system of technical inspection for implementation in all our audit offices and also framed the Peer Review Guidelines for our audit offices in alignment with the best international practices.

Another pioneering effort of the CAG, he said, has been the development of a guidance framework for utilising technology tools, such as remote sensing, geographic information system and GPS for audit planning, implementation and evidence gathering. This would have far-reaching implications in the audit of land and dependent physical resources like forest, water bodies, land use, agriculture, irrigation and mining, among others, he said.

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4. कैग ने अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया: धनखड़ (epapervirarjun.com) 17 Nov 2022

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने बुधवार को कहा कि देश के सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा निकाय नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने वर्षों से एक संस्थान के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है। उन्होंने सप्ताह भर चलने वाले ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में उद्घाटन भाषण देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा हासिल किया गया भरोसा, कैग प्रमुखों के प्रयासों का परिणाम है।

उनके प्रयासों से ही यह संस्थान आज यहां तक पहुंचा है। धनखड़ ने कहा, यह वास्तव में संतोषजनक है कि संस्थान के रूप में कैग ने वर्षों से मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है। यह ऊंचा दर्जा उस मौलिक नेतृत्व का परिणाम है, जिससे संस्थान लाभान्वित हो रहा है। कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा, हमें प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए निरंतर नवोन्मेषण करने की जरूरत है। इस मौके पर भारत के पूर्व कैग, राज्यों के महालेखा

कार, केंद्र सरकार और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी, कैग के लेखा परीक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड के सदस्य मौजूद थे।

<https://epapervirarjun.com/epapermain.aspx>

5. **जवाबदेही व पारदर्शिता लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति के लिए आवश्यक: धनखड़** (epaper.loksatya.com) 17 Nov 2022

जवाबदेही व पारदर्शिता लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति के लिए आवश्यक: धनखड़

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति के लिए जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता को आवश्यक करार देते हुए कहा है कि समाज के अंतिम सिरे तक कल्याणकारी योजनाओं तक लाभ पहुंचाने में इनसे मदद मिलती है।

श्री धनखड़ ने बुधवार को यहां नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक-सीएजी कार्यालय में दूसरे ऑडिट दिवस समारोह का उद्घाटन करने के बाद कहा कि जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता के मूल्यों को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है।

उन्होंने कहा कि लेखा परीक्षण की अनुपस्थिति या अक्षम लेखा परीक्षण से व्यवस्था की कुशलता में



कमी आएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि राजकोषीय अनयमितताओं का समय पर पता लगाना और प्रभावी परिणामी सुधार तंत्र अनिवार्य रूप से सीएजी का दायित्व है।

समारोह में नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू, उप नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक परवीन मेहता, भारतीय लेखापरीक्षा

और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी और अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे। श्री धनखड़ ने कहा कि सीएजी की रिपोर्टों पर सांसदों और विधायकों का उचित ध्यान और विचार किया जाना चाहिए ताकि शासन में ईमानदारी, दक्षता और पारदर्शिता में सुधार हो और उत्तरदायित्व को लागू किया जा सके।

<https://epaper.loksatya.com/pagezoomsinwindows.php?id=35886&boxid=821722608&cid=4&edcode=71>

6. कैग ने एक संस्था के रूप में मजबूती का दिया उदाहरण (rashtriyasahara.com) 17 Nov 2022

कैग ने एक संस्था के रूप में मजबूती का दिया उदाहरण

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने बुधवार को कहा कि देश के सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा निकाय नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने वर्षों से एक संस्थान के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है। उन्होंने सप्ताह भर चलने वाले ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में उद्घाटन भाषण देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा हासिल किया गया भरोसा, कैग प्रमुखों के प्रयासों का परिणाम है। उनके प्रयासों से ही यह संस्थान आज यहां तक पहुंचा है।

धनखड़ ने कहा, 'यह वास्तव में संतोषजनक है कि संस्थान के रूप में कैग ने वर्षों से मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है। यह ऊंचा दर्जा उस मौलिक नेतृत्व का परिणाम है, जिससे संस्थान लाभान्वित हो रहा है।' कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा, 'हमें प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए निरंतर नवोन्मेषण करने की जरूरत है।' इस मौके पर भारत के पूर्व कैग, राज्यों के महालेखाकार, केंद्र सरकार और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी, कैग के लेखा परीक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड के सदस्य मौजूद थे।

<http://rashtriyasahara.com/>

7. कैग ने एक संस्था के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया: उपराष्ट्रपति (rashtriyasahara.com) 17 Nov 2022

कैग ने एक संस्था के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया : उपराष्ट्रपति

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने कहा कि नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने वर्षों से एक संस्थान के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है।

उन्होंने सप्ताह भर चलने वाले ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में उद्घाटन भाषण देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा हासिल किया गया भरोसा, कैग प्रमुखों के प्रयासों का परिणाम

ऑडिट दिवस
समारोह का
उद्घाटन
किया
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मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है। यह ऊंचा दर्जा उस मौलिक नेतृत्व का परिणाम है, जिससे संस्थान लाभान्वित हो रहा है।

कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा, हमें प्रासंगिक बनने रहने के लिए निरंतर नवोन्मेषण करने की जरूरत है। इस मौके पर भारत के पूर्व कैग, राज्यों के महालेखाकार, केंद्र सरकार और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी, कैग के लेखा परीक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड के सदस्य मौजूद थे। कल लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम विरला समारोह को संबोधित करेंगे।

<http://rashtriyasahara.com/>

8. कैग ने एक संस्था के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया: उपराष्ट्रपति (hindi.theprint.in) 16 Nov 2022

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कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा,

“हमें प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए निरंतर नवोन्मेषण करने की जरूरत है।”

इस मौके पर भारत के पूर्व कैग, राज्यों के महालेखाकार, केंद्र सरकार और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी, कैग के लेखा परीक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड के सदस्य मौजूद थे। <https://hindi.theprint.in/india/economy/cag-has-set-an-example-of-its-strength-as-an-institution-vice-president/425723/>

9. कैग ने एक संस्था के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया: उपराष्ट्रपति (navbharattimes.indiatimes.com, hindi.business-standard.com, punjabkesari.in, ibc24.in) 16 Nov 2022

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने बुधवार को कहा कि देश के सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा निकाय नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने वर्षों से एक संस्थान के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है।

उन्होंने सप्ताह भर चलने वाले ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में उद्घाटन भाषण देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा हासिल किया गया भरोसा, कैग प्रमुखों के प्रयासों का परिणाम है। उनके प्रयासों से ही यह संस्थान आज यहां तक पहुंचा है।

धनखड़ ने कहा,

“यह वास्तव में संतोषजनक है कि संस्थान के रूप में कैग ने वर्षों से मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है। यह ऊंचा दर्जा उस मौलिक नेतृत्व का परिणाम है, जिससे संस्थान लाभान्वित हो रहा है।”

कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा,

“हमें प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए निरंतर नवोन्मेषण करने की जरूरत है।”

इस मौके पर भारत के पूर्व कैग, राज्यों के महालेखाकार, केंद्र सरकार और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी, कैग के लेखा परीक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड के सदस्य मौजूद थे। <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/business/business-news/cag-exemplifies-its-strength-as-an-institution-vice-president/articleshow/95554073.cms>

10. लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति के लिए जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता आवश्यक: उपराष्ट्रपति (hindusthansamachar.in) 16 Nov 2022

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने बुधवार को जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता को लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति में मदद गार बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण में जवाबदेही सुशासन के लिए सर्वोत्कृष्ट है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि समाज की अंतिम पंक्तियों तक लाभ पहुंचे।

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) कार्यालय में दूसरे ऑडिट दिवस समारोह का उद्घाटन करने के बाद सभा को संबोधित करते हुए उपराष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि इन मूल्यों को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है अन्यथा व्यवस्था में भ्रष्टाचार और अक्षमता आ जाएगी। ऑडिट को सुशासन का एक शक्तिशाली और अपरिहार्य उपकरण बताते हुए धनखड़ ने आगाह किया कि ऑडिट

की अनुपस्थिति या अक्षम ऑडिट से सिस्टम में गिरावट आएगी। उन्होंने सरकारी संस्थाओं द्वारा लंबे समय तक बड़े पैमाने पर सार्वजनिक धन प्रदान नहीं किए जाने वाले उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्रों के उदाहरणों पर कैग द्वारा अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित करने का भी आह्वान किया।

यह देखते हुए कि भारत का सीएजी वर्षों से विभिन्न संयुक्त राष्ट्र (यूएन) संगठनों का बाहरी लेखा परीक्षक रहा है, धनखड़ ने वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के साथ एक मजबूत लेखा परीक्षा संगठन के रूप में अपनी प्रतिष्ठा स्थापित करने के लिए सीएजी की प्रशंसा की। उन्होंने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि कैग के बढ़े हुए सक्रिय रुख के साथ, सरकारी योजनाओं की दक्षता और निगरानी और पहुंच में सुधार होना तय है। उन्होंने कहा,
“राजकोषीय दुराचारों का समय पर पता लगाना और प्रभावी परिणामी सुधार तंत्र अनिवार्य सीएजी दायित्व हैं।”

इस अवसर पर, उपराष्ट्रपति ने सीएजी द्वारा अपने दूसरे ऑडिट दिवस समारोह के हिस्से के रूप में आयोजित राष्ट्रीय ऑनलाइन निबंध लेखन प्रतियोगिता - 2022 के विजेताओं को भी सम्मानित किया। कार्यक्रम में भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू, उप नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक परवीन मेहता, भारतीय लेखापरीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी और अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे।
| <https://www.hindusthansamachar.in/Encyc/2022/11/16/VP-inaugurates-2nd-Audit-Diwas-celebrations-at-CAG-office.php>

11. लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति के लिए जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता आवश्यक: उपराष्ट्रपति (*thevoicetv.in*) 16 Nov 2022

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने बुधवार को जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता को लोकतांत्रिक प्रगति में मदद गार बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण में जवाबदेही सुशासन के लिए सर्वोत्कृष्ट है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि समाज की अंतिम पंक्तियों तक लाभ पहुंचे।

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) कार्यालय में दूसरे ऑडिट दिवस समारोह का उद्घाटन करने के बाद सभा को संबोधित करते हुए उपराष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि इन मूल्यों को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है अन्यथा व्यवस्था में भ्रष्टाचार और अक्षमता आ जाएगी। ऑडिट को सुशासन का एक शक्तिशाली और अपरिहार्य उपकरण बताते हुए धनखड़ ने आगाह किया कि ऑडिट की अनुपस्थिति या अक्षम ऑडिट से सिस्टम में गिरावट आएगी। उन्होंने सरकारी संस्थाओं द्वारा लंबे समय तक बड़े पैमाने पर सार्वजनिक धन प्रदान नहीं किए जाने वाले उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्रों के उदाहरणों पर कैग द्वारा अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित करने का भी आह्वान किया।

यह देखते हुए कि भारत का सीएजी वर्षों से विभिन्न संयुक्त राष्ट्र (यूएन) संगठनों का बाहरी लेखा परीक्षक रहा है, धनखड़ ने वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के साथ एक मजबूत लेखा परीक्षा संगठन के रूप में अपनी प्रतिष्ठा स्थापित करने के लिए सीएजी की प्रशंसा की। उन्होंने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि कैग के बढ़े हुए सक्रिय रुख के साथ, सरकारी योजनाओं की दक्षता और निगरानी और पहुंच में सुधार होना तय है। उन्होंने कहा,
“राजकोषीय दुराचारों का समय पर पता लगाना और प्रभावी परिणामी सुधार तंत्र अनिवार्य सीएजी दायित्व हैं।”

इस अवसर पर, उपराष्ट्रपति ने सीएजी द्वारा अपने दूसरे ऑडिट दिवस समारोह के हिस्से के रूप में आयोजित राष्ट्रीय ऑनलाइन निबंध लेखन प्रतियोगिता - 2022 के विजेताओं को भी सम्मानित किया। कार्य

क्रम में भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू, उप नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक पर वीन मेहता, भारतीय लेखापरीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी और अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे | <https://thevoicetv.in/national.php?articleid=1402>

12. CAG ने एक संस्था के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का दिया उदाहरण- जगदीप धनखड़ (*firstindianews.com*) 16 Nov 2022

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने बुधवार को कहा कि देश के सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा निकाय नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने वर्षों से एक संस्थान के रूप में अपनी मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है.

उन्होंने सप्ताह भर चलने वाले ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में उद्घाटन भाषण देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा हासिल किया गया भरोसा, कैग प्रमुखों के प्रयासों का परिणाम है. उनके प्रयासों से ही यह संस्थान आज यहां तक पहुंचा है.

कैग ने वर्षों से मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया:

धनखड़ ने कहा कि यह वास्तव में संतोषजनक है कि संस्थान के रूप में कैग ने वर्षों से मजबूती का उदाहरण दिया है. यह ऊंचा दर्जा उस मौलिक नेतृत्व का परिणाम है, जिससे संस्थान लाभान्वित हो रहा है. कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा कि हमें प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए निरंतर नवोन्मेषण करने की जरूरत है. इस मौके पर भारत के पूर्व कैग, राज्यों के महालेखाकार, केंद्र सरकार और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी, कैग के लेखा परीक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड के सदस्य मौजूद थे. सोर्स-

भाषा <https://firstindianews.com/news/Vice-President-Jagdeep-Dhankhar-emphasises-the-importance-of-transparent-accountability-in-public-service-delivery-536948373>

13. CAG as institution has exemplified spinal strength: Vice President (*etvbharat.com*) 16 Nov 2022

Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankar on Wednesday said the country's apex audit body CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) as an institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength. Delivering the inaugural speech at the week-long Audit Diwas celebrations, he said the credibility earned by the institution is due to the painstaking efforts of the successive CAG chiefs that brought this institution where it is today.

"It is indeed satisfying to note that CAG as institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength. This elevated status is consequence of seminal leadership the institution has been benefiting from," he said. Impactful and wholesome CAG functioning has generated evolution of transparent and accountable ecosystem, he said and added that such a scenario has "affirmatively contributed to our growth trajectory".

The Vice President noted that by virtue of constitutional prescription under Article 151 of the Constitution, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India reports are required to be laid before each House of Parliament as also before the legislature of states. "It is expected such reports receive due attention and consideration of the parliamentarians and legislators," the Vice President said.

Painstaking efforts of CAG would bear fruit and result in the timely legislature and executive actions in tandem and togetherness, he said. Among others, former CAGs of India, Accountants General of states, officials of the central government and Indian Audit and Accounts

Department, apart from members of the Audit Advisory Board of the CAG were present on the occasion.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said beginning Wednesday, several events are being organised to mark Audit Diwas across our offices in the country. He said that one of the core responsibilities of the CAG is to assist the Parliament and state legislatures in ensuring executive accountability and transparency.

"We have been able to perform our tasks with a sense of purpose and duty despite the challenges of newer priorities of governance and changing dynamics of work culture in terms of emerging financial accounting systems and new technologies," he said. In recent years, the CAG said the volume of work and activities has also increased manifold. "We need to, therefore, constantly innovate to stay relevant," he said.

Murmu further said, to strengthen executive accountability, the institution has introduced various innovative audit products for focused engagement such as departmental appreciation notes, management letters and study reports. These products, he said, will be useful for the executive to keep track of audit findings. "We believe that this initiative, along with the CAG's audit reports, will bring tangible benefits in the day-to-day working of the executive.

"An impacting audit and a responsive executive can improve efficiency to a large extent, which will ultimately impact the lives of ordinary citizens in the spirit of 'minimum government and maximum governance'," he said. Audit Diwas commemorates the day the first auditor general took charge of the office in 1860. Over time, the role of the CAG has evolved to assume wider responsibilities to strengthening democracy and governance of the country. <https://www.etvbharat.com/english/national/bharat/cag-as-institution-has-exemplified-spinal-strength-vice-president/na20221116132407722722242>

14. Accountability and Transparency Are Twins That Help Blossom and Sustain Our Democratic Progress – Vice President (indiaeducationdiary.in) 16 Nov 2022

The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today described accountability and transparency as twins that help to sustain our democratic progress. He said that accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance to ensure that benefits trickle to the last rows.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations at CAG office in New Delhi today, he highlighted that CAG has a pivotal role in ensuring these values; corruption and inefficiency would creep into the system, otherwise.

Describing audit as a powerful and inescapable tool of good governance, Shri Dhankhar cautioned that the absence of audit or inefficient audit would lead to system degeneration. He also called for increased focus by CAG on the instances of utility certificates involving massive public funds not being imparted for long by governmental entities.

Noting that CAG of India has been the External Auditor of various United Nations (UN) organizations over the years, Shri Dhankhar praised CAG for establishing a reputation for itself as a robust auditing organisation with global best practices. He expressed confidence that with the enhanced pro-active stance of the CAG, there is bound to be improved efficiency and

monitoring and reach of government schemes. “Timely detection of fiscal misdemeanours and effective consequential correction mechanisms are peremptory CAG obligations,” he added.

Calling for continually enhancing credible systems to tackle the challenges before us, the Vice President highlighted that engaging in self-audit would be rewarding.

On this occasion, the Vice President also felicitated the winners of the National Online Essay Writing Competition – 2022 organized by CAG as part of its 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations. Appreciating the initiative, he hoped that the august institution would continue to find ways to involve the public at the grassroots in its impact assessment process and act as crusader against corruption and fiscal inefficiency.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, Ms Parveen Mehta, officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and other dignitaries were present.

Following is the full text of speech –

Delighted to be part of the Audit Diwas celebrations today.

Congratulations on CAG foundation day, and for organising the 30th Accountants General Conference to mark the occasion.

Critical importance of the institution of the CAG was significantly indicated by Dr. B R Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly. He reflected:

“I am of the opinion that this dignitary or officer is probably the most important officer in the Constitution of India. He is the one man who is going to see that the expenses voted by Parliament are not exceeded, or varied, from what has been laid down by Parliament.”

It is indeed satisfying to note that CAG as institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength.

This elevated status is consequence of seminal leadership the institution has been benefiting from.

The credibility earned by the institution is due to the the painstaking efforts of the successive CAGs that brought this institution where it is today.

Impactful and wholesome CAG functioning has generated evolution of transparent and accountable eco system. Such a scenario has affirmatively contributed to our growth trajectory.

By virtue of constitutional prescription under Article 151 of the Constitution CAG reports are required to be laid before each House of Parliament as also before the Legislature of the States.

It is expected such reports receive due attention and consideration of the Parliamentarians and Legislators so that probity, efficiency and transparency in governance improves and accountability is enforced.

Painstaking efforts of CAG would bear fruit and results with timely Legislature and Executive actions in tandem and togetherness.

In a recent milestone accomplishment India secured the status of the fifth largest economy in the world and is on way to being the third largest global economy by turn of the decade.

The country has made rapid strides in structural and institutional reforms making the Country attractive opportunity and investment destination in the world.

The world is rightly looking at us today as a catalyst for positive change.

Transparent accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance so as to ensure benefits trickle to the last rows. This can be impactfully brought about and enhanced by CAG acting as vigilant watchdog.

Appreciate significantly apt theme of today's Accountants General Conference- 'SAI India: Contributing to India Onward and Ahead'.

Am sure the deliberations would focus on opportunities and challenges with a view to fast track our continual upward growth trajectory.

Accountability and transparency are twins that help blossom and sustain our democratic progress. Lack of these breeds corruption and inefficiency. CAG has a massive role to root out this menace.

We must build and continually enhance credible systems to tackle the challenges before us.

Engaging in self audit and calibration would be rewarding. Timely detection of fiscal misdemeanours and effective consequential correction mechanism are peremptory CAG obligations.

Audit is a powerful and inescapable tool of good governance. Absence of audit or inefficient audit is the surest passage to system degeneration. This underlines imperatives of CAG focus. Instances of utility certificates involving massive public funds not being imparted for long by governmental entities needs exemplary corrective focus.

By discerning errors and highlighting wastefulness and extravagance in public spending, the CAG not only ensures that the government delivers its promise with economic efficiency, but also it helps to stamp out inefficiency and corruption.

Functional, vibrant and impactful CAG mechanism is safest assurance that the intended benefits actually reach the citizens- the ultimate beneficiaries.

It is soothing to gather that the CAG has given priority to audit many citizen centric programmes such as Direct Benefit Transfer, National Pension System and so on. CAG focus will make the system robust delivery mechanism.

The findings of these types of audits will give extremely important inputs which will help in better planning and management of citizen centric schemes.

The digital revolution, combined with CAG's exemplary service in promoting transparency, is revitalising grassroots democracy in our country.

This august institution should find ingenious and innovative ways to involve public at the grassroots level in its audit processes.

In fact, the CAG has to play a proactive role in improving efficiency, monitoring and outcomes delivered by Government schemes.

It is satisfying to note that to manage emerging challenges CAG is continuously engaged in upgrading its professional skills and practices to stay ahead of the learning curve.

I commend CAG initiatives to become an IT-led institution and using data analytics for auditing.

This has helped CAG in enhancing efficiency and enabling analysis and risk based audit.

CAG of India has established a reputation as a robust auditing organisation with global best practices.

It is the External Auditor of various United Nations (UN) organizations over the years.

Its international audit portfolio includes external audit of several important UN organizations including

World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On this occasion, I would also like to congratulate all the seven university students who have won the National Online Essay Writing Competition, and who've joined us here today from different parts of the country.

They wrote exceptional essays on themes in align with current governance vision.

I am confident that this august institution would continue to find ways to involve public at the grassroots level in its impact assessment process and act as crusader against corruption and fiscal inefficiency.

With enhanced pro-active stance of the CAG, there is bound to be improved efficiency and monitoring and reach of government schemes.

I take this opportunity to commend the supreme audit authority and all the officers for their high ethical standards.

I am sure, CAG will continue to emerge stronger and vibrant in days ahead.

Jai Hind!

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/accountability-and-transparency-are-twins-that-help-blossom-and-sustain-our-democratic-progress-vice-president/>

15. Vice President Dhankhar for transparent accountability in public service delivery (theindianawaaz.com) 16 Nov 2022

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today said that the reputation of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, CAG at the global level is well recognised as a robust auditing organisation.

Inaugurating the second Audit Diwas at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in New Delhi, the Vice President said it is on account of this recognition that CAG is playing a critical role as external auditor at various UN organisations.

He emphasised that transparent accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance.

Vice President lauded the good work done by CAG. He added that CAG should find innovative work to involve public in its audit processes. He further stated that doing so will yield rich dividends and this proactive role will help in efficient monitoring of the schemes.

On the occasion, Vice President conferred awards on the winners of the National Online Essay Writing Competition organized by CAG as part of 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations. <http://theindianawaaz.com/vice-president-dhankhar-for-transparent-accountability-in-public-service-delivery/>

16. CAG as institution has exemplified spinal strength: Vice President (business-standard.com, epaper.thehindubusinessline.com, devdiscourse.com, newsdrum.in) PTI | 16 Nov 2022

Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said the country's apex audit body CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) as an institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength.

Delivering the inaugural speech at the week-long Audit Diwas celebrations, he said the credibility earned by the institution is due to the the painstaking efforts of the successive CAG chiefs that brought this institution where it is today.

"It is indeed satisfying to note that CAG as institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength. This elevated status is consequence of seminal leadership the institution has been benefiting from," he said.

Impactful and wholesome CAG functioning has generated evolution of transparent and accountable ecosystem, he said and added that such a scenario has "affirmatively contributed to our growth trajectory".

The Vice President noted that by virtue of constitutional prescription under Article 151 of the Constitution, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India reports are required to be laid before each House of Parliament as also before the legislature of states.

"It is expected such reports receive due attention and consideration of the parliamentarians and legislators," the Vice President said.

Painstaking efforts of CAG would bear fruit and results with timely legislature and executive actions in tandem and togetherness, he said.

Among others, former CAGs of India, Accountants General of states, officials of the central government and Indian Audit and Accounts Department, apart from members of the Audit Advisory Board of the CAG were present on the occasion.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said beginning Wednesday, several events are being organised to mark Audit Diwas across our offices in the country.

He said that one of the core responsibilities of the CAG is to assist the Parliament and state legislatures in ensuring executive accountability and transparency.

"We have been able to perform our tasks with a sense of purpose and duty despite the challenges of newer priorities of governance and changing dynamics of work culture in terms of emerging financial accounting systems and new technologies," he said.

In recent years, the CAG said the volume of work and activities has also increased manifold.

"We need to, therefore, constantly innovate to stay relevant," he said.

Murmu further said, to strengthen executive accountability, the institution has introduced various innovative audit products for focused engagement such as departmental appreciation notes, management letters and study reports.

These products, he said, will be useful for the executive to keep track of audit findings.

"We believe that this initiative, along with the CAG's audit reports, will bring tangible benefits in the day-to-day working of the executive.

"An impacting audit and a responsive executive can improve efficiency to a large extent, which will ultimately impact the lives of ordinary citizens in the spirit of 'minimum government and maximum governance'," he said.

Audit Diwas commemorates the day the first auditor general took charge of the office in 1860. Over time, the role of the CAG has evolved to assume wider responsibilities to strengthening democracy and governance of the country. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/cag-as-institution-has-exemplified-spinal-strength-vice-president-dhankar-122111600660_1.html

17. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar emphasises importance of transparent accountability in public service delivery (*newsonair.com*) 16 Nov 2022

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today said that the reputation of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, CAG at the global level is well recognised as a robust auditing organisation.

Inaugurating the second Audit Diwas at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in New Delhi, the Vice President said it is on account of this recognition that CAG is playing a critical role as external auditor at various UN organisations.

He emphasised that transparent accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance.

Vice President lauded the good work done by CAG. He added that CAG should find innovative work to involve public in its audit processes. He further stated that doing so will yield rich dividends and this proactive role will help in efficient monitoring of the schemes.

On the occasion, Vice President conferred awards on the winners of the National Online Essay Writing Competition organized by CAG as part of 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations. <https://newsonair.com/2022/11/16/vice-president-jagdeep-dhankhar-emphasises-importance-of-transparent-accountability-in-public-service-delivery/>

18. Accountability and transparency are twins that help blossom and sustain our democratic progress – Vice President (*pib.gov.in*) 16 Nov 2022

Absence of audit or inefficient audit is sure passage to system degeneration – Vice President

VP lauds Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for establishing itself as an auditing organization of global repute

Vice President inaugurates 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations at CAG office today

The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today described accountability and transparency as twins that help to sustain our democratic progress. He said that accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance to ensure that benefits trickle to the last rows.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations at CAG office in New Delhi today, he highlighted that CAG has a pivotal role in ensuring these values; corruption and inefficiency would creep into the system, otherwise.

Describing audit as a powerful and inescapable tool of good governance, Shri Dhankhar cautioned that the absence of audit or inefficient audit would lead to system degeneration. He also called for increased focus by CAG on the instances of utility certificates involving massive public funds not being imparted for long by governmental entities.

Noting that CAG of India has been the External Auditor of various United Nations (UN) organizations over the years, Shri Dhankhar praised CAG for establishing a reputation for itself as a robust auditing organisation with global best practices. He expressed confidence that with the enhanced pro-active stance of the CAG, there is bound to be improved efficiency and monitoring and reach of government schemes. “Timely detection of fiscal misdemeanours and effective consequential correction mechanisms are preemptory CAG obligations,” he added.

Calling for continually enhancing credible systems to tackle the challenges before us, the Vice President highlighted that engaging in self-audit would be rewarding.

On this occasion, the Vice President also felicitated the winners of the National Online Essay Writing Competition - 2022 organized by CAG as part of its 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations. Appreciating the initiative, he hoped that the august institution would continue to find ways to

involve the public at the grassroots in its impact assessment process and act as crusader against corruption and fiscal inefficiency.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, Ms Parveen Mehta, officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and other dignitaries were present.

Following is the full text of speech –

Delighted to be part of the Audit Diwas celebrations today.

Congratulations on CAG foundation day, and for organising the 30th Accountants General Conference to mark the occasion.

Critical importance of the institution of the CAG was significantly indicated by Dr. B R Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly. He reflected:

“I am of the opinion that this dignitary or officer is probably the most important officer in the Constitution of India. He is the one man who is going to see that the expenses voted by Parliament are not exceeded, or varied, from what has been laid down by Parliament.”

It is indeed satisfying to note that CAG as institution has, over the years, exemplified spinal strength.

This elevated status is consequence of seminal leadership the institution has been benefiting from.

The credibility earned by the institution is due to the the painstaking efforts of the successive CAGs that brought this institution where it is today.

Impactful and wholesome CAG functioning has generated evolution of transparent and accountable eco system. Such a scenario has affirmatively contributed to our growth trajectory.

By virtue of constitutional prescription under Article 151 of the Constitution CAG reports are required to be laid before each House of Parliament as also before the Legislature of the States.

It is expected such reports receive due attention and consideration of the Parliamentarians and Legislators so that probity, efficiency and transparency in governance improves and accountability is enforced.

Painstaking efforts of CAG would bear fruit and results with timely Legislature and Executive actions in tandem and togetherness.

In a recent milestone accomplishment India secured the status of the fifth largest economy in the world and is on way to being the third largest global economy by turn of the decade.

The country has made rapid strides in structural and institutional reforms making the Country attractive opportunity and investment destination in the world.

The world is rightly looking at us today as a catalyst for positive change.

Transparent accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance so as to ensure benefits trickle to the last rows. This can be impactfully brought about and enhanced by CAG acting as vigilant watchdog.

Appreciate significantly apt theme of today's Accountants General Conference- 'SAI India: Contributing to India Onward and Ahead'.

Am sure the deliberations would focus on opportunities and challenges with a view to fast track our continual upward growth trajectory.

Accountability and transparency are twins that help blossom and sustain our democratic progress. Lack of these breeds corruption and inefficiency. CAG has a massive role to root out this menace.

We must build and continually enhance credible systems to tackle the challenges before us.

Engaging in self audit and calibration would be rewarding. Timely detection of fiscal misdemeanours and effective consequential correction mechanism are peremptory CAG obligations.

Audit is a powerful and inescapable tool of good governance. Absence of audit or inefficient audit is the surest passage to system degeneration. This underlines imperatives of CAG focus. Instances of utility certificates involving massive public funds not being imparted for long by governmental entities needs exemplary corrective focus.

By discerning errors and highlighting wastefulness and extravagance in public spending, the CAG not only ensures that the government delivers its promise with economic efficiency, but also it helps to stamp out inefficiency and corruption.

Functional, vibrant and impactful CAG mechanism is safest assurance that the intended benefits actually reach the citizens- the ultimate beneficiaries.

It is soothing to gather that the CAG has given priority to audit many citizen centric programmes such as Direct Benefit Transfer, National Pension System and so on. CAG focus will make the system robust delivery mechanism.

The findings of these types of audits will give extremely important inputs which will help in better planning and management of citizen centric schemes.

The digital revolution, combined with CAG's exemplary service in promoting transparency, is revitalising grassroots democracy in our country.

This august institution should find ingenious and innovative ways to involve public at the grassroots level in its audit processes.

In fact, the CAG has to play a proactive role in improving efficiency, monitoring and outcomes delivered by Government schemes.

It is satisfying to note that to manage emerging challenges CAG is continuously engaged in upgrading its professional skills and practices to stay ahead of the learning curve.

I commend CAG initiatives to become an IT-led institution and using data analytics for auditing.

This has helped CAG in enhancing efficiency and enabling analysis and risk based audit.

CAG of India has established a reputation as a robust auditing organisation with global best practices.

It is the External Auditor of various United Nations (UN) organizations over the years.

Its international audit portfolio includes external audit of several important UN organizations including

World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On this occasion, I would also like to congratulate all the seven university students who have won the National Online Essay Writing Competition, and who've joined us here today from different parts of the country.

They wrote exceptional essays on themes in align with current governance vision.

I am confident that this august institution would continue to find ways to involve public at the grassroots level in its impact assessment process and act as crusader against corruption and fiscal inefficiency.

With enhanced pro-active stance of the CAG, there is bound to be improved efficiency and monitoring and reach of government schemes.

I take this opportunity to commend the supreme audit authority and all the officers for their high ethical standards.

I am sure, CAG will continue to emerge stronger and vibrant in days ahead.

Jai Hind! <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1876434>

19. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates second Audit Diwas at CAG Office in New Delhi (*newsonair.gov.in*) 16 Nov 2022

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today said that the reputation of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, CAG at the global level is well recognised as a robust auditing organisation.

Inaugurating the second Audit Diwas at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in New Delhi, the Vice President said it is on account of this recognition that CAG is playing a critical role as external auditor at various UN organisations.

He emphasised that transparent accountability in public service delivery is quintessential to good governance.

Vice President lauded the good work done by CAG. He added that CAG should find innovative work to involve public in its audit processes. He further stated that doing so will yield rich dividends and this proactive role will help in efficient monitoring of the schemes.

On the occasion, Vice President conferred awards on the winners of the National Online Essay Writing Competition organized by CAG as part of 2nd Audit Diwas celebrations. <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Vice-President-Jagdeep-Dhankhar-inaugurates-second-Audit-Diwas-at-CAG-Office-in-New-Delhi&id=450939>

20. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar attends the inauguration of Audit Diwas (sansadtv.nic.in) 16 Nov 2022

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIPwtwntvJY>

21. Audit Week celebrations begin at AG office Jammu (dailyexcelsior.com) 17 Nov 2022

Specific programmes with participation of staff members and their families will be organized during the Audit Week i.e. from November 16 to 22.

Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated Audit Diwas function today at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) at New Delhi. C&AG of India Girish Chandra Murmu was among those present on the occasion. The event was also attended by officers and staff members of Offices of the Principal Accountants General (Audit and A&E), Jammu & Kashmir and the Regional Training Institute, Jammu through webcast.

It was on 16th November in the year 1860 that Sir Edward Drummond took over the charge as first Auditor General of India and therefore, the Day is celebrated as Audit Diwas to mark the historic origin of the institution of C&AG of India and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.

C&AG of India is established under Article 148 of the Constitution of India and is empowered to audit all receipts and expenditures of the Union as well as State Governments. Reports of the C&AG of India are laid before Parliament or Legislatures and these reports are taken up for discussion by Public Accounts Committees and Committees on Public Undertakings. <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/audit-week-celebrations-begin-at-ag-office-jammu/>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

22. Centre may hit fiscal deficit target but overshoot borrowing goal (livemint.com) Nov 17, 2022

The government may meet the fiscal deficit target because of improved revenue collection, and as economic output in nominal terms is expected to grow faster than the 11.1% projected in the budget. Nominal GDP measures economic output in current prices without adjusting for inflation.

The finance ministry is preparing to seek a parliamentary nod for spending more than the originally planned ₹39.4 trillion this year owing to a surge in food and fertilizer subsidies. The supplementary demand for grants is likely to be moved in the winter session of Parliament.

Limiting the fiscal deficit at the budgeted level will also signal the Centre's intention towards fiscal consolidation, which is expected to be a hallmark of the budget for FY24. "The government expects to be able to end this financial year with a fiscal deficit either at 6.4% of GDP as originally estimated or slightly below that, although in absolute terms, it may overshoot the original projection. Softening global commodity prices, especially of fertilizer, could mean less spending requirement next fiscal," the person said.

India is spending more on subsidizing fertilizers to soften the blow on farmers and put a lid on food prices as the Russian invasion of Ukraine has sent prices of the key farm input soaring. The government has also extended by three months the free foodgrain scheme introduced during the pandemic, burdening the government's finances.

In September, the Centre marginally cut its full-year market borrowings to ₹14.21 trillion from the original plan of ₹14.31 trillion to signal that it will adhere to the fiscal deficit target. However, market borrowing is only a part of the overall borrowing, with the rest coming from small savings and other funds.

Overshooting the fiscal deficit in absolute terms could mean borrowing more than planned earlier, but this is unlikely to be an issue, experts said.

"In absolute terms, we might need to borrow more because all the nominal variables are higher than budgeted, and it would not put any extra pressure on the market. The government might even try and reduce the fiscal deficit a bit. The government will probably announce a fiscal consolidation glide path because we are well above the 3% fiscal responsibility and budget management (FRBM) target," said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy adviser, EY India.

The FRBM framework mandated the Centre to limit the fiscal deficit to 3% by the end of March 2021, but due to the pandemic, it shot up from 3.5% of GDP in FY21 budget estimates to 9.5% in FY21 revised estimates before coming down to 6.9% in FY22.

An email sent to the finance ministry spokesperson on Tuesday seeking comments remained unanswered at the time of publishing.

On Tuesday, Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman Nitin Gupta said the Centre's direct tax collection is set to exceed budget estimates by a sizable margin. Receipts from direct taxes, comprising personal and corporate tax receipts, after refunds, are expected to rise by more than 25% compared to the budget estimates, he said. The Centre's direct tax target for this fiscal is ₹14.2 trillion. Up to 10 November, direct tax receipts jumped 26% from a year ago to ₹8.71 trillion, representing 61.3% of the total budget estimate for the full fiscal.

In October, Centre and states collected ₹1.51 trillion in goods and services tax, the eighth straight month of GST receipts remaining above the ₹1.4 trillion mark. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/centre-may-overshoot-16-6-tn-overall-budget-borrowing-goal-11668623642724.html>

23. Govt plans to divest Haffkine Institute, form a separate corporation for medical procurement ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) Nov 17, 2022

To boost the research related to the infectious diseases and production of the vaccines, the state government is planning to divest Haffkine Institute of its responsibility of procurement of the medicines and equipment required for the government-run facilities. The state government is planning a separate corporation for medical and health procurement with a budget to the tune of over ₹4500 crore a year.

The proposal for constitution of a separate medical services corporation is expected to be placed before the state cabinet in its meeting on Thursday. The poor performance of the institution in research and production of the vaccines over the last few decades, and especially during the Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years, has led the government to the decision according to the officials.

“The procurement of the medicines, machinery and equipment required by all the hospitals and health centres run by state governments, municipal corporations is done by Haffkine Institute. The dedicated corporation for the procurement is being set up for more transparency and speedy procurement. It will also help the Haffkine to concentrate more on the research,” said an official from the medical education department.

Located in Parel in Central Mumbai, the Haffkine Institute for Training, Research and Testing is one of the oldest biomedical research institutes in the country. Established in 1899 and named after the legendary scientist Dr Waldemar Haffkine who invented the plague vaccine.

According to the officials from public health the institute has not been able to perform to the expectations in terms of invention and research in the last few decades. “In the first half of the 20th century the Institute extended its scope against cholera, tetanus, diphtheria and rabies. It developed and manufactured anti rabies serum and anti-snake venom serum decades ago, but in last few years its performance has not been up to the mark,” the official said. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/govt-plans-to-divest-haffkine-institute-form-a-separate-corporation-for-medical-procurement-101668626583971.html>

24. Equity in climate action, contribution to loss & damage funds — what’s holding up COP27 talks (theprint.in) 17 November, 2022

With just days left for the ongoing COP27 climate summit in Egypt’s Sharm el-Sheikh to conclude, negotiations over some of the most crucial issues impacting global climate action are in a deadlock, as talks on climate finance, mitigation, and loss and damage funds, have reached world leaders for consensus.

As the deadline to conclude negotiations drew near, the COP27 Presidency led by Sameh Shoukry said late Tuesday that though progress had been made, certain issues required “higher-level political engagement”. The climate summit, which started on 6 November, is scheduled to end Friday, but may stretch for longer if the issues aren’t resolved in time, said observers.

India and Australia will lead ministerial consultations on matters related to climate finance — an issue seen as central to the success of COP27, given finance is the means for developing countries to achieve their climate goals.

But observers and negotiators confirmed to ThePrint that rich country groups now want developing countries to contribute to climate finance funds and pay for losses and damages arising from climate change, even as they've failed to deliver on their own promises.

“It is not necessarily good news for developing countries that these issues have reached ministerial consultations, because they are usually used to intimidate us (developing countries) into not participating,” said a negotiator with the G77 group of developing countries, adding, “For loss and damage, it’s very clear what we want, what we’re proposing, and how we want to achieve it”.

The Presidency had expressed hope that the outstanding issues would be resolved by 16 November.

US, Switzerland push to exclude equity in climate action

The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change makes it binding for countries to limit global warming to “well below” 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, while “pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”.

According to the latest scientific data, the world is already at 1.1 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and is slated to cross at least 2.3 degrees of warming if drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are not made.

During a review meeting on the implementation of the Paris Agreement temperature goal, called the Second Periodic Review, the U.S. had pushed to “redefine” the goal to limit temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees of warming, while seeking to exclude the concept of equity and historical emissions, according to a negotiator who was then in the room.

A few days ago, U.S. special climate envoy John Kerry told the press at COP27 that “some countries” did not want to cooperate to limit the temperature goal to 1.5 degrees.

Developing countries argue, however, that shifting goalposts can double the pressure on low and middle-income countries to cut emissions, without adequate means to do so. Developed countries had nearly 15 years ago pledged to deliver \$100 billion in climate finance by 2020, and still haven’t done so.

“We cannot have some kind of situation, where there are only 0.4 degrees left and you distribute the burden of mitigating emissions equally and forget emissions from the past. We need to consider historical emissions, because we are feeling the effects of historical emissions today,” said the negotiator referred to above, who is from a middle-income country, adding, “There is also no mandate to change the goal from well below 2 degrees to 1.5 degrees”.

Attribution scientists have said this year’s heatwaves in India and floods in Pakistan are some of the events made much more likely by the effects of climate change. The U.S. is the largest historical emitter, accounting for nearly a quarter of all emissions since pre-industrial times. The E.U. is the second-largest historical emitter, with 22 per cent of emissions.

ThePrint reached U.S. climate communications office for comment on email, but was told, “Unfortunately, Secretary Kerry and the team are very busy with ongoing negotiations and other commitments, so they would not be available for this request”.

Meena Raman, head of programmes at the Third World Network, an UN-approved observer of the negotiations, confirmed to ThePrint that Switzerland also opposed the concepts of equity and historical emissions during discussions on climate mitigation. Switzerland leads the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG), which comprises five other countries — Mexico, Liechtenstein, Monaco, South Korea, and Georgia.

The Print reached the Switzerland Federal Department of Foreign Affairs on email for comment, but received no response till the time of publication of this report.

“During the Mitigation Work Programme, the EIG sought to delete any mention of equity in the context of scaling up mitigation. When developed countries insist on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees without acknowledging equity, historical emissions, and the common but differentiated responsibility of tackling climate change, it indicates that developing countries will have to pick up the slack,” Raman said.

During a press conference Wednesday, COP27 ambassador Wael Aboulmagd said the presidency was trying to find a common ground between groups of countries on the issue.

“The entire Paris Agreement should be guided by equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. This is a conversation that takes place every year. We are patrons at this time and we are trying to find a common ground. We will have to find the right language to accommodate differentiation,” he told reporters Wednesday.

Footing the climate change bill

The contentious issues of finance — particularly the contours of a new finance goal that will kick in 2025 onwards, as well as finance meant for loss and damage, have also landed in a deadlock.

On Wednesday, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of 39 countries, put out a statement saying the “inaction of developed countries has the potential to stall talks and land a devastating blow to the hopes of the developing world for a loss and damage funding facility”.

Developing country groups have demanded that a finance facility that can provide immediate assistance be set up for developing countries that can no longer adapt to the effects of climate change. The U.S. has blocked the proposal, according to a press release by the Climate Action Network, a global network of more than 1,800 civil society organisations.

Frans Timmermans, executive vice president for the European Green Deal, European Commission, told reporters Wednesday that the EU was prepared to pay for losses and damages, but said, “I think everybody should be brought into the system on the basis of where they are today. So if you freeze the time, some countries that today have huge financial potential and grown enormously could be off the hook in contributing to supporting the most vulnerable in the world.”

According to the EU, large economies like China — “one of the biggest economies on the planet” — should contribute to climate finance funds, including for loss and damage. Developing country negotiators have pointed out that this undermines the Paris Agreement and its convention, which lists China as a developing country.

But the interest in expanding the donor base for climate finance outside the framework of the convention is growing in popularity, two COP27 negotiators told ThePrint. Expanding the donor base to include developing countries, who are facing the brunt of climate change, puts less pressure on richer countries to be more ambitious with their own commitments, they added.

“The U.S. has proposed ‘high-income countries except small island states’ contribute to climate finance. This could include developing countries,” said the negotiator from the G77 group, adding, “We have pushed back saying the convention doesn’t include this kind of language.”

The issue of loss and damage funding has also entered ministerial consultations, the Presidency announced.

“There are very divergent views on the issues. We are guiding the ministers overseeing this. We have said we want something meaningful on this. We owe it to the countries at the frontlines of the climate crisis. That is only worth anything if the protagonists listen and show leadership to deliver to expectations of people whose lives and livelihoods are impacted,” Aboulmagd said. <https://theprint.in/environment/equity-in-climate-action-contribution-to-loss-damage-funds-whats-holding-up-cop27-talks/1220691/>

25. Making cities smart and sustainable (*business-standard.com*) November 16, 2022

As the world is becoming more urban than ever, it is crucial to place cities at the centre of the development agenda to try to enhance their liveability and mobility. At the same time, it is vital to place economic growth and sustainability parallel to each other. Focusing on sustainability is particularly important for addressing the environmental challenges facing cities that have become routine features — air and water pollution, traffic jams, congestion and waterlogging.

In this context, conversations on urban design encourage targeted deliberations that seek to scale up approaches to making cities smart and sustainable and helping them mature into places of socio-economic opportunities for its expanding labour force. A better quality of life, a safer and more secure environment, and a greater ability to function as an urban entity are just a few of the vital benefits of effective urban planning methods. Inclusive urban design generates results that holistically make for better-built environments and, in turn, a way of living, regardless of the size of a city planning project. Additionally, it gives each city a distinct sense of identity and creates the foundation for greater adaptability to changing climatic, economic, and social factors.

In this setting, the idea of a “smart city” combines information and communication technology (ICT) with numerous physical devices linked to an Internet of Things (IoT) network in order to connect with inhabitants and improve the effectiveness of local operations and services. City municipalities may engage directly with both community and city infrastructure, thanks to smart city technology, which also enables them to keep an eye on what is occurring in the city and how it is changing. ICT is utilised to improve the quality of urban services, their effectiveness, and interactivity, as well as to cut costs and resource usage and improve citizen-government interaction. Frameworks for smart cities are created to control urban traffic and enable quick responses. The concept of a smart city depends upon gathering data and information that is further used to improve the processes, operations and governance systems of the city. Furthermore, this data is leveraged for managing resources, assets and services effectively and efficiently. A smart city is driven by information systems and aids the

monitoring and managing of utilities like power plants, water supply networks and garbage disposal to services like schools and hospitals.

Additionally, the spread and support of discourse on sustainability have also significantly influenced how our cities are planned and developed. Today, the idea of a smart city is seen as a vision, manifesto, or promise that seeks to define the ideal and sustainable city design for the 21st century. A smart city is thus a productive, technologically advanced, environmentally friendly, and socially inclusive metropolis. In other words, smart city applications put a specific technical focus in the foreground of developing solutions for ecological, sociological, economic, and management concerns. In India, the concept of smart cities (under the aegis of the Smart Cities Mission) is based on six fundamental principles — putting the community at the core of planning and implementation, optimal use of resources in a way that generates more outcomes using fewer resources, cooperative and competitive federalism, adopting innovative methods for sustainable solutions, using technology as a means to achieving goals and financial convergence.

Currently, 54 per cent of the world's population lives in cities, and that percentage is predicted to rise to 66 per cent by 2050 due to urbanisation, which will result in the addition of 2.5 billion more people to cities over the course of the next three decades. In order to keep up with this rapid expansion— which is straining the resources of our cities — environmental, social, and economic sustainability is essential. According to the World Bank, smart cities make the process of urbanisation more inclusive through the integration of migrants and the impoverished into the city; bringing together the formal and informal sectors; connecting the urban centres and peripheries; and providing services for both the rich and the poor. These smart and digital cities with embedded networks of surveillance also offer protection and security through an enhanced criminal investigation mechanism.

Rethinking cities to make them more liveable, inclusive, and integrated is a key component in promoting smart cities. Smart cities need to build fair, participatory, sustainable, inclusive, and all-encompassing urban development policies and planning in order to achieve these feasible goals. Moreover, to better plan for expansion and handle the day-to-day operational issues, we must provide our cities with dynamic mechanisms. This, therefore, facilitates proper strategic planning, development, and management activities that serve as a coherent vision for the future of urban ecosystems in our smart cities. In order to improve the quality of life and lessen the environmental impact of urbanisation, a sustainable smart city with environmental, social, economic, and cultural dimensions must be established. This city must also integrate the newest technology with governance and enhance innovative socio-technical, socio-economic, and sociocultural aspects of growth. https://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/making-cities-smart-and-sustainable-122111601621_1.html