

NEWS ITEMS ON ACCOUNTANTS GENERAL CONFERENCE (18.11.2022)

1. Relaunching old pension scheme potential source of fiscal risks for states, says CAG ([indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com)) Written by Harikishan Sharma | Updated: November 18, 2022

Addressing the 30th Biennial Conference of Accountants General, Murmu said: “The fiscal health of Indian states is a relevant issue that warrants careful assessment.”

Amid debate over old pension scheme, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday highlighted “risk factors” that impact states’ finances, and said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the 15th Finance Commission have taken note of the “potential sources of fiscal risks” for states, which include “relaunching of old pension scheme in some states”.

Addressing the 30th Biennial Conference of Accountants General, Murmu said: “The fiscal health of Indian states is a relevant issue that warrants careful assessment.”

“In our State Finance Audit Reports, we have been consistently highlighting risk factors that impact state finances, such as increasing committed expenditures, rising outstanding public debts and liabilities, low mobilisation of own resources comprising revenue from tax and non-tax sources and high arrears in revenue collection. Negative trends in various deficit parameters under the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act, non-achievement of Medium Term Fiscal Plan Targets are among the other concerns,” Murmu said.

He said: “Our State Finances Audit Reports have carried out in-depth analysis in regard to concerns relating to component-wise debt trends, components of the fiscal deficits of states and the debt maturity profiles of various states. We have also been reporting on debt sustainability indicators and trends.”

“The RBI and the 15th Finance Commission have also taken note of the potential sources of fiscal risks for Indian states, including declining own tax revenue, relaunching of old pension schemes in some states, rising dues of loss-making power distribution companies and the periodic disbursal of farm-loan waivers and subsidies,” he said.

Murmu also highlighted the need for ensuring unhindered access to all records, including electronic records required for audit, to ensure Parliamentary scrutiny through CAG’s oversight.

“In the ongoing era of e-governance, wherein large sets of data are being digitalised, concerns, if any, in regard to privacy and data security, can undoubtedly be met by working out suitable modalities,” he said.

“We also need to actively work with the departments concerned to sort out any obstructions in accessing records in a time-bound manner so that the Parliamentary mandate of scrutinising executive action is not affected in any manner,” he added.

Murmu’s remarks assume significance in view of ongoing debate on the old pension scheme. Congress-ruled two states— Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh — have already decided to implement the OPS, while the party has promised to restore it in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. Aam

Aadmi Party has said that it would do so in Punjab. Jharkhand, too, decided to revert to the old pension scheme.

The old pension scheme was discontinued by the then NDA government in 2003. Former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya has described as “immoral” poll promises such as reviving OPS, which will result in financial burden for governments. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/relaunching-old-pension-scheme-potential-source-of-fiscal-risks-for-states-says-cag-8274910/>

2. Relaunching of old pension scheme is financially risky for state governments, says CAG (scroll.in) November 18, 2022

Several states ruled by Opposition parties have decided to revert to the old scheme.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday said that the relaunching of the old pension scheme in some states was financially risky for the governments, The Indian Express reported.

“The RBI and the 15th Finance Commission have also taken note of the potential sources of fiscal risks for Indian states, including declining own tax revenue, relaunching of old pension schemes in some states, rising dues of loss-making power distribution companies and the periodic disbursement of farm-loan waivers and subsidies,” Murmu said at the 30th Biennial Conference of Accountants General.

The official also said that the fiscal health of states was a subject that required careful assessment. He expressed concern about the “low mobilisation” of state governments’ sources of tax and non-tax revenue.

In May, two Congress-ruled states – Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh – decided to implement the old pension scheme, and the party also promises to restore it in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh if elected to power. In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party government has also said that it will restore the old pension scheme.

In the old pension scheme, employees get 50% of their last drawn basic pay plus dearness allowance on retirement, according to Mint. Under this system, employees do not have to contribute to their pensions.

Under the new pension scheme, individual savings are pooled into funds during the period of employment. Individuals can choose from a range of schemes promoted either by public sector banks or private companies.

The new pension scheme came into effect on April 1, 2003. <https://scroll.in/latest/1037745/relaunching-of-old-pension-scheme-is-financially-risky-for-state-governments-says-cag>

3. CAG calls for greater focus on audit of state finances ([financialexpress.com](https://www.financialexpress.com)) November 18, 2022

Asks AGs at states to improve reporting on sustainability

With state finances under strain due to declining “own tax revenues“, relaunching of old pension schemes in some states and rise in subsidies, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India G C Murmu on Thursday asked Accountants Generals (AGs) to improve reporting on the sustainability of state finances.

Murmu also stressed strengthening the audits of local bodies given that 15th Finance Commission grant award of Rs 4.36 trillion to support local governments for a five-year ending FY26.

Addressing the AGs conference in New Delhi, Murmu said going forward CAG’s audit process management and guidance would focus on “next steps towards strengthening local bodies audit, identifying socially relevant audits and reporting on sustainability of state finances.”

“The fiscal health of states is a relevant issue that warrants careful assessment... the Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Commission have also taken note of the potential sources of fiscal risks for states, including declining own tax revenue, relaunching of old pension schemes in some states, rising dues of loss-making power distribution companies, and the periodic disbursement of farm-loan waivers and subsidies,” Murmu said.

In its state finance audit reports, CAG has been consistently highlighting risk factors that impact state finances, such as increasing committed expenditures, rising outstanding public debts and liabilities, low mobilisation of own resources comprising revenue from tax and non-tax sources and high arrears in revenue collection. Negative trends in various deficit parameters under the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act, and non-achievement of Medium Term Fiscal Plan Targets are among the other concerns.

Keeping given the huge Finance Commission grants to local bodies, Murmu said there is a need to assure that the grants are properly utilised and programmes and schemes are effectively implemented.

“Our audits of local bodies, therefore, need to verify whether the crucial fiscal steps, as recommended by the Commission, such as (i) setting up State Finance Commissions (ii) acting upon its recommendations (iii) presenting the action taken to the state legislatures concerned (iv) putting the accounts of local bodies in the public domain and (v) fixing minimum rates for property taxes, have been met,” he told Ags. Local government authorities would also need to independently verify whether the grants provided for basic social services, such as sanitation and meeting the open defecation-free target, solid waste management, drinking water provisions, rainwater harvesting and water recycling, have been effectively used for the purposes, as recommended, he added. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/cag-calls-for-greater-focus-on-audit-of-state-finances/2833585/>

4. CAG stresses need to strengthen audits of local bodies (thehindubusinessline.com) KR SRIVATS | 17 November, 2022

Audit needs to verify whether crucial fiscal steps recommended by Finance Commission have been met

Audits of local bodies need to be further strengthened given the huge public funds that get disbursed across the country on this count, G C Murmu, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) said on Thursday.

Delivering the valedictory address at the two-day Accountants General Conference which concluded here on Thursday, Murmu highlighted that the 15th Finance Commission had recommended a grant of ₹4.36 lakh crore to support various programmes of the duly constituted local governments for a five-year period between 2021 and 2026.

Murmu said that there is a need to assure that the grants are properly utilised and programmes and schemes are effectively implemented.

“Our audits of local bodies, therefore, need to verify whether the crucial fiscal steps, as recommended by the Commission, such as (i) setting up State Finance Commissions (ii) acting upon its recommendations (iii) presenting the action taken to the state legislatures concerned (iv) putting the accounts of local bodies in the public domain and (v) fixing minimum rates for property taxes, have been met”, he said.

Local government authorities would also need to independently verify whether the grants provided for basic social services, such as sanitation and meeting the open defecation-free target, solid waste management, drinking water provisions, rainwater harvesting and water recycling, have been effectively used for the purposes, as recommended, Murmu added.

Murmu said that the four themes on which the groups of IA&AS officers deliberated at the two-day conference were, OIOS-towards transformation, Next steps towards strengthening Local Bodies Audit, Identifying Socially Relevant Audits and Reporting on Sustainability of state finances.

Highlighting on some other issues the CAG pointed out that ‘there is an urgent need to balance systemic oversight with micro-level oversight, in order to arrive at a satisfactory balance between overall assessment of executive interventions at the system level and deterrence from deviant executive action at the micro-level’.

The CAG stated that its chief function is not only to examine facts and figures, and prepare quality audit reports, but also select relevant issues for auditing priority. ‘We must ensure that the work of the Parliamentary Committees and our own audit reports are harmonised and synchronised to the fullest extent possible. This is of utmost importance to ensure effective Parliamentary oversight over the Executive’ he added. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/cag-stresses-need-to-strengthen-audits-of-local-bodies/article66150163.ece>

5. CAG among most prestigious audit institutions in the world: LS Speaker (aninews.in, theprint.in, bignewsnetwork.com, latestly.com) 17 November, 2022

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday lavished praise on the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG), saying it was among the most effective and prestigious audit institutions in the world.

Addressing the valedictory session of the ‘Audit Day and Auditors’ Conference’ in New Delhi on Thursday, the Speaker said he is happy that CAG reports are discussed in the Lower House, going beyond party lines, and decisions are taken in the interest of the nation.

He added that discussions and positive suggestions on CAG reports within the House and parliamentary committees strengthen the nation’s democracy.

On the role of the CAG, Birla said the Constitution has given it a comprehensive and dynamic role and has ensured that its allegiance is only to the Constitution and the nation.

Birla said CAG is the world’s leading audit body because of its best practices and is known worldwide for presenting independent, reliable, balanced and timely reports related to public finance and governance.

He noted that the CAG assures all stakeholders that government funds are being used efficiently and for the intended purposes only.

Regarding the increasing role of CAG in the changing political scenario, Birla said the importance of CAG reports and the relevance of audits have increased in the country. He added that the CAG has an outsider viewpoint while assessing the working of the government, which leads to financial savings and efficient planning.

Describing transparency and accountability of governance as the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy, Birla said effective and efficient use of public money is the aim of both the Parliament and the government.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also highlighted the role of CAG in ensuring the fiscal discipline of states.

Birla said in the era of the digital economy, strong digital infrastructure and digital financial records are going to make the role of CAG even more challenging.

He added that in order to meet these challenges, it is necessary to have skills and training as well as knowledge of the latest technology.

Birla said he was confident that the CAG was adopting innovations in the field of auditing as per the needs of the country, which will make it more empowered and productive.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, delivered the welcome address at the event. <https://theprint.in/india/cag-among-most-prestigious-audit-institutions-in-the-world-ls-speaker/1222208/>

6. CAG is among most effective and prestigious audit institutions in world, says Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla (newsonair.gov.in) Nov 17, 2022

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said CAG is among the most effective and prestigious audit institutions in the world. He was addressing the valedictory session of Audit Day and Auditors' Conference in New Delhi. He added that the discussions and positive suggestions on CAG reports within the House and Parliamentary Committees strengthen nation's democracy. Mr Birla expressed happiness that the CAG report is discussed in the House going beyond party lines and decisions are taken in the interest of the nation.

On the role of the CAG, the Speaker said that the Constitution has given it a comprehensive and dynamic role and has ensured that its allegiance is only to the Constitution and the nation. He noted that the CAG assures all stakeholders that government funds are being used efficiently and for the intended purpose only. Expressing satisfaction, Mr Birla said that CAG is the world's leading audit body because of its best practices and is known all over the world for presenting independent, reliable, balanced and timely reports related to public finance and governance.

Regarding the increasing role of CAG in the changing scenario, Mr Birla observed that the importance of CAG reports and the relevance of audit have increased in the country. He added that the CAG has an outsider viewpoint while assessing the working of the government, which leads to financial savings and efficient planning. Describing transparency and accountability of governance as the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy, Mr Birla opined that effective and efficient use of public money is the aim of both Parliament and Government. <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=CAG-is-among-most-effective-and-prestigious-audit-institutions-in-world%2C-says-Lok-Sabha-Speaker-Om-Birla&id=451020#:~:text=Lok%20Sabha%20Speaker%20Om%20Birla%20on%20Thursday%20said%20CAG%20is,Auditors'%20Conference%20in%20New%20Delhi>.

7. CAG plays critical role in ensuring fiscal discipline of states LS Speaker Birla (theweek.in, theprint.in, outlookindia.com, latestly.com) Updated: November 17, 2022

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said CAG plays a critical role in ensuring fiscal discipline of states, asserting that effective and efficient use of public money is the aim of both the Parliament and the government.

Stating that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is among the most effective and prestigious audit institutions in the world, Birla said the discussions and positive suggestions on CAG reports within the House and in parliamentary committees strengthen nation's democracy.

Addressing the valedictory session of Audit Day and auditors' conference here, Birla said a CAG report is discussed in the House going beyond party lines and decisions are taken in the interest of the nation.

"CAG has critical role in ensuring fiscal discipline of states. It assures all stakeholders that government funds are being used efficiently and for the intended purpose only," Birla said in a statement issued by Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Underlining that CAG has an outsider viewpoint while assessing the working of the government, Birla said it leads to financial savings and efficient planning.

Regarding the increasing role of CAG in the changing scenario, Birla observed that the importance of its reports and the relevance of audit have increased in the country.

He also said that CAG has an outsider viewpoint while assessing the working of the government, which leads to financial savings and efficient planning. <https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2022/11/17/des58-cag-birla.html>

8. Transparency, accountability are essence of governance in parliamentary democracy: Birla (uniindia.com) Nov 17, 2022

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said transparency and accountability are the essence of governance in parliamentary democracy.

Birla made the statement while addressing the the valedictory session of Audit Day and Auditors' Conference here.

He also opined that effective and efficient use of public money is the aim of both Parliament and government.

In this regard, Birla highlighted the role of CAG in ensuring fiscal discipline of States.

Lauding the CAG, the Speaker said, "CAG is among the most effective and prestigious audit institutions in the world."

He added that the discussions and positive suggestions on CAG reports within the House and Parliamentary Committees strengthen nation's democracy.

Birla also expressed happiness that the CAG report is discussed in the House going beyond party lines and decisions are taken in the interest of the nation.

Regarding the increasing role of CAG in the changing scenario, the Speaker observed that the importance of CAG reports and the relevance of audit have increased in the country.

CAG has an outsider viewpoint while assessing the working of the government, which leads to financial savings and efficient planning, he added.

Mentioning about India's rapidly growing economy, Birla said in the era of digital economy, strong digital infrastructure and digital financial records are going to make the role of CAG even more challenging.

He added that in order to meet these challenges, it is necessary to have skills and training as well as knowledge in the latest technology. <http://www.uniindia.com/news/india/cag-birla/2862783.html>

9. CAG has a critical role in ensuring fiscal discipline of states: Lok Sabha Speaker (theindianawaz.com, topstory.online) 18 Nov 2022

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said that Comptroller and Auditor General, CAG has a critical role in ensuring fiscal discipline of states. Addressing the Valedictory Session of Audit Day and Auditors' Conference in New Delhi, Birla said that CAG is among the most effective and prestigious audit institutions in the world. He added that the discussions and positive suggestions on CAG reports within the House and Parliamentary Committees strengthen nation's democracy. Birla expressed happiness that the CAG report is discussed in the House going beyond party lines and decisions are taken in the interest of the nation.

On the role of the CAG, Birla said that the Constitution has given it a comprehensive and dynamic role and has ensured that its allegiance is only to the Constitution and the nation. He noted that the CAG assures all stakeholders that government funds are being used efficiently and for the intended purpose only. Expressing satisfaction, Birla said that CAG is the world's leading audit body because of its best practices and is known all over the world for presenting independent, reliable, balanced and timely reports related to public finance and governance.

Regarding the increasing role of CAG in the changing scenario, Birla observed that the importance of CAG reports and the relevance of audit have increased in the country. He added that the CAG has an outsider viewpoint while assessing the working of the government, which leads to financial savings and efficient planning. Describing transparency and accountability of governance as the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy, Birla opined that effective and efficient use of public money is the aim of both Parliament and Government. In this regard, Birla highlighted the role of CAG in ensuring fiscal discipline of States.

Mentioning about India's rapidly growing economy, Birla said that in the era of digital economy, strong digital infrastructure and digital financial records are going to make the role of CAG even more challenging. He added that in order to meet these challenges, it is necessary to have skills and training as well as knowledge in the latest technology. Birla expressed confidence that CAG is adopting innovations in the field of auditing as per the needs of the country which will make it more empowered and productive.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu delivered the welcome address on the occasion. <https://theindianawaz.com/cag-has-a-critical-role-in-ensuring-fiscal-discipline-of-states-lok-sabha-speaker/>

10. सीएजी दुनिया में प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित लेखा परीक्षक संस्थानों में शामिल हैं: ओम बिडला (newsonair.gov.in) 17 Nov 2022

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिडला ने कहा है कि सीएजी दुनिया में प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित लेखा परीक्षक संस्थानों में शामिल हैं। श्री बिडला नई दिल्ली में ऑडिट दिवस और ऑडिटर्स सम्मेलन के समापन पत्र को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि संसद और संसदीय समितियों में सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सलाह से देश का लोकतंत्र मजबूत होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर संसद में चर्चा दलगत राजनीति से ऊपर उठ कर होती है और राष्ट्र हित में फैसले लिए जाते हैं।

श्री बिडला ने कहा कि देश में सीएजी की रिपोर्ट और लेखा परीक्षा की महत्वपूर्णता बढ़ रही है। <https://newsonair.gov.in/hindi/Hindi-News?title=%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%8F%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%80->

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11. Om Birla: लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बोले- सदन में CAG रिपोर्ट पर दल से ऊपर उठकर होती है चर्चा, देश हित में होते हैं फैसले (amarujala.com) 17 Nov 2022

Auditors

Conference: सीएजी की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्था न को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो...

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने गुरुवार को लेखा परीक्षा दिवस और लेखा परीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को सम्बोधित किया। इस मौके पर उन्होंने कहा, सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है। सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है। उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं।

सीएजी की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। सीएजी सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है। अपनी बेस्ट प्रैक्टिस के कारण सीएजी विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था है और लोक वित्त एवं शासन से संबंधित स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय, संतुलित और समय बद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है।

बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में सीएजी की बढ़ती भूमिका के विषय में लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है तथा देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता और बढ़ी है। सरकार के कामकाज का आकलन करते समय सीएजी के पास आउटसाइडर व्यूपाइंट होता है, जिससे वित्तीय बचत व कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है। संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि जनता के धन का असरदार और किफायती उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। इस संबंध में बिरला ने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला।

देश की तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के संदर्भ में लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि डिजिटल इकोनॉमी के दौर में सशक्त डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और डिजिटल वित्तीय रिकार्ड सीएजी की भूमिका को और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाने वाले हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कौशल और प्रशिक्षण के साथ नवीनतम तकनीक में पारंगत होना आवश्यक है। लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि सीएजी ऑडिटिंग के क्षेत्र में देश की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार नवाचारों को अडॉप्ट कर रही है, जो उसे और अधिक सशक्त और प्रोडक्टिव बनाएंगे। <https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/auditors-conference-om-birla-lok-sabha-speaker-said-decisions-on-cag-report-taken-in-the-interest-of-the-country>

12. सदन, संसदीय समितियों में सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करती है: बिरला (bhasha.ptinews.com, navbharattimes.indiatimes.com, hindi.theprint.in) 17 Nov 2022

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करते हैं।

लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो।

लोकसभा सचिवालय के बयान के अनुसार, उन्होंने कहा कि सीएजी सभी हितधारकों को यह आश्वासन करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है तथा इसे विश्वसनीय, संतुलित और समयबद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है।

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि सरकार के कामकाज का आकलन करते समय सीएजी इस प्रकार से काम करती है जिससे वित्तीय बचत एवं कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है।

उन्होंने कहा कि संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही मूलमंत्र है तथा जनता के धन का प्रभावी उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/discussion-on-cags-report-in-house-parliamentary-committees-strengthens-democracy-birla/articleshow/95585650.cms>

13. राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की भूमिका: लोक सभा अध्यक्ष (udaipurkiran.in, hindusthansamachar.in) 17 Nov 2022

लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने गुरुवार को यहां लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को संबोधित किया।

इस अवसर पर बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है। बिरला ने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं।

सीएजी की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो।

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सीएजी सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है। बिरला ने कहा कि अपनी बेस्ट प्रैक्टिस के कारण सीएजी विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था है और लोक वित्त एवं शासन से संबन्धित स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय, संतुलित और समय बद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है।

बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में सीएजी की बढ़ती भूमिका के विषय में बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है तथा देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता और बढ़ी है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सरकार के कामकाज का आकलन करते समय सीएजी के पास आउटसाइडर व्यूप्वाइंट होता है, जिससे वित्तीय बचत व कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है। संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि जनता के धन का ईफेक्टिव और एफिसिएंट उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। इस संबंध में बिरला ने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला।

देश की तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के सन्दर्भ में बिरला ने कहा कि डिजिटल ईकानमी के दौर में सशक्त डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और डिजिटल वित्तीय रिकार्ड सीएजी की भूमिका को और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाने वाले हैं। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कौशल और प्रशिक्षण के साथ साथ नवीनतम तकनीक में पारंगत होना आवश्यक है। बिरला ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि सीएजी ऑडिटिंग के क्षेत्र में देश की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार नवाचारों को अडाप्ट कर रही है जो उसे और अधिक सशक्त और प्रोडक्टिव बनाएंगे। इस अवसर पर भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने स्वागत भाषण दिया। <https://udaipurkiran.in/hindi/role-of-cag-in-ensuring-financial-discipline-of-the-states-speaker-lok-sabha/>

14. सीएजी की रिपोर्ट और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है: बिरला (lendennews.com) 17 Nov 2022

लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने आज नई दिल्ली में लेखा परीक्षा दिवस और लेखा परीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को सम्बोधित किया। इस अवसर पर बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है।

उन्होंने कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है। बिरला ने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं।

CAG की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि CAG सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है।

बिरला ने कहा कि अपनी बेस्ट practices के कारण CAG विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था है और लोक वित्त एवं शासन से संबन्धित स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय, संतुलित और समयबद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है।

बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में CAG की बढ़ती भूमिका के विषय में बिरला ने कहा कि CAG रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है तथा देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता और बढ़ी है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सरकार के कामकाज

का आकलन करते समय CAG के पास outsider viewpoint होता है, जिससे वित्तीय बचत व कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है।

संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि जनता के धन का इफेक्टिव और इफिशियंट उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। इस संबंध में, बिरला ने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला।

देश की तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के सन्दर्भ में बिरला ने कहा कि डिजिटल इकोनॉमी के दौर में सशक्त डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और डिजिटल वित्तीय रिकार्ड CAG की भूमिका को और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाने वाले हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कौशल और प्रशिक्षण के साथ साथ नवीनतम तकनीक में पारंगत होना आवश्यक है।

बिरला ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि CAG ऑडिटिंग के क्षेत्र में देश की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार नवाचारों को अडाप्ट कर रही है, जो उसे और अधिक सशक्त और उत्पादित बनाएंगे। इस अवसर पर भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने स्वागत भाषण दिया। <https://lendenews.com/archives/123833>

15. राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में कैग की भूमिका अहम, ऑडिट खामियों को निकालने की नहीं बल्कि उन्हें दूर कर सुधार की प्रक्रिया है- लोक सभा अध्यक्ष (newstodaynetwork.com, jantaserishta.com) 17 Nov 2022

लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में कैग की अहम भूमिका का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि ऑडिट खामियों को निकालने की प्रक्रिया नहीं है बल्कि उन्हें दूर कर सुधार करने की प्रक्रिया है।

लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने गुरुवार को नई दिल्ली में लेखा परीक्षा दिवस और लेखा परीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को सम्बोधित करते हुए कहा कि कैग (सीएजी) दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है। बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में ही निर्णय लिए जाते हैं।

कैग की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में कैग की बढ़ती भूमिका के विषय में बिरला ने कहा कि कैग रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है तथा देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता और बढ़ी है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सरकार के कामकाज का आकलन करते समय कैग के पास आउटसाइडर व्यूपॉइंट होता है, जिससे वित्तीय बचत व कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है।

संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि जनता के धन का प्रभावी उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। उन्होंने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में भी सीएजी की भूमिका को महत्वपूर्ण बताया। <https://www.newstodaynetwork.com/%E0%A4%B0%E0%A4BE%E0%A4%9C%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4AF%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%82-%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4BF%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A4%E0%A5%80%E>

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16. राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में CAG की महती भूमिका : Om Birla (dainiksaveratimes.com) 18 Nov 2022

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने गुरुवार को कहा कि सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है तथा राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में इनकी महती भूमिका है। बिरला ने आज यहां लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता हैं। वहीं सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जा कर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं। सीएजी की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। उन्होंने कहा कि सीएजी सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है। <https://dainiksaveratimes.com/2022/11/18/important-role-of-cag-in-ensuring-financial-discipline-of-states-om-birla/>

17. लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ने लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को सम्बोधित किया (totaltv.in) November 17, 2022

लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने आज नई दिल्ली में लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को सम्बोधित किया। इस अवसर पर ओम बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता हैं। स्पीकर बिरला ने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं।

CAG की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए ओम बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि CAG सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है। ओम बिरला ने कहा कि अपनी बेस्ट practices के कारण CAG विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था है और लोक वित्त एवं शासन से संबन्धित स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय, संतुलित और समय बद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है।

बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में CAG की बढ़ती भूमिका के विषय में स्पीकर बिरला ने कहा कि CAG रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है और देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता भी बढ़ी है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सरकार के कामकाज का आकलन करते समय CAG के पास outsider viewpoint होता है, जिससे वित्तीय बचत व कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है। संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शा

सन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए ओम बिरला ने कहा कि जनता के धन का ई फेक्टिव और efficient उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। इस संबंध में, स्पीकर बिरला ने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला।

देश की तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के सन्दर्भ में ओम बिरला ने कहा कि डिजिटल ईकानमी के दौर में सशक्त डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और डिजिटल वित्तीय रिकार्ड CAG की भूमिका को और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाने वाले हैं। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कौशल और प्रशिक्षण के साथ साथ नवीनतम तकनीक में पारंगत होना आवश्यक है। स्पीकर बिरला ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि CAG ऑडिटिंग के क्षेत्र में देश की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार नवाचारों को अडाप्ट कर रही है जो उसे और अधिक सशक्त और Productive बनाएंगे।

इस अवसर पर भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने स्वागत भाषण दिया। <https://www.totaltv.in/locksabha-adhyaksh-ne-lekhpariksha-diwas-or/>

18. राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में CAG की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका: ओम बिरला (univarta.com, navyugsandesh.com) November 18, 2022

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने गुरुवार को कहा कि सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है तथा राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में इनकी महती भूमिका है।

बिरला ने आज यहां लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता हैं। वहीं सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं।

सीएजी की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। उन्होंने कहा कि सीएजी सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया जा रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि अपने उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन की बदौलत सीएजी विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था है और लोक वित्त एवं शासन से संबन्धित स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय, संतुलित तथा समयबद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है।

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में सीएजी रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है तथा देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता और बढ़ी है। संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि जनता के धन का प्रभावी इस्तेमाल संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है।

देश की तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के सन्दर्भ में श्री बिरला ने कहा कि डिजिटल ईकोनामी के दौर में सशक्त डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और डिजिटल वित्तीय रिकार्ड के परिप्रेक्ष्य में सीएजी की भूमिका और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण है। इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कौशल और प्रशिक्षण के साथ साथ नवीनतम तकनीक में पारंगत होना आवश्यक है। इस अवसर पर भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने स्वागत भाषण दिया। <http://www.univarta.com/news/india/story/2862908.html>

19. सीएजी दुनिया में प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित लेखा परीक्षक संस्थानों में शामिल : ओम बिडला (vedantsamachar.in) November 18, 2022

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिडला ने कहा है कि सीएजी दुनिया में प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित लेखा परीक्षक संस्थानों में शामिल हैं। श्री बिडला नई दिल्ली में ऑडिट दिवस और ऑडिटर्स सम्मेलन के समापन पत्र को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि संसद और संसदीय समितियों में सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सलाह से देश का लोकतंत्र मजबूत होता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर संसद में चर्चा दलगत राजनीति से ऊपर उठ कर होती है और राष्ट्र हित में फैसले लिए जाते हैं। श्री बिडला ने कहा कि देश में सीएजी की रिपोर्ट और लेखा परीक्षा की महत्व पूर्णता बढ़ रही है। <https://vedantsamachar.in/?p=212147>

20. कैग विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था: बिरला (virarjun.com) November 18, 2022

कैग विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था: बिरला

विशेष प्रतिनिधि V-11
नई दिल्ली। लोक सभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने लेखापरीक्षा दिवस व लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को संबोधित किया।

इस अवसर पर श्री बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है। श्री बिरला ने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं। कैग की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को संविधान ने व्यापक और सक्रिय भूमिका प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि कैग सभी हितधारकों को आश्वस्त करती है कि सरकारी निधियों का उपयोग दक्षतापूर्वक और नियत प्रयोजन हेतु ही किया



लेखापरीक्षा दिवस और लेखापरीक्षक सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह में भाग लेते हुए लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला व सीएजी गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू।

जा रहा है। श्री बिरला ने कहा कि अपनी वेस्ट प्रैक्टिस के कारण कैग विश्व की अग्रणी ऑडिट संस्था है और लोक वित्त एवं शासन से संबंधित स्वतंत्र, विश्वसनीय, संतुलित और समय बद्ध रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें पूरे विश्व में जाना जाता है। बदलते परिप्रेक्ष्य में कैग की बढ़ती भूमिका के विषय में श्री बिरला ने कहा कि कैग रिपोर्टों का महत्व बढ़ा है तथा देश में लेखापरीक्षा की प्रासंगिकता और बढ़ी है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि सरकार के कामकाज का आकलन करते समय कैग के पास आउट साइड व्यूपाइंट होता है, जिससे वित्तीय बचत व कुशल कार्ययोजना में वृद्धि होती है। संसदीय लोकतंत्र में शासन की पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को मूलमंत्र बताते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि जनता के धन का इफेक्टिव और इफिशियंट उपयोग संसद और शासन दोनों का ध्येय है। इस संबंध में, श्री बिरला ने राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में सीएजी की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला। देश की तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के सन्दर्भ में श्री बिरला ने कहा कि डिजिटल ईकानमी के दौर में सराफ डिजिटल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर और डिजिटल वित्तीय रिकार्ड कैग की भूमिका को और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाने वाले हैं।

इससे पूर्व नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा कि इसका मुख्य कार्य न केवल तथ्यों और आंकड़ों की जांच करना और गुणवत्ता आडिट रिपोर्ट तैयार करना है बल्कि आडिटिंग प्राथमिकता के लिए प्रासंगिक मुद्दों का चयन करना भी है। हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि संसदीय समितियों का काम और हमारी लेखा परीक्षा रिपोर्ट पूरी तरह सुसंगत हो। उन्होंने कहा कि कार्यपालिका पर प्रभावो निर्गमन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। श्री मुर्मू ने कहा कि सरकार अपने घटकों की सामाजिक-आर्थिक मांगों के जवाब में पर्याप्त सार्वजनिक धन से बड़े पैमाने पर परिवर्तनकारी हस्तक्षेप करती है और यह सुनिश्चित करना तेजी से महत्वपूर्ण होता जा रहा है कि इन विभिन्न सार्वजनिक योजनाओं और कार्यक्रमों का लाभ वास्तव में लक्षित समूहों और क्षेत्रों तक पहुंचे।

<https://epapervirarjun.com/>

21. राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में CAG की भूमिका है: लोक सभा अध्यक्ष (indinon.com) 18 Nov 2022

इन दिनों, नई दिल्ली

शुक्रवार, 18 नवम्बर, 2022

राज्यों के वित्तीय अनुशासन को सुनिश्चित करने में CAG की भूमिका है: लोक सभा अध्यक्ष

नई दिल्ली । लोक सभा अध्यक्ष श्री ओम बिरला ने आज नई दिल्ली में लेखापरीक्षा विभाग और लेखापरीक्षा सम्मेलन के समापन समारोह को सम्बोधित किया। इस अवसर पर श्री बिरला ने कहा कि सीएजी दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी और प्रतिष्ठित ऑडिट संस्थानों में से एक है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदन और संसदीय समितियों के भीतर सीएजी की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा और सकारात्मक सुझाव देश के लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करता है। श्री बिरला ने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि सीएजी रिपोर्ट पर सदन में पार्टी लाइन से परे जाकर चर्चा की जाती है और राष्ट्र के हित में निर्णय लिए जाते हैं। राज की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को सक्रिय रूप से



है कि उनकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान और राष्ट्र के प्रति हो। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि राज की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को सक्रिय रूप से

प्रदान की है और सुनिश्चित किया आगे कहा कि राज की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को सक्रिय रूप से

आगे कहा कि राज की भूमिका का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री बिरला ने कहा कि इस संस्थान को सक्रिय रूप से

<http://www.indinon.com/>

22. कैग की रिपोर्ट का महत्व बढ़ा: बिरला (rashtriyasahara.com) November 17, 2022



<http://rashtriyasahara.com/>

23. A.G. (Audit) organizes “Audit Endurance Run of 10 Km” on Nov19 (thelivenagpur.com) November 17, 2022

The Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD) is celebrating Audit Diwas on 16.11.2022, various activities have been planned from 14th to 30th Nov. 2022. On this occasion we are organizing an “Audit Endurance Run of 10 km” on 19/11/2022. The objective of organizing the run is to create awareness amongst public about audit and importance of physical activity for healthy life.

The run will be flagged off at 06:30 am by Mr. Praveer Kumar, Accountant General (A&E)-II, Maharashtra, Nagpur. Nearly 400 runners and fitness enthusiasts will be participating in the run. Nomination for participation were called for through online website and it was also advertised through F.M radio channel. Entire 400 slots planned for the run were filled up within few hours of making the site live for nominations.

Run will start from office of the Accountant General (Audit)-II, Maharashtra, Audit Bhawan, Civil Lines, West High Court Road and will cover a distance of 10 k.m through Md. Rafi Square – Japanese Garden Square – Centre Point School – TV Tower Square – Vayuu Sena Nagar – Telankadi Hanuman Mandir – C.P. Club – Mother diary – Walker Street – Police Gymkhana – Ladies Club – Police Bhawan – Audit Bhawan. All the participants will be given T-shirts and medals printed with departmental logo and moto. Podium finishers in each category will be given cash prizes of Rs 5000 (1st Place), Rs 4000 (2ndplace) and Rs 3000 (3rd place) in the following categories:

1. Men (upto 40 years as on 19.11.22)
2. Men (above 40 years as on 19.11.22)
3. Women (upto 40 years as on 19.11.22)
4. Women (above 40 years as on 19.11.22)

Prize distribution will be held at 08:00 am on 19/11/2022 in the lawn of O/o Accountant General (Audit)-II, Audit Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur. Mr. Amitesh Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Nagpur will grace the occasion as Chief Guest of the event. All the senior officials of Indian Audit and Accounts Department will also be present for the event. <https://thelivenagpur.com/2022/11/17/a-g-audit-organizes-audit-endurance-run-of-10-km-on-nov19/>

OTHER NEWS ITEMS ON CAG

24. How long can states sustain on Centre's fiscal support and perpetual loans? (moneycontrol.com) November 18, 2022

On April 3, India's top bureaucrats reportedly told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that election freebies can lead to many states falling off a fiscal cliff, and remain snowed under mountains of debt, similar to what the Sri Lankan economy is currently going through.

In public finance, as it is for households, borrowing in itself is not a bad idea, if (a) the bulk of the loans are spent on asset-creation; and (b) loans are not taken to fund current expenditure on a perpetual basis.

As per the Reserve Bank of India's 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22' report, the combined debt to GDP ratio of states which stood at 31 percent at end-March 2021 and is expected to remain at that level by end-March 2022, is worryingly higher than the target of 20 percent to be achieved by 2022-23, as per the recommendations of the FRBM Review Committee.

According to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), the state governments' expenditure on subsidies has grown at 12.9 percent and 11.2 percent during 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively, after contracting in 2019-20. This has pushed up the share of subsidies in states' total revenue expenditure from 7.8 percent in 2019-20 to 8.2 percent in 2021-22.

A report by Crisil, a credit rating and research organisation, shows that off-balance-sheet borrowings of states are estimated to have reached a decadal high of more than 4.5 percent of gross state domestic product (GSDP), or Rs 7.9 lakh-crore, in 2021-22. That marks a rise of more than 100 basis points from 2019-20.

New sources of risks have emerged — re-launch of the old pension scheme by some states; rising expenditure on non-merit freebies; expanding contingent liabilities; and the ballooning overdue of power distribution companies — warranting strategic corrective measures.

The power sector — primarily distribution companies (discoms) — account for almost 40 percent of the outstanding state guarantees. These were taken to repay the dues of power generation and transmission companies with discoms continuing to make cash losses. With most of them expected to continue reporting losses this fiscal as well, due to higher input (mainly coal) costs, states will have to provide higher support for timely servicing of the guaranteed facilities.

As early as May 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had flagged concerns about severe fiscal stress emerging in state finances for a variety of reasons. The RBI warned of the rising risks to fiscal consolidation of the states as their finances are saddled with farm loan waivers, income support schemes, and the Uday bonds for their power distribution companies.

A return to the old pension scheme (OPS) has evolved into a political rallying point during the ongoing assembly elections. Last month, the Punjab government took an in-principle decision to restore the OPS for its employees. The Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have made old pension scheme restoration demands a major poll plank in Gujarat. The Congress has also vowed to bring back the OPS if it returns to power in Himachal Pradesh.

The OPS is mainly an unfunded pay-as-you-go system. Pension expenditure alone accounts for 12.4 percent (average of 2017-18 to 2021-22) of total revenue expenditure of India's 10 most-indebted states. According to the RBI's estimates, the pension outgo will continue to be in the range of 0.7-3 percent of GSDP in these 10 states until 2030-31.

As the current state government retirees are primarily the beneficiaries of the old pension scheme, the immediate financial strain will not be felt if the states choose to revert to the old pension scheme. However, when state government employees who joined after 2004-05 under the NPS begin to retire from 2034 onwards, the cost of such a move will become apparent. "In other words, the adoption of the old pension scheme is likely to benefit the current generation at the expense of future generations", the RBI has said in a June paper.

The Centre's Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation payout that came to an end in June, has further reduced states' fiscal headroom for social sector spending. Many states can see their finances worsen if they start financing a range of non-asset creating social welfare schemes or 'freebies' by borrowing more from the market.

According to a study by PRS Legislative Research, during 2018-21, most states have relied on compensation grants to achieve the guaranteed revenue. This, while in 2018-19, states were able to achieve 88 percent of the target on their own and relied on compensation for only 12 percent. <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/opinion/how-long-can-states-sustain-on-centres-fiscal-support-and-perpetual-loans-9558861.html>

25. Punjab likely to issue notification on old pension scheme — What's going on in other states and why are people protesting NPS? (cnbctv18.com) November 18, 2022

OPS vs NPS: Two Congress-ruled states, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, have already decided to implement the OPS. Jharkhand, too, decided to revert to the old pension scheme. So, if AAP-led Punjab takes the same decision, it will become the third state to do so.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the 15th Finance Commission have taken note of the “potential sources of fiscal risks” for states, which include “relaunching of old pension scheme in some states”, highlighted Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday.

While a raging political debate regarding old pension scheme (OPS) and new pension scheme (NPS) has been going on for months now, the Punjab government is also expected to issue a notification for the implementation of OPS today.

News18 reported that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is in a hurry to issue the notification due to approaching assembly elections in Gujarat next month, where party is expected to perform well.

Announcing this as a Diwali gift, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann earlier said, "We have taken an in-principle decision to this effect in a cabinet meeting. This will benefit lakhs of employees."

What's going on in states?

The Congress had raised OPS as one of its key promises ahead of the polls in Himachal Pradesh last week. Two Congress-ruled states, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, have already decided to implement the OPS. Jharkhand, too, decided to revert to the old pension scheme.

So, if AAP-led Punjab takes the same decision, it will become the third state to do so. It's vital to note that the state was among the first in India to adopt the New Pension Scheme (NPS), which got implemented on April 1, 2004.

Talking particularly about Gujarat, the government there had introduced the new contributory pension scheme for employees joining the service on or after April 1, 2005. As per its notification, it will make a matching contribution of 10 percent of the basic pay plus dearness allowance (DA) contributed by the employees in the NPS fund.

Under the Centre's scheme, the government will contribute 14 percent against an employee's contribution of 10 percent of his/her salary and DA with effect from April 1, 2019.

After protests by employees in Gujarat, the state government had said the new pension will not be applicable to those employees who had joined duty before April 2005. It also promised to increase its contribution in the fund to 14 per cent from the 10 per cent earlier.

The employees have staged massive agitations against the government in Gujarat while demanding restoration of the OPS because they believe the New Pension Scheme is not in the interest of the retiring employees.

With the BJP government not acceding to the demands of the employees, the Congress and the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP have assured to bring back the OPS, in one of their most emphatic poll promises.

In Himachal Pradesh, Congress leader Rajiv Shukla said if his party comes to power, the first cabinet decision will be to implement the old pension scheme.

Asserting the old pension scheme is the need of the government employees, he accused the ruling BJP of trying to mislead the people on the issue.

There are about 2.5 lakh government employees in the state, and out of them 1.5 lakh are covered under the New Pension Scheme. There have been protests earlier by employees' associations against the new scheme in Shimla, Mandi, Kangra and Solan.

Who are opposing and who are favouring OPS?

Recently, Former NITI Aayog Chairman Arvind Panagariya said that states would not be able to afford the financial burden of OPS.

According to Indian Express report, he said that any state can't afford to do that because the liability will be very large.

"They will have to finance it from the tax revenue. But there are no tax revenues," he was quoted as saying in the report.

Praveen Chakravarty, who heads the Data Analytics department of the Congress, also took to Twitter questioning OPS.

Soon after Chakravarty's tweet, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh made it clear that it was not the party's position.

Later, Chakravarty defended his post and said that he was only citing some data and there was no need to 'belabour or exaggerate' it as internal strife.

Congress' main campaigner Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in her rallies, had earlier promised to revert back to OPS. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi too had tweeted in favour of OPS.

On the other hand, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been opposing it.

So, what exactly is the old pension scheme?

In the old pension regime, pension was 50 percent of the last drawn salary of the employee and the entire amount was paid by the government.

It was discontinued on April 1, 2004, and replaced with the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

How is it different from NPS?

NPS, a government-run investment scheme, gives the subscriber the option to set the preferred allocation to different asset classes. The returns in NPS are not guaranteed and depend on the performance of the asset allocation by the subscriber based on his/her risk-taking capability during the employment tenure.

This table shows the basic difference between OPS and NPS:

Basis of Difference	NPS	OPS
Returns	The returns are not guaranteed and constant as money is invested in market-linked securities.	OPS offers pensions to government employees on the basis of their last drawn salary, which is 50 percent of the last drawn salary. This is fixed.
Tax Benefits	Annual investments up to Rs 1.5 lakh are tax-deductible under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Additional annual investments up to Rs 50,000 are tax-deductible under Section 80CCD (1B) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.	No tax benefits are applicable.
Tax on pension amount	On retirement, NPS provides a pension fund that is 60 percent tax-free when redeemed. The remainder, which is 40 percent, has to be invested in annuities. This is taxable.	Income from OPS does not attract any tax.
Eligibility	All Indian citizens between 18 and 65 years are eligible.	Only government employees are eligible.

Why are people protesting against NPS?

OPS based on years of service and pension was based on last basic salary plus dearness allowance. In this, an employee was guaranteed the right of pension as half of the last basic salary plus dearness allowance at the time of retirement, if the service was not less than 10 years. At the time of retirement and in case of in-service death, an employee or his/her family was given economic support.

The NPS, on the other hand, protestors believe, is based on long-term investment fund ideology and it could be better in the case of more than 30 years' service. But, in case of less years' service, due to lower corpus, the pension is not sufficient for the retiree's survival.

Which is better?

OPS, as mentioned above, is a pension scheme and offers a regular pension. This is fixed, which is not the case in NPS.

The investments may also be volatile in NPS. Hence, experts believe that NPS is suitable for those willing to take certain risks. However, there are several benefits of NPS which must be

considered. It allows one to plan the retirement corpus and offers tax benefits. At times, it can offer decent returns.

On the other hand, OPS is best suited for the ones who are risk-averse and want decent funds at retirement. <https://www.cnbctv18.com/personal-finance/ops-vs-nps-punjab-himachal-pradesh-gujarat-old-new-pension-system-congress-bjp-aap-debate-15190021.htm>

26. Where is the Sports Infra in 'Sports City' (*infralive.com*) November 15, 2022

News attached as pdf file.
<https://infralive.com/web/>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

27. Beating the black economy (*financialexpress.com*) November 18, 2022

It is universally agreed that smuggling and counterfeiting are bad. They result in the evasion of laws, leading to loss of revenue, generation of unaccounted money used for nefarious purposes, and loss of legitimate jobs. Per a 2020 World Economic Forum report, illicit trade is estimated to result in a loss to the extent of \$2.2 trillion to the global economy—a humongous 3 % of the global GDP.

India has not been spared from this menace. Its geographical location makes it vulnerable to the smuggling of drugs. India continues to be a major consumer of gold, and the insatiable demand for gold and the ingenious methods of concealment being adopted mean challenges for the enforcement agencies. Smuggling of small quantities of other sundry goods also takes place, ranging from household to electronic goods. There is also the problem of evasion of local taxes by the domestic industry. The enforcement agencies under GST have been regularly in the news for huge detections of cases—from the use of fake invoices to illegally discharge duty liability to outright removal of goods without documentation.

Counterfeiting also poses problems for the country. This involves the misuse of trademarks and logos—goods meant to resemble the original with neither the safety standards nor guarantee of the original, and sold at lower prices. This is no better than the theft of intellectual property. In this case, too, there is a loss of revenue and employment. Genuine industry gets hurt in all these cases.

Professor Arun Kumar, a leading authority on the black economy, has estimated the size of India's black economy to be about 62% of GDP, generating (2016-17 prices) about `93 trillion of revenue. To put this in context, this is larger than the income generated by agriculture and industry put together and than the size of government spending (both the Centre and the states). Kumar estimates that, because of its size, the country's economy has been losing on an average 5% growth since the mid- 1970s. What this means is that India could have been the world's second-largest economy; per capita income would have been \$11,000 instead of \$1,500.

What are the reasons for tax evasion? Is it the tax and legal structure, the lack of simplicity of the laws and the consequential difficulty in complying with their requirements, the lure of easy money, inflation, a significant informal economy, social and educational levels of the

population, and the lack of integrity—or a combination of all these factors? In India’s case, it would indeed appear to be combination of all these factors.

Enforcement agencies are doing a splendid job of detection, but they will be hard-pressed to eradicate this danger. This will require the concerted effort of all the stakeholders—the policymakers, the enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and most importantly, the general population at large—the consumer.

It is in this context that FICCI’s think-tank, Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), held its annual two-day conference, Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit trade (MASCRADE) in late September 2022. The theme of the conference, ‘Unleashing the power of consumers in the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting’, was a clear recognition of the reality that it is the consumer’s demand that fuels supply—and where there is a gap between demand and supply, it is met by illicit supplies. The focus of all the sessions was on understanding and addressing the psyche which drives the consumer to satisfy their requirements through the purchase of illicit goods.

The conference highlighted the need to engage consumers, influence public opinion, and understand demand behaviour. It underscored the need to have in place measures for safeguarding consumers from spurious and fake foods—goods, which in the absence of any manufacturing standards, could pose health and safety issues. There was a recognition that India could not lose the revenue that illicit activities generate. Given the security challenges that the country faces, this is money that can be used for anti-national activities. The conference emphasised the need for urgent action against organised crime—a close consequence of illicit trade.

Most citizens would not like to break the law or be associated with anti-national activities. It is essential that we acknowledge this, hence the need for consumer awareness. Something as simple as insisting on a bill would sound a death knell for these illicit activities. These activities thrive on the consumer’s desire to save money without thinking of their own safety, or worse, the nation’s security. If we can ensure that we can jagao the grahak, empower them, and shake them up from their slumber into realising that they can be active partners in the fight against illicit trade and nation-building, then the war can be won.

It is not going to be easy. But conferences such as MASCRADE 2022 help in creating the enabling environment. This is a fight that the nation cannot afford to lose. <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/beating-the-black-economy/2831908/>

28. Violation of GST rules: Insurers ask govt to sort ‘GST evasion lapses’ ([indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com)) Updated: November 16, 2022

Under pressure in the ‘GST evasion’ issue, the insurance industry has approached the government to sort out the issue without burning its fingers. While a top representative team consisting of some of the CEOs of leading private sector general insurers have already met Tarun Bajaj, retiring Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance (MoF), the representatives of life insurers are planning to meet Bajaj’s successor Sanjay Malhotra shortly after he takes over his new job in December.

While a section of insurance officials claimed it was due to oversight on their part, the evasion issue has thrown light into the murky dealings in the sector. These insurance companies have

availed input tax credit on the basis of invoices issued by several intermediaries for providing services like advertising, marketing and brand activation whereas no such services had actually been provided.

Earlier, the government had said Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Mumbai Zonal Unit initiated investigations against 16 insurance companies on the issue of availment of ineligible input tax credit. Investigations by the unit revealed that input tax credit of Rs 824 crore has been availed, out of which an amount of Rs 217 crore has been paid voluntarily by these 16 insurance companies so far, a statement from the government said.

“In the absence of any underlying supply, the input tax credit availed by the said insurance companies, is not permissible under the GST law,” it said.

MoF sources said a representative team of the general insurance industry had met Bajaj recently to appraise him of their side of the development. Bajaj, after giving a patient hearing to the insurers, had reportedly assured that he would ensure a fair investigation against the alleged violation of GST rules by some of the players in the industry.

Sources said he also assured that there wouldn't be any coercive actions against general insurers including arrest or summoning of CEOs of the companies by the GST enforcing authorities.

On hearing the pleadings of the CEOs, a top government official said, “normally, the insurance industry has remained law abiding. All the aspects of allegations will be looked into. If the insurers have made any payment to any institutions, it will be excluded from the purview of the investigation by the GST authorities.”

There were also some speculations that some insurers are ready to settle the GST cases by paying hefty fines.

On the modus operandi adopted by the insurers to pay the illegal commission, the government further has said several non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) engaged in micro financing businesses are acting as corporate agents of the insurance companies and engaged cross selling their single premium credit linked insurance policies in the course of their lending business.

According to IRDA regulations, only nominal commission is permitted to corporate agents. “In order to circumvent these regulations, the insurance companies have resorted to obtaining invoices from intermediaries, in order to transfer commission (over and above the permissible limit) to NBFCs, for supply of services of advertising, web marketing etc., whereas there has been no underlying supply of services. In turn, these intermediaries have received invoices from NBFCs for such supplies,” the government said. <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/violation-of-gst-rules-insurers-ask-govt-to-sort-gst-evasion-lapses-8270463/>

29. Equity, unabated coal phasedown in first draft of COP27 ‘Cover Decision’; other elements missing (downtoearth.org.in) 18 November 2022

The Presidency of the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) produced a ‘non-paper’ on the morning of

November 17, 2022. It did so by compiling inputs from various countries, with the intent of producing a cover decision.

The cover decision summarises the overarching narratives across the conference and provides guidance for how action should proceed after. At COP26 in Glasgow, the cover decision came to be known as the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP), which made history for being the first-ever COP decision to mention the term ‘fossil fuels’.

To begin with, the Egyptian document is currently 20 pages long, compared with the GCP which was eight pages.

During a consultation with Heads of Delegation (HOD), many Parties complained about receiving such a lengthy document so late in the conference timeline, with only one official conference day remaining to negotiate on the text line by line.

The document has extensive sections on the energy crisis, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report findings and multilateral development banks (MDBs). It is thus a laundry list of suggestions collating many themes both within and beyond the scope of the UNFCCC.

It captures the war-driven mood of the moment and highlights “the urgency to rapidly transform energy systems to be more secure, reliable, and resilient”. This is a reference to energy security, which is a key priority for most countries right now.

It calls for a shift towards renewables and phasedown of unabated coal power. On fossil fuel subsidies, it appears to water down GCP language. The GCP called for a phaseout of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while the COP27 non-paper states the need to “phase out and rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies”.

The document reiterates the equity principles of the UNFCCC and the 2015 Paris Agreement despite resistance from many countries such as the United States, Switzerland and Australia. It also calls out developed countries’ failure to sufficiently cut emissions.

In a new addition that came as a surprise to many, it calls for the establishment of a new work programme on just transition. At the HOD meeting, the United Kingdom (UK) highlighted that just transition is already being discussed in the Mitigation Work Programme and is yet to be agreed upon.

On the UN’s REDD+ programme, it supports offering more finance for REDD+ results assessed and verified under Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement, to help countries meet their nationally determined contributions (NDC) and net zero goals.

It also allows the submission of REDD+ in bilateral trades under Article 6.2 — a fact that was called out to be a pre-judgement by Archie Young of the UK, since the negotiations on this issue are still underway at COP27.

On finance, it “expresses grave concern” that the \$100 billion climate finance goal has not been met by developed countries, and reiterates the goal of doubling adaptation finance according to the GCP from COP26.

On the issue of loss and damage, the document has extensive language on growing costs and indebtedness due to loss and damage, as well as non-UNFCCC mechanisms such as the Global Climate Risk Shield and Insuresilience.

However, the main ask of developing countries — a loss and damage finance facility to be established at COP27 — is missing due to ongoing tough negotiations on the issue.

Barbados, speaking on behalf of AOSIS at the HOD meeting, said they are disheartened by how the new loss and damage agenda item has been managed.

So far, no negotiating text has been produced. No time has been allocated for formal negotiations on the matter, and no joint contact groups formed. Every other agenda item has been given time to negotiate, and we demand the same courtesy be given to this item so critical for us, the speaker for Barbados added.

The document is also missing India's call for a phasedown of all fossil fuels. In fact, the reference to fossil fuel subsidies being rationalised is the only mention of fossil fuels in the document. This is a fact that makes the non-paper unambitious, many say, given that a fossil fuel phaseout is critical to achieve the 1.5°C target.

At the HOD meeting, the G77 and China bloc said the document does not clarify the direction of travel of the climate talks.

Bolivia said there must not be a reinterpretation of the Paris Agreement through this cover decision, making it an unwanted top-down approach. It added that the financial obligations of developed countries cannot be diluted.

The Arab Group suggested that instead of targeting specific energy sources, the document should target emissions instead, guided by the goals of energy security and economic prosperity.

Multiple Parties took issue with the inclusion of non-UNFCCC schemes such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization.

China said the section on the reform of MDBs must be deleted since it is “beyond the mandate of this process and is an issue of global financial governance”.

The US asked for the addition of language on the “relevance of those Parties that contribute most to global emissions and their role in helping us get to the right trajectory”.

It also seemed to suggest that it agreed with language on the \$100 billion goal and doubling of adaptation finance, but that “meaningful mitigation” and updates to ambition in NDCs must also accompany any calls for more finance.

The COP27 Presidency will now work on converting the non-paper into an actual draft of the cover decision. But concerns continue to grow about the timely closure of the conference by November 18 evening, owing to the number of disagreements that are likely to emerge. <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/climate-change/equity-unabated-coal-phasedown-in-first-draft-of-cop27-cover-decision-other-elements-missing-86051>

30. Reviving the Old Pension Scheme will turn the clock back on hard-won reforms (indianexpress.com) Updated: November 18, 2022

Old Pension Scheme, Congress, AAP, Aam Aadmi Party, pension of government employees, pension burden, Indian express, Opinion, Editorial, Current Affairs The old pension scheme was based on the concept of “defined benefit”. Under it, the pension of government employees was fixed on the basis of the last drawn salary.

Political parties are advocating a return to the old pension scheme. Beginning with Congress in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, similar promises have been made by the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab and now by both these parties in the ongoing election campaign in Gujarat. This is unfortunate. Such proposals, driven by short-term political considerations, benefit only a tiny sliver of the electorate. Championed without an understanding of their long-term implications, or driven by a will to ignore the enduring consequences, they threaten to undo the hard-won policy gains that have been achieved through bipartisan consensus. This will have disastrous implications for government finances.

The old pension scheme was based on the concept of “defined benefit”. Under it, the pension of government employees was fixed on the basis of the last drawn salary. However, funding this exorbitant entitlement over time would have been fiscally challenging — calculations of the implicit pension debt, based on the promises to government employees and others, painted a grim picture. Thus concerns over sustainability and scalability impelled the shift to the new pension scheme. The new pension scheme was based on the concept of “defined contribution”, fixing the contribution of both the government and the employee. Since its launch, the NPS has built a robust subscriber base. At the end of October 2022, the scheme had 23.3 lakh central government subscribers and 58.9 lakh state government subscribers. Then there are others, including 15.92 lakh subscribers from the corporate sector, and 25.45 lakh from the unorganised sector.

The pension reform process was initiated by the NDA government under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. After coming to power, the UPA government stayed the course. In March 2005, it introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to provide statutory backing to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA), which regulates the new pension scheme. But with Congress now reverting to the old framework, it would appear that the bipartisan consensus on the issue that allowed for pushing through much-needed hard policy measures has eroded. In the current environment, as parties in the Opposition space struggle to expand their reach, they may consider these moves as convenient. However, the fiscal implications will be grave. According to the RBI, states had allocated Rs 3.86 lakh crore in 2020-21 towards pension. This works out to around 26 per cent of their own tax revenue. For states like Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, the share in the government’s own tax revenues is even higher. While there will be short-term gains for states, as pension liabilities increase over time, the space for more productive forms of expenditure will be curtailed. The burden of funding these pensions will fall on future generations. Rather than focusing on the immediate return and relief, political parties need to take a longer term view, and resist the temptation for such fiscally imprudent moves. <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/reviving-the-old-pension-scheme-will-turn-the-clock-back-on-hard-won-reforms-8274783/>