

## **NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (23.12.2022)**

### **1. CAG slams DRDO for delays, declaring projects successful despite failure to meet key goals ([theprint.in](https://theprint.in)) December 22, 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has slammed the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) over delays, cost overruns and irregular closure of “Mission Mode” projects by declaring them successful despite the non-achievement of one or more key objectives or parameters.

“Mission Mode” (MM) projects are taken up by the DRDO on high priority, based on specific user requirements and with definite timeframes for their completion.

These projects depend on technologies that are already available, proven and readily accessible within the DRDO or India, or from abroad at a short notice.

The CAG report, which was placed in the Parliament Thursday, highlighted that despite the fact that MM projects have a very high outcome certainty due to ready availability of underlying technology, there were considerable delays in the initiation and sanction of such projects by the DRDO.

“In 119 out of 178 projects, the original time schedules could not be adhered to. In 49 cases, the additional time was in fact more than 100 per cent of the original timeframe,” the CAG report noted.

It added the delays ranged from 16 to 500 per cent and that an extension was taken multiple times.

“Time overruns in completion of MM projects, where technologies are either available or easily accessible, defeats the purpose of taking them up as an MM Project,” it said.

“The report has also mentioned that out of 86 projects declared as successful during January 2010 and December 2019, in 20 projects involving an expenditure of ₹1,074.67 crore, one or more key objective(s)/parameter(s) was/were not achieved.

“Instead of seeking extension of time to achieve all the key objectives/parameters of the project proposal, these projects were closed as successful,” a statement by the CAG said.

The report pointed out that DRDO had taken up 15 projects costing ₹516.61 crore to accomplish the unachieved objectives of similar earlier closed projects declared as successful by it.

CAG has also noted the “inefficiencies in the planning process” by DRDO as well as raised issues of inadequate monitoring of the MM projects by the premier research organisation of the country.

The inefficiencies in overall project management have resulted in several instances of cost overruns, over-assessment of anticipated benefits of projects, and delay in submission of closure reports, it said.

CAG also brought out issues such as delay in productionisation of successful projects, which it said defeated the very purpose of taking up such projects.

“There was also a lack of synergy between the DRDO and the Services which resulted in divergent views on the Qualitative Requirements, deliverables, and outcomes of User Trials. This affected the overall success rate of the MM Projects,” it said. <https://theprint.in/defence/cag-slams-drdo-for-delays-declaring-projects-successful-despite-failure-to-meet-key-goals/1277226/>

## **2. DRDO didn't achieve all objectives in 20 projects, listed them successful: CAG ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) 23 December, 2022**

High priority military projects taken up by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have been riddled with a raft of problems including time and cost overruns, irregular closure, and have even been declared successful despite non-achievement of key objectives, the national auditor has said in its latest report.

Some of these ‘mission mode’ projects were declared successful by DRDO but taken up again as new ones to realise the unachieved objectives of the projects closed earlier, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said in the report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

‘Mission mode’ projects refer to high-priority DRDO projects based on specific user requirements with a fixed deadline for their completion, and pivot on technologies already available, proven and accessible within India or from abroad at short notice.

CAG said in 119 of the 178 projects, the original time schedule could not be adhered to; in 49 cases, the additional time taken was more than 100% of the original time-frame, and the overall delays ranged from 16% to 500%, with time extension sought on multiple occasions.

“Time overruns in completion of MM (multi mission) projects, where technologies are either available or easily accessible, defeat the purpose of taking them up as MM projects,” CAG said. The report said despite such projects having a very high outcome certainty due to ready availability of underlying technology, there were considerable delays in initiation and sanction by DRDO.

There were also projects, worth hundreds of crores, that were declared successful but fell short of parameters. “Out of 86 projects declared successful during 2010-2019, in 20 projects involving an expenditure of ₹1,074.67 crore, one or more key objective(s)/parameter(s) was/were not achieved,” the report said.

CAG added that instead of seeking time extension to achieve the objectives, these projects were closed as successful. It said DRDO took up 15 projects worth ₹516.61 crore to accomplish the unachieved objectives of projects closed earlier after declaring them successful.

The report touched upon inefficiencies in planning while flagging concerns about inadequate monitoring by DRDO.

“The inefficiencies in overall project management have resulted in several instances of cost overruns, over-assessment of anticipated benefits of projects, and delay in submission of closure reports.”

Other issues highlighted in the report included delay in productionisation of successful projects, and lack of synergy between DRDO and the services, which resulted in divergent views on qualitative requirements, deliverables and outcome of user trials. “This affected the overall success rate of the MM projects,” CAG added. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/drdo-didn-t-achieve-all-objectives-in-20-projects-listed-them-successful-cag-101671711046389.html>

### **3. CAG flags DRDO declaring 20 mission mode projects ‘successful’ despite not achieving objectives ([thehindubusinessline.com](http://thehindubusinessline.com)) December 22, 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has expressed its dismay that 20 of 86 “mission mode” projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) were “declared successful” overlooking the fact that they had not achieved objectives and over ₹1,000 crore was spent on them.

In its performance audit report on “Management and Outcome of Mission Mode Projects in DRDO,” tabled in parliament on Thursday, the CAG cited the example of “advanced Light Towed Array Sonar (ALTAS),” which was taken up in April 2012, to illustrate “irregular closure” of cases and declaring them successful despite not achieving key objectives after five years.

The Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) took up the project for the development of ALTAS, which was an attempt to revive “Development of Active cum Passive Towed Array Sonar (NAGAN),” which was closed in December of 2021 and “also declared successful by the 32nd Steering Committee through the system had failed to meet the user requirement during trials,” the CAG lamented.

MM projects, which are of high priority, are undertaken on the basis of specific user requests and on proven and readily accessible technologies.

Surprisingly, the auditors noted that the trial report of 2018 stated that key parameters such as active and passive sonar function, layer performance, torpedo detection, and streaming time were not achieved. Other than that, the user evaluation report revealed that the system had failed to meet these key parameters, but as per the “Administrative closure report,” the project was declared successful, and the same was submitted to the CFA for approval in November 2019,” the report highlighted. In their reply to the CAG, the DRDO was silent on granting premature successful status to the project but stated that further trials would be held to prove 41 of the 138 parameters needed for the Navy to accept it.

Another instance of the audit flags is the Missile Approach Warning System (MAWS), which the Indian Air Force wanted DRDO to develop for SU-30 Mk-1 fighter aircraft. The Defence Ministry sanctioned the project to DRDO’s Bengaluru-based lab, the Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE), in 2008 at a cost of ₹273.80 crores. Strangely, though the Air Force HQ wanted the DARE to carry out a feasibility study to determine whether they can be installed on SU-30 Mk-1, the lab developed the system in collaboration with a foreign firm at a cost of ₹213.03 crore and tested them on a transport aircraft. “In order to prove the developed DCMAWS on the Su-30 Mk-1, DARE proposed a separate user trial project at a cost of Rs 102.53 crore,” stated the CAG report.

Between January 2010 and December 2019, the DRDO had closed 103 mission mode (MM) projects, undertaken on proven and readily accessible technologies, incurring an expenditure of ₹2,505.23 crore. More than that, 75 MM projects were continuing as of December 2019, and ₹2,997.57 crore of the sanctioned amount of ₹9,056.90 crore had already been spent on them.

The CAG report expressed frustration over repeated “deficiencies in project management by DRDO Labs,” reported from time to time in various previous reports. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/cag-flags-drdo-declaring-20-mission-mode-projects-successful-despite-not-achieving-objectives/article66293424.ece>

#### **4. Key projects of DRDO riddled with woes: CAG ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) 23 December, 2022**

High priority military projects taken up by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have been riddled with a raft of problems including time and cost overruns, irregular closure, and have even been declared successful despite non-achievement of key objectives, the national auditor has said in its latest report.

Some of these ‘mission mode’ projects were declared successful by DRDO but taken up again as new ones to realise the unachieved objectives of the projects closed earlier, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said in the report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

A DRDO spokesperson was not unavailable for comment

‘Mission mode’ projects refer to high priority DRDO projects based on specific user requirements with a fixed deadline for their completion, and pivot on technologies already available, proven and accessible within India or from abroad at short notice.

CAG backed its report with figures to highlight how such projects are languishing --- in 119 of the 178 projects, the original time schedule could not be adhered to; in 49 cases, the additional time taken was more than 100% of the original time-frame, and the overall delays ranged from 16% to 500%, with time extension sought on multiple occasions.

“Time overruns in completion of MM (multi mission) projects, where technologies are either available or easily accessible, defeat the purpose of taking them up as MM projects,” CAG said. The report said despite such projects having a very high outcome certainty due to ready availability of underlying technology, there were considerable delays in initiation and sanction by DRDO.

Projects, worth hundreds of crores, declared successful fell short of parameters. “Out of 86 projects declared successful during 2010-2019, in 20 projects involving an expenditure of ₹1,074.67 crore, one or more key objective(s)/parameter(s) was/were not achieved,” the report said.

That’s not all. CAG said instead of seeking time extension to achieve the objectives, these projects were closed as successful. It said DRDO had taken up 15 projects worth ₹516.61 crore to accomplish the unachieved objectives of projects closed earlier after declaring them successful.

The report touched upon inefficiencies in planning while flagging concerns about inadequate monitoring by DRDO. “The inefficiencies in overall project management have resulted in several instances of cost overruns, over-assessment of anticipated benefits of projects, and delay in submission of closure reports.”

Other issues highlighted in the report included delay in productionisation of successful projects, and lack of synergy between DRDO and the services, which resulted in divergent views on qualitative requirements, deliverables and outcome of user trials. “This affected the overall success rate of the MM projects,” CAG added.

A DRDO spokesperson was unavailable for comment on the matter till late on Thursday. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/key-projects-of-drdo-riddled-with-woes-cag-101671736360686.html>

## **5. CAG report raises issues of ‘inadequate monitoring’ of mission mode projects by DRDO ([theprint.in](https://theprint.in), [theweek.in](https://theweek.in), [news18.com](https://news18.com), [udayavani.com](https://udayavani.com)) December 22, 2022**

A CAG report has brought out “inefficiencies” in the planning process of the DRDO, and raised issues of “inadequate monitoring” of the mission mode projects by it, according to an official statement issued on Thursday.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India’s report — Performance Audit on ‘Management and Outcome of Mission Mode Projects in DRDO’ — was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, the statement said.

“The Performance Audit of Mission Mode Projects, inter alia, brought out time and cost overrun in completion of projects, irregular closure of projects declaring them successful despite non-achievement of one or more key objectives/parameters, and taking up of new projects for realising the unachieved objectives of earlier closed projects declared as successful,” the statement said.

Mission mode (MM) projects are taken up by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as high priority projects based on specific user requirements with a definite time frame for their completion. These projects depend on technologies that are already available, proven and readily accessible within DRDO or from abroad at a short notice, it said.

The report has highlighted that despite the fact that MM projects have a very high outcome certainty due to ready availability of underlying technology, there were “considerable delays” in initiation and sanction of such projects by DRDO.

“In 119 out of 178 projects, the original time schedules could not be adhered to. In 49 cases, the additional time was in fact more than 100 per cent of the original time frame,” the statement said.

“Overall, the delays ranged from 16 to 500 per cent and extension of time for completion of projects was taken multiple times. Time overruns in completion of MM projects, where technologies are either available or easily accessible, defeats the purpose of taking them up as an MM Project,” it added.

“The report has brought out inefficiencies in the planning process by DRDO as well as raised issues of inadequate monitoring of the MM projects by the DRDO. The inefficiencies in overall project management have resulted in several instances of cost overruns, over-assessment of anticipated benefits of projects, and delay in submission of closure reports,” the statement said. <https://theprint.in/india/cag-report-raises-issues-of-inadequate-monitoring-of-mission-mode-projects-by-drdo/1277784/>

**6. CAG audit highlights 'inefficiencies' in DRDO's planning process** ([english.mathrubhumi.com](https://english.mathrubhumi.com), [daijiworld.com](https://daijiworld.com), [siasat.com](https://siasat.com), [socialnews.xyz](https://socialnews.xyz)) IANS | December 22, 2022

A CAG report has brought out "inefficiencies" in the planning process by the DRDO as well as raising issues of inadequate monitoring of the "mission mode" projects by it.

Mission mode (MM) projects are taken up by the DRDO as high-priority projects based on specific user requirements with a definite time frame for their completion, as these depend on technologies that are already available, proven, and readily accessible within DRDO/India or from abroad at a short notice.

However, the CAG Performance Audit on 'Management and Outcome of Mission Mode Projects in DRDO' - Union Government (Defence Services) - DRDO, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, has highlighted that despite the fact that MM projects have a very high outcome certainty due to ready availability of underlying technology, there were considerable delays in initiation and sanction of such projects by DRDO.

"In 119 out of 178 projects, the original time schedules could not be adhered to. In 49 cases, the additional time was in fact more than 100 per cent of the original time frame. Overall, the delays ranged from 16 to 500 per cent and extension of time for completion of projects was taken multiple times. Time overruns in completion of MM projects, where technologies are either available or easily accessible, defeats the purpose of taking them up as an MM project," said the report.

The report has also mentioned that out of 86 projects declared as successful during January 2010 and December 2019, in 20 projects involving an expenditure of Rs 1,074.67 crore, one or more key objective(s)/parameter(s) was/were not achieved.

Instead of seeking extension of time to achieve all the key objectives/parameters of the project proposal, these projects were closed as successful. The report has pointed out that the DRDO had taken up 15 projects costing Rs 516.61 crore to accomplish the unachieved objectives of similar earlier closed projects declared as successful by it.

The performance audit of MM Projects, inter-alia, brought out time and cost overrun in completion of projects, irregular closure of projects declaring them successful despite non-achievement of one or more key objectives/parameters, and taking up of new projects for realising the unachieved objectives of earlier closed projects declared as successful. <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/india/cag-audit-highlights-inefficiencies-in-drdo-s-planning-process-1.8156391>

**7. CAG reprimanded DRDO, '119 out of 178 projects were not completed on time'** ([presswire18.com](https://presswire18.com), [hindustannewshub.com](https://hindustannewshub.com)) December 22, 2022

CAG Report: The CAG has slammed the DRDO for delaying its projects and not keeping pace with the forces. There is a tussle with China on the LoC, at such a time, the CAG of DRDO, a government organization that produces weapons, tanks, cannons, missiles and fighter aircraft for the country's armies, has strongly reprimanded it.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) told on Thursday (December 22) that the performance report of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has been tabled in Parliament. This report is for the assessment of DRDO's mission-mode project. Mission mode projects are those which are completed within a stipulated time frame based on the requirements of the forces.

Backward in 119 out of 178 projects

According to the CAG report, out of 178 projects started by DRDO, time was not followed in 119. Further, in 49 cases the delay was more than 100 per cent of the original time limit. While the total delay was around 16,500 per cent. Time extension was sought on several occasions. It has been said in the report that instead of seeking extension of time to achieve the objectives of the project, DRDO closed them considering them successful. DRDO started 15 projects worth 516.61 crores to complete the earlier closed projects.

Reprimanded for not keeping pace with the three parts of the army

The report also states that out of 86 DRDO projects declared successful during 2010 to 2019, 20 involved a cost of ₹1,074.67 crore, but one or more key objectives or parameters were not achieved. The CAG also reprimanded the DRDO for not having better coordination with the users i.e. the three services, because of which the DRDO projects (weapons and military equipment) could not be produced on time. Along with this, the quality of the product is also affected.

DRDO produces weapons, fighter aircraft and other military equipment for the armed forces. These weapons and military equipment are handed over to any government or private company for bulk production. Sometimes DRDO's labs also produce these military equipment. <https://presswire18.com/trending-news-cag-reprimanded-drdo-119-out-of-178-projects-were-not-completed-on-time/>

**8. कैग रिपोर्ट ने डीआरडीओ द्वारा 'मिशन मोड' परियोजनाओं की "अपर्याप्त निगरानी" का मुद्दा उठाया** ([hindi.theprint.in](https://hindi.theprint.in)) December 23, 2022

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) की एक रिपोर्ट ने रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) की योजना प्रक्रिया में "अक्षमताओं" को उजागर किया है और उसके द्वारा मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं की "अपर्याप्त निगरानी" के मुद्दों को उठाया है। इस संबंध में बृहस्पतिवार को जारी एक आधिकारिक बयान में यह जानकारी दी गई।

बयान में कहा गया है कि कैग की रिपोर्ट - 'डीआरडीओ में मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं के प्रबंधन और परिणाम के प्रदर्शन की लेखा परीक्षा' बुधवार को संसद के दोनों सदनों में पेश की गई।

बयान में कहा गया, "मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं के निष्पादन की लेखापरीक्षा रिपोर्ट में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ परियोजनाओं के पूरा होने में लगने वाले समय और लागत में वृद्धि, एक या अधिक प्रमुख उद्देश्यों/पैमानों के पूरा नहीं होने के बावजूद उन्हें सफल घोषित करते हुए परियोजनाओं को अनियमित रूप से बंद करना और पूर्व में बंद की गई सफल घोषित परियोजनाओं के अप्राप्त उद्देश्यों को साकार करने के लिए नई परियोजनाओं को शुरू करने के मामलों को उठाया गया।" <https://hindi.theprint.in/india/cag-report-raises-issue-of-inadequate-monitoring-of-mission-mode-projects-by-drdo/444321/>

**9. CAG Report: डीआरडीओ की 119 परियोजनाएं वक्त पर नहीं हुई पूरी** ([amarujala.com](http://amarujala.com)) December 23, 2022

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने अपनी एक रिपोर्ट में रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) की परियोजनाओं में देरी और मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं की अपर्याप्त निगरानी के मुद्दों को उठाया है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, डीआरडीओ से शुरू किए गए 178 प्रोजेक्ट में से 119 में समय का पालन नहीं हुआ।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया गया है कि 49 मामलों में विलंब मूल समयसीमा के 100 प्रतिशत से अधिक थी, जबकि कुल विलंब 16,500 प्रतिशत के आसपास था। यह भी कहा गया है कि डीआरडीओ ने प्रोजेक्ट के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए समय विस्तार मांगने की बजाय उन्हें सफल मानकर बंद कर दिया। कैग की ओर से जारी बयान के अनुसार, यह रिपोर्ट 'डीआरडीओ में मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं के प्रबंधन और परिणाम के प्रदर्शन की लेखा परीक्षा' बुधवार को संसद के दोनों सदनों में पेश की गई थी। <https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/cag-report-119-projects-of-drdo-not-completed-on-time>

**10. CAG Report: CAG की DRDO को फटकार, '178 में से 119 प्रोजेक्ट समय पर पूरे नहीं किए गए'** ([abplive.com](http://abplive.com)) December 22, 2022

CAG Report: सीएजी ने डीआरडीओ को अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स में देरी करने और सेनाओं से तालमेल नहीं रखने के लिए आड़े हाथों लिया है। एलओसी पर चीन से तनातनी चल रही है, ऐसे समय में देश की सेनाओं के लिए हथियार, टैंक, तोप, मिसाइल और लड़ाकू विमान तैयार करने वाली सरकारी संस्था, डीआरडीओ की सीएजी ने जमकर फटकार लगाई है।



कम्पट्रोलर एंड ऑडिटर जनरल (सीएजी) ने गुरुवार ( 22 दिसंबर) को बताया कि डिफेंस रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट ऑर्गेनाइजेशन (डीआरडीओ) की परफॉर्मेंस रिपोर्ट को संसद के पटल पर रखा गया है. ये रिपोर्ट डीआरडीओ की मिशन-मोड प्रोजेक्ट के आकलन के लिए है. मिशन मोड प्रोजेक्ट्स वे होते हैं जो सेनाओं की जरूरतों के आधार पर एक तय समय सीमा के तहत पूरे किए जाते हैं.

178 प्रोजेक्ट में से 119 में पिछड़े

सीएजी की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, डीआरडीओ से शुरू किए गए 178 प्रोजेक्ट में से 119 में समय का पालन नहीं हुआ. इसके अलावा 49 मामलों में विलंब मूल समय सीमा के 100 प्रतिशत से अधिक थी. जबकि कुल विलंब 16-500 प्रतिशत के आसपास था. कई अवसरों पर समय विस्तार की मांग की गई. रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि डीआरडीओ ने प्रोजेक्ट के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए समय विस्तार मांगने की बजाय उन्हें सफल मानकर बंद कर दिया. डीआरडीओ ने 516.61 करोड़ के 15 प्रोजेक्ट को शुरू किया ताकि पहले बंद किए गए प्रोजेक्ट्स को पूरा किया जा सके.

### सेना के तीनों अंगों से तालमेल नहीं बिठाने के लिए लगाई फटकार

रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि 2010 से 2019 के दौरान डीआरडीओ की सफल घोषित की गई 86 परियोजनाओं में से 20 में 1,074.67 करोड़ की लागत शामिल थी, लेकिन इसमें एक या अधिक प्रमुख उद्देश्य या पैरामीटर प्राप्त ही नहीं किए गए थे. सीएजी ने डीआरडीओ को यूजर्स यानि सेना के तीनों अंगों से बेहतर तालमेल नहीं बिठाने के लिए भी फटकार लगाई, क्योंकि इससे डीआरडीओ के प्रोजेक्ट्स (हथियारों और सैन्य साजो सामान) का उत्पादन समय से नहीं हो पाता है. साथ ही प्रोडक्ट की गुणवत्ता पर भी असर पड़ता है.

डीआरडीओ सशस्त्र सेनाओं के लिए हथियार, लड़ाकू विमान और दूसरे सैन्य उपकरण तैयार करती है. इन हथियार और सैन्य साजो सामान के बल्क प्रोडक्शन के लिए किसी सरकारी या फिर प्राइवेट कंपनी को सौंप दिया जाता है. कई बार डीआरडीओ की लैब भी इन सैन्य उपकरणों का उत्पादन करती हैं. <https://www.abplive.com/news/india/cag-report-on-drdo-for-delay-in-projects-and-also-not-having-better-coordination-with-the-three-army-ann-2288902>

**11. CAG: Poor state of tracks key cause of derailments** ([timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com)) 23 Dec 2022

NEW DELHI: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found lack of maintenance of tracks, slow pace of track renewal and deviation of track parameters as the main reasons for majority of such train mishaps.

The CAG report said track machines remained idle for want of required traffic blocks by the operating departments, divisions not planning the blocks and operational issues. It said the shortfall in track recording car (TRC) inspections had adverse consequences on the quality of assets with implications on safe operation of trains on routes. Railway ministry insiders said during this period, the focus was more on improving punctuality of trains and getting traffic blocks was a huge challenge.

Citing an example, the CAG has referred to the inquiry report of derailment of Seemanchal Express in February 2019 in which it was pointed out that TRC run over the section, where the accident took place, was overdue by four months. "The main reasons assigned for the shortfall in the inspections was non-receipt of the programme for the running of TRCs to be prepared and finalised by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow. Thus, non-deployment of TRCs over the planned sections, as per schedule, led to non-checking of track parameters having implications on overall safety of train operations including derailments," the report said. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/cag-poor-state-of-tracks-key-cause-of-derailments/articleshow/96436237.cms>

## **12. 198 govt companies incur accumulated losses of Rs2 lakh crore: CAG report ([moneylife.in](https://moneylife.in)) December 23, 2022**

There were 198 government companies and corporations with accumulated losses of Rs 2,00,419 crore, as on March 31, 2021, and of these, the net worth of 88 companies had been completely eroded by their accumulated losses, a CAG report said.

"As a result, the aggregate net worth of these companies had become negative to the extent of Rs 1,13,894 crore as on March 31, 2021. Only 20 out of these 88 companies earned a profit of Rs 973 crore during the year 2020-21," the General Purpose Financial Reports of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) Union Government (Commercial) - Report No. 27 of 2022, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, said.

The report deals with 453 government companies and corporations (including six statutory corporations) and 180 government-controlled other companies. As many as 84 CPSEs (including 23 government-controlled other companies) whose accounts were in arrears for three years or more or were under liquidation or first accounts were not due are not covered in this Report.

On returns from government companies and corporations, the report said that 251 government companies and corporations earned profit of Rs 1,95,677 crore during 2020-21 of which, 72 per cent (Rs 1,40,083 crore) was contributed by 97 government companies and corporations in three sectors - power, petroleum, and financial services. Return on Equity (ROE) in these 251 CPSEs was 16.34 per cent in 2020-21 as compared to 13.54 per cent in 224 CPSEs in 2019-20.

On rate of real return (RORR) on government investment, the CAG report said that out of 633 CPSEs covered in this report, the Central government has direct investment in 195 CPSEs. RORR in respect of 173 CPSEs (58 listed CPSEs and 115 unlisted CPSEs) has been computed since 2000-01 to compare the same with the conventional rate of return on historical cost.

"RORR was 17.52 per cent in comparison to conventional rate of return on historical cost of 46.78 per cent in 2019-20. RORR has shown an increasing trend till 2006-07 after which it

started to decline and ranged between 10 per cent and 23 per cent during the preceding five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21," it said.

The report further said that 112 government companies and corporations declared a dividend of Rs 80,105 crore during the year 2020-21. Out of this, the dividend received/receivable by Central government amounted to Rs 36,982 crore which represented 7.22 per cent return on the total investment by the Central government (Rs 5,12,547 crore) in all government companies and corporations.

It said that 10 government companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas contributed Rs 28,388 crore representing 35.44 per cent of the total dividend declared by all government companies and corporations.

"Non-compliance with directive of government of India on declaration of dividend by 20 CPSEs, which were having sufficient fund (retained earnings and general reserves), resulted in a shortfall of Rs 9,449 crore in the payment of dividend for the year 2020-21," said the CAG report.

As per the report, there were 173 CPSEs that incurred losses during the year 2020-21. The losses incurred by these companies during the year 2020-21 decreased to Rs 42,876 crore compared to Rs 67,845 crore in 2019-20. [<https://www.moneylife.in/article/198-govt-companies-incur-accumulated-losses-of-rs2-lakh-crore-cag-report/69287.html>]

**13. 198 govt companies/corp incur accumulated losses of Rs 2,00,419 crore: CAG report** ([ianslive.in](https://www.ianslive.in), [siasat.com](https://www.siasat.com), [thenewsmen.co.in](https://www.thenewsmen.co.in)) December 23, 2022

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#### **14. 198 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों को हुआ 2,00,419 करोड़ का घाटा,**

**CAG की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा** ([zeebiz.com](http://zeebiz.com)) December 22, 2022

CAG report 2022: नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 31 मार्च, 2021 तक 198 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों को 2,00,419 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हुआ और इनमें से 88 कंपनियों की कुल संपत्ति घाटे के चलते पूरी तरह खत्म हो गई. केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (CPSE) की केंद्र सरकार (वाणिज्यिक) की सामान्य प्रयोजन वित्तीय रिपोर्ट-2022 की रिपोर्ट संख्या 27 गुरुवार को संसद में पेश की गई. न्यूज एजेंसी IANS की खबर के मुताबिक, इसमें कहा गया है, 31 मार्च, 2021 तक इन कंपनियों (government companies) का कुल शुद्ध मूल्य 1,13,894 करोड़ रुपये तक निगेटिव हो गया था. इन 88 कंपनियों में से सिर्फ 20 ने वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 973 करोड़ रुपये का प्रॉफिट कमाया.

453 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों से जुड़ी है रिपोर्ट

खबर के मुताबिक, यह रिपोर्ट 453 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों (छह वैधानिक निगमों सहित) और 180 सरकार-नियंत्रित दूसरी कंपनियों (government companies) से संबंधित है. कम से कम 84 सीपीएसई (सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित 23 दूसरी कंपनियों सहित) जिनके अकाउंट तीन साल या उससे ज्यादा समय से बकाया थे या परिसमापन के अधीन थे या पहले खाते देय नहीं थे, इस रिपोर्ट (CAG report 2022) में शामिल नहीं हैं.

बिजली, पेट्रोलियम और वित्तीय सेवाएं

सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों द्वारा दाखिल रिटर्न पर आधारित रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 251 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों (government enterprises) ने 2020-21 के दौरान 1,95,677 करोड़ रुपये का प्रॉफिट कमाया, जिसमें से 72 प्रतिशत (1,40,083 करोड़ रुपये) का योगदान 97 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों द्वारा किया गया. तीन क्षेत्रों - बिजली, पेट्रोलियम और वित्तीय सेवाएं. इन 251 सीपीएसई में इक्विटी पर रिटर्न (आरओई) वित्तवर्ष 2019-20 में 224 सीपीएसई में 13.54 प्रतिशत की तुलना में वित्तवर्ष 2020-21 में 16.34 प्रतिशत था.

वास्तविक रिटर्न की दर

सरकारी निवेश पर वास्तविक रिटर्न की दर (आरओआरआर) पर कैग की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इस रिपोर्ट में शामिल 633 सीपीएसई में से 195 सीपीएसई (CPSE) में केंद्र सरकार का प्रत्यक्ष निवेश है. 173 सीपीएसई (58 सूचीबद्ध सीपीएसई और 115 गैर-सूचीबद्ध सीपीएसई) के संबंध में आरओआरआर की गणना 2000-01 से ऐतिहासिक लागत पर रिटर्न की पारंपरिक दर के साथ तुलना करने के लिए की गई है.

आरओआरआर में बीते पांच साल में गिरावट का ट्रेंड

CAG रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, वित्तवर्ष 2019-20 में 46.78 प्रतिशत की ऐतिहासिक लागत पर वापसी की पारंपरिक दर की तुलना में आरओआरआर 17.52 प्रतिशत था. आरओआरआर में 2006-07 तक बढ़ता ट्रेंड दिखाई देता है, जिसके बाद पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान इसमें गिरावट शुरू हुई. वित्तवर्ष 2016-17 में 10 प्रतिशत और 2020-21 तक 23 प्रतिशत की गिरावट रही.

80,105 करोड़ रुपये का डिविडेंड

रिपोर्ट (CAG report 2022) में आगे कहा गया है कि 112 सरकारी कंपनियों (government companies) और निगमों ने वित्तवर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 80,105 करोड़ रुपये का डिविडेंड घोषित किया. इसमें से केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हासिल/लाभांश की राशि 36,982 करोड़ रुपये थी, जो

सभी सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा कुल निवेश (5,12,547 करोड़ रुपये) पर 7.22 प्रतिशत रिटर्न का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है. रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के तहत 10 सरकारी कंपनियों ने 28,388 करोड़ रुपये का योगदान दिया, जो सभी सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों द्वारा घोषित कुल लाभांश का 35.44 प्रतिशत है.

वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 173 सीपीएसई को घाटा कैग की रिपोर्ट (CAG report on government companies and enterprises) के मुताबिक, 20 सीपीएसई (CPSE) द्वारा लाभांश की घोषणा पर भारत सरकार के निर्देश का अनुपालन न करने के चलते वर्ष 2020-21 के लिए तय लाभांश के भुगतान में 9,449 करोड़ रुपये की कमी हुई. रिपोर्ट (CAG report 2022) के मुताबिक, वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 173 सीपीएसई को घाटा हुआ. वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान इन कंपनियों को हुआ घाटा 2019-20 के 67,845 करोड़ रुपये की तुलना में घटकर 42,876 करोड़ रुपये रह गया. <https://www.zeebiz.com/hindi/india/cag-report-2022-198-government-companies-and-enterprises-incurred-a-loss-of-200419-crores-check-cpse-latest-news-109841>

**15. कैग ने कहा- 198 सरकारी कंपनियों को हुआ कुल दो लाख करोड़ का नुकसान** ([jagran.com](http://jagran.com)) 23 December, 2022

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) की एक रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि 198 सरकारी कंपनियों और कारपोरेशनों का कुल नुकसान 31 मार्च, 2021 को 2,00,419 करोड़ रुपये था और इनमें से 88 कंपनियों की नेट वर्थ उनको हुए कुल नुकसान से पूरी तरह खत्म हो गई। गुरुवार को संसद के पटल पर रखी गई 'जनरल पर्पज फाइनेंशियल रिपोर्ट्स आफ सेंट्रल पब्लिक सेक्टर इंटरप्राइजेज (सीपीएसई) यूनियन गवर्नमेंट (कामर्शियल) रिपोर्ट, 2022' के मुताबिक, इन कंपनियों की कुल नेट वर्थ 31 मार्च, 2021 तक 1,13,894 करोड़ रुपये तक नकारात्मक हो गई थी। इन 88 कंपनियों में से सिर्फ 20 ने वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 973 करोड़ रुपये का लाभ कमाया।

रिपोर्ट में 453 सरकारी कंपनियों व कारपोरेशनों (छह वैधानिक कारपोरेशनों समेत) और 180 सरकार नियंत्रित अन्य कंपनियों के बारे में बताया गया है। 84 सेंट्रल पब्लिक सेक्टर इंटरप्राइजेज (23 सरकार नियंत्रित अन्य कंपनियों समेत) जिनके खाते तीन वर्ष या उससे अधिक समय से बकाये में थे या लिक्विडेशन की प्रक्रिया में थीं, वे इस रिपोर्ट में कवर नहीं की गई हैं। सरकारी कंपनियों और कारपोरेशनों से प्राप्त रिटर्न पर रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 251 सरकारी कंपनियों और कारपोरेशनों ने 2020-21 के दौरान 1,95,667 करोड़ रुपये का

लाभ कमाया, इनमें से 72 प्रतिशत (1,40,083 करोड़ रुपये) का योगदान बिजली, पेट्रोलियम व वित्तीय सेवाओं के तीन सेक्टरों की 97 कंपनियों ने दिया था।

डीआरडीओ की योजना प्रक्रिया में अक्षमताओं को किया उजागर  
कैग की 'परफारमेंस आडिट आन मैनेजमेंट एंड आउटकम आफ मिशन मोड प्रोजेक्ट्स इन डीआरडीओ' रिपोर्ट में डीआरडीओ की योजना प्रक्रिया में अक्षमताओं को उजागर किया गया है, साथ ही मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं की अपर्याप्त निगरानी के मुद्दे को भी उठाया गया है। मिशन मोड परियोजनाओं को डीआरडीओ उच्च प्राथमिकता वाली परियोजनाओं के तौर पर लेता है जो निश्चित समय में पूरा होने वाली यूजर की विशेष जरूरतों पर आधारित होती हैं। ये परियोजनाएं पहले से उपलब्ध, प्रमाणित और डीआरडीओ की पहुंच वाली तकनीकों पर आधारित होती हैं।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, तकनीक की उपलब्धता के बावजूद इन परियोजनाओं की शुरुआत और मंजूरी में काफी विलंब हुआ। 178 ऐसी परियोजनाओं में से 119 में मौलिक समयसीमा का पालन नहीं हुआ। 49 मामलों में अतिरिक्त समय मौलिक समयसीमा से सौ प्रतिशत से अधिक था। कुल मिलाकर यह विलंब 16 से 500 प्रतिशत तक था और परियोजनाओं की समयसीमा बढ़ाने की मांग कई बार की गई। जनवरी, 2010 से दिसंबर, 2019 के बीच सफल घोषित की गई 86 परियोजनाओं में से 20 में एक या एक से अधिक मुख्य लक्ष्य या मानक हासिल ही नहीं हुए। <https://www.jagran.com/news/national-cag-report-198-government-companies-suffered-a-total-loss-of-two-lakh-crores-23268355.html>

## 16. कैग रिपोर्ट:

**198 सरकारी कंपनियों/निगमों को हुआ 2,00,419 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा** ([deshbandhu.co.in](https://www.deshbandhu.co.in)) 23 December, 2022

नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 31 मार्च, 2021 तक 198 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों को 2,00,419 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हुआ और इनमें से 88 कंपनियों की कुल संपत्ति घाटे के कारण पूरी तरह खत्म हो गई। केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (सीपीएसई) की केंद्र सरकार (वाणिज्यिक) की सामान्य प्रयोजन वित्तीय रिपोर्ट-2022 की रिपोर्ट संख्या 27 गुरुवार को संसद में पेश की गई, जिसमें कहा गया है, "31 मार्च, 2021 तक इन कंपनियों का कुल शुद्ध मूल्य 1,13,894 करोड़ रुपये तक नकारात्मक हो गया था। इन 88 कंपनियों में से केवल 20 ने वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 973 करोड़ रुपये का लाभ कमाया।"

यह रिपोर्ट 453 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों (छह वैधानिक निगमों सहित) और 180 सरकार-नियंत्रित अन्य कंपनियों से संबंधित है। कम से कम 84 सीपीएसई (सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित 23 अन्य कंपनियों सहित) जिनके खाते तीन साल या उससे अधिक समय से बकाया थे या परिसमापन के अधीन थे या पहले खाते देय नहीं थे, इस रिपोर्ट में शामिल नहीं हैं।

सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों द्वारा दाखिल रिटर्न पर आधारित रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 251 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों ने 2020-21 के दौरान 1,95,677 करोड़ रुपये का लाभ कमाया, जिसमें से 72 प्रतिशत (1,40,083 करोड़ रुपये) का योगदान 97 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों द्वारा किया गया। तीन क्षेत्रों - बिजली, पेट्रोलियम और वित्तीय सेवाएं। इन 251 सीपीएसई में इक्विटी पर रिटर्न (आरओई) वित्तवर्ष 2019-20 में 224 सीपीएसई में 13.54 प्रतिशत की तुलना में वित्तवर्ष 2020-21 में 16.34 प्रतिशत था।

सरकारी निवेश पर वास्तविक रिटर्न की दर (आरओआरआर) पर कैग की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इस रिपोर्ट में शामिल 633 सीपीएसई में से 195 सीपीएसई में केंद्र सरकार का प्रत्यक्ष निवेश है। 173 सीपीएसई (58 सूचीबद्ध सीपीएसई और 115 गैर-सूचीबद्ध सीपीएसई) के संबंध में आरओआरआर की गणना 2000-01 से ऐतिहासिक लागत पर रिटर्न की पारंपरिक दर के साथ तुलना करने के लिए की गई है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वित्तवर्ष 2019-20 में 46.78 प्रतिशत की ऐतिहासिक लागत पर वापसी की पारंपरिक दर की तुलना में आरओआरआर 17.52 प्रतिशत था। आरओआरआर ने 2006-07 तक बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति दिखाई है, जिसके बाद पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान इसमें गिरावट शुरू हुई। वित्तवर्ष 2016-17 में 10 प्रतिशत और 2020-21 तक 23 प्रतिशत की गिरावट रही।

रिपोर्ट में आगे कहा गया है कि 112 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों ने वित्तवर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 80,105 करोड़ रुपये का लाभांश घोषित किया। इसमें से केंद्र सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त/प्राप्ति योग्य लाभांश की राशि 36,982 करोड़ रुपये थी, जो सभी सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा कुल निवेश (5,12,547 करोड़ रुपये) पर 7.22 प्रतिशत रिटर्न का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के तहत 10 सरकारी कंपनियों ने 28,388 करोड़ रुपये का योगदान दिया, जो सभी सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों द्वारा घोषित कुल लाभांश का 35.44 प्रतिशत है।



कैग की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, "20 सीपीएसई द्वारा लाभांश की घोषणा पर भारत सरकार के निर्देश का अनुपालन न करने के कारण वर्ष 2020-21 के लिए तय लाभांश के भुगतान में 9,449 करोड़ रुपये की कमी हुई।"

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान 173 सीपीएसई को घाटा हुआ। वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान इन कंपनियों को हुआ घाटा 2019-20 के 67,845 करोड़ रुपये की तुलना में घटकर 42,876 करोड़ रुपये रह गया। <https://www.deshbandhu.co.in/news/politics-cag-report-198-government-companiescorporations-incurred-a-loss-of-rs-200419-crore-313069-1>

**17. CAG report 2022: सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों को हुआ करोड़ों का घाटा** ([zeebiz.com](http://zeebiz.com)) 23 December, 2022

198 सरकारी कंपनियों और निगमों को हुआ 2,00,419 करोड़ का घाटा, CAG की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा

**Video Link:** <https://www.zeebiz.com/hindi/india/video-cag-report-2022-loss-of-crores-to-government-companies-and-corporations-109884>

**18. Lapses in governance norms. C&AG finds top CPSEs not following corporate governance norms** ([thehindubusinessline.com](http://thehindubusinessline.com)) December 22, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) has highlighted that some Central Public Sector Enterprises are not following provisions related to corporate governance, with half of the listed ones not having women directors on the board.

As of March 31, 2021, 717 CPSEs were under the audit jurisdiction of C&AG. These included 508 government companies, 203 government-controlled other companies, and six statutory corporations. A report tabled in the Lok Sabha dealt with 453 government companies and corporations (including six statutory corporations) and 180 government-controlled other companies. Out of these 72 CPSEs are listed.

Provisions under Companies Act 2013 mandates appointment of one woman as director on the board of listed companies. Later, regulations by SEBI (the Securities and Exchange Board of India) prescribed that the board of directors of the top 1,000 listed entities shall have at least one independent woman director by April 1, 2020. Then regulations by SEBI and guidelines by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) say where the Chairman of the Board is a Non-Executive Director, at least one-third of the Board should comprise Independent directors, and, in case he is an Executive Director, at least half of the Board should comprise of independent Directors.

#### **No women directors**

Based on information available until March 31, 2021. C&AG found that out of 72 listed CPSEs, 37 (51 per cent) have independent directors but no women directors on their board. Some of the listed companies without a woman director include NMDC Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics

Limited, IRCTC, NTPC, Power Finance, Hindustan Copper, NALCO, and Shipping Corporation, among others. However, according to SEBI guidelines, only 8 of the CPSEs included in the top 1,000 listed entities do not have independent women directors, and among them SAIL and ONGC are prominent.

C&AG said that non-executive directors were less than 50 per cent of the board strength in 32 CPSEs (44 per cent) and that the required number of independent directors had not been appointed in 59 CPSEs (82 per cent). The board is the most significant instrument of corporate governance. SEBI regulations stipulate that the Board of Directors of the company shall have an optimum combination of executive and non-executive directors, with not less than 50 per cent of the Board of Directors comprising non-executive directors. C&AG found that companies such as NMDC, HAL, Coal India, GAIL, Indian Oil, NTPC, beside others, do not have the required number of non-executive directors. Similarly, companies such as NMDC, HAL, Oil India, GAIL, NHPC, NTPC, Shipping Corporation, and ONGC, beside others, do not have the required number of independent directors.

Another important provision related with corporate governance, as prescribed by SEBI, stipulates that the Board of Directors of the top 2,000 listed entities shall comprise not less than six directors. However, the criteria of minimum of six directors was not met in 15 out of the 70 (21 per cent) listed CPSEs (part of the top 2000 listed entities). Out of 70 CPSEs (part of the top 2000 listed entities), 17 CPSEs (24 per cent) have an insufficient quorum of directors at the board meeting, including at least one independent director. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/cag-finds-top-cpses-not-following-corporate-governance-norms/article66292550.ece>

**19. Four CPSEs extended Rs 2,609 cr worth undue benefits to execs: CAG report** ([business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)) December 22, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has unearthed Rs 2,609 crore worth “undue benefit” extended to executives by four central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL (India), and ONGC Videsh (OVL).

In a compliance audit report tabled in Parliament, the CAG said by paying “running and maintenance” of vehicles to its executives based on their position, CPSEs have violated Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines.

IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, and OVL kept a fixed amount of Rs 800 per month as transport allowance, which was included under the so-called “cafeteria approach”, out of total Conveyance Maintenance Reimbursement Expenditure (CMRE).

A cafeteria approach is personalised plan allowed by employers to accommodate employees’ preferences for benefits. In 2017, the DPE issued guidelines stating that perks and allowances admissible to different categories of executives under ‘cafeteria approach’ would be subject to a maximum ceiling of 35 per cent of the basic pay.

The CAG held that the payment of “running and maintenance” expenses of vehicles over and above the 35 per cent ceiling of cafeteria approach was in violation of DPE guidelines and thus has resulted in the extension of undue benefits to executives.

“The employees are paid CMRE for personal vehicles on the basis of their level in organisation and not on actual basis and, therefore, does not qualify as reimbursement. As such the payment of CMRE falls under the category of allowance rather than reimbursement and should have been included in the cafeteria approach,” the CAG stated.

The CAG recommended that these CPSEs should discontinue reimbursement of “running and maintenance” expenses of vehicles as it violates DPE guidelines.

The CPSEs claimed that CRME is more economical and administratively convenient than hiring vehicles for conveyance.

“The company’s contention that it is making the payment of CRME purely for operational activities could not be justified as it has also been making additional payment on account of local conveyance charges to its executives for their local movement beyond 15 km apart from hiring vehicles on annual contract basis for all its departments/ locations for day-to-day activities,” said the CAG in the report.

From April 2009 to October 2021, IOCL paid Rs 1,447.72 crore and GAIL paid Rs 414.66 crore towards CRME to its executives over and above the transport allowance.

During 2018-19 to 2020-21, ONGC paid Rs 732.93 crore towards CMRE to its executives. OVL paid Rs 14.16 crore towards CMRE to its executives during 2017-18-2021-22 (October 21).

These CPSEs cited the Gujarat High Court judgment that stated reimbursement or actual amount incurred by the employer on the vehicle of an employee, used for official purposes, can’t be treated as taxable perquisite.

However, the CAG said that the argument by these CPSEs need to be viewed as per income tax rules which require that a certificate to the effect that the expenditure was incurred for the performance of official duties, for the amount to qualify as reimbursement. “The same is not being maintained by the Company as well as there is no instruction from the company to its executives for maintaining the same,” it added. [https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/four-cpses-extended-undue-benefits-to-execs-worth-rs-2-609-cr-cag-report-122122201035\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/four-cpses-extended-undue-benefits-to-execs-worth-rs-2-609-cr-cag-report-122122201035_1.html)

**20. चार फर्मों ने अधिकारियों को 2609 करोड़ रुपए का अनुचित लाभ पहुंचाया: कैग रिपोर्ट** ([punjabkesari.in](http://punjabkesari.in), [hindi.business-standard.com](http://hindi.business-standard.com)) 23 December, 2022

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी) लिमिटेड, ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) लिमिटेड, गेल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड, और ओएनजीसी विदेश लिमिटेड (ओवीएल) जैसे चार केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों (सीपीएसई) द्वारा अधिकारियों को 2609 करोड़ रुपए के अनुचित लाभ पहुंचाने का पर्दाफाश किया है।

संसद में पेश एक अनुपालन ऑडिट रिपोर्ट में कैंग ने कहा कि, सीपीएसई ने अपने अधिकारियों को उनके पद के आधार पर वाहनों के चलाने और रखरखाव का भुगतान करके लोक उद्यम विभाग (डीपीई) के दिशानिर्देशों का उल्लंघन किया है। आईओसीएल, ओएनजीसी, गेल और ओवीएल ने परिवहन भत्ता के रूप में प्रति माह 800 रुपए की एक निश्चित राशि रखी थी, जिसे तथाकथित कैफेटेरिया अप्रोच के तहत वाहन के आवाजाही और रख-रखाव से जुड़े प्रतिपूर्ति व्यय (सीएमआरई) में से शामिल किया गया था।

एक कैफेटेरिया अप्रोच व्यक्तिगत योजना है जो नियोक्ताओं द्वारा लाभ के लिए कर्मचारियों की वरीयताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए दी जाती है। 2017 में, डीपीई ने यह कहते हुए दिशानिर्देश जारी किए कि 'कैफेटेरिया अप्रोच' के तहत अधिकारियों को दी जाने वाली विभिन्न श्रेणियों की सुविधाओं और भत्तों की अधिकतम सीमा मूल वेतन की 35 फीसदी ही होगी।

कैंग ने कहा कि वाहनों को चलाने और रखरखाव के लिए खर्च कैफेटेरिया एप्रोच की 35 फीसदी से अधिक था, जो कि डीपीई दिशानिर्देशों खिलाफ था। इसके कारण अधिकारियों को कंपनियों द्वारा अनुचित लाभ पहुंचाया गया। कैंग ने रिपोर्ट में कहा कि कर्मचारियों को व्यक्तिगत वाहनों के लिए सीएमआरई का भुगतान संगठन में उनके पद के आधार पर किया जाता है न कि वास्तविक आधार पर और इसलिए प्रतिपूर्ति के रूप में योग्य नहीं है। सीएमआरई का भुगतान प्रतिपूर्ति के बजाय भत्ते की श्रेणी में आता है और इसे कैफेटेरिया अप्रोच में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।

कैंग ने सिफारिश की कि सीपीएसई को वाहनों के 'चलाने और रखरखाव' के खर्च की प्रतिपूर्ति बंद कर देनी चाहिए क्योंकि यह डीपीई दिशानिर्देशों का उल्लंघन है। सीपीएसई ने दावा किया कि वाहन किराए पर लेने की बजाय सीआरएमई अधिक किफायती और प्रशासनिक रूप से सुविधाजनक है।

कैंग ने रिपोर्ट में कहा कि कंपनी का तर्क है कि यह पूरी तरह से परिचालन गतिविधियों के लिए सीआरएमई का भुगतान कर रही है, इसे उचित नहीं ठहराया जा सकता है क्योंकि, ये फर्म अपने अधिकारियों के दैनिक गतिविधियों के लिए अपने सभी विभागों/स्थानों के लिए अनुबंध के तहत वार्षिक आधार पर वाहन किराए पर लेने के अलावा 15 किलोमीटर से अधिक स्थानीय आवाजाही के लिए स्थानीय परिवहन शुल्क के रूप में अतिरिक्त भुगतान कर रही है। अप्रैल 2009 से अक्टूबर 2021 की अवधि के दौरान, आईओसीएल ने 1,447.72 करोड़ रुपए का भुगतान किया और गेल ने अपने अधिकारियों को परिवहन भत्ते के अलावा सीआरएमई को 414.66 करोड़ रुपए का भुगतान

क्रिया। <https://www.punjabkesari.in/business/news/four-firms-gave-undue-favors-of-rs-2-609-crore-to-officials-cag-report-1739263>

## 21. CAG flags ‘irregularities’ in Lalit Kala Akademi; ‘wrong and fabricated’, says art

institution ([ptinews.com](http://ptinews.com), [theprint.in](http://theprint.in), [newindianexpress.com](http://newindianexpress.com), [theweek.in](http://theweek.in), [etvbharat.com](http://etvbharat.com), [latestly.com](http://latestly.com), [devdiscourse.com](http://devdiscourse.com)) 23 December, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged serious financial “irregularities” in the Lalit Kala Akademi, according to officials in the know of the audit observation. The audit observation of LKA, a prestigious art institution under the Culture Ministry to promote visual arts in India, by the CAG for a period from 2016-17 to 2021-22 points out various anomalies in violation of the government’s general financial rules.

According to the officials, the report alleges that LKA disregarded several norms in making payments to other bodies, appointing officers, availing services from outside agencies and assigning a foreign tour, among other anomalies. While LKA chairman Uma Nanduri, who is also joint secretary in the Ministry of Culture, refused to respond, Ramakrishna Vedala, secretary (in-charge) of LKA, has rubbished the audit observation calling it “wrong and fabricated”.

The CAG sent the audit observation to the LKA in October 2022 for its response. The LKA has further forwarded it to the ministry, which is yet to revert to the Akademi. After the ministry’s response, the LKA will send it to CAG which will compile and table it in the Parliament.

The CAG has alleged that LKA didn’t receive utilisation certificates from various institutions for an amount of Rs 2,568.66 lakh from 1997-98 to 2021-22.

“Akademi needs to take effective measures to ensure that the utilisation certificates (UCs) are received and also ensure that funds have actually been utilised for the purpose for which they have been released...”, the report said.

“The quality of maintenance of records was very poor. There was no evidence regarding sincere action taken by the Akademi to reduce the number of outstanding UCs,” it added.

It has also flagged the irregularities in hiring and deployment of vehicles, engaging legal counsels, purchase and distribution of laptops, and undue favours to contractors, among other violations.

Questioning the Akademi’s decision to advertise through private agencies, the report said, “The imprudent decision of awarding the work of publishing advertisements of LKA through a private agency and without following the prescribed norms was highly irregular.” Alleging that Vadela himself travelled to Mexico in 2019 without any approval from the competent authorities, the report suggested, “An ex-post facto sanction may be obtained from the ministry or the amount may be recovered from the concerned official.” It also indicated irregularities in appointment of an assistant programme officer (APO) and said that the present APO doesn’t fulfil the eligibility conditions.

Vedala dismissed all allegations and said that there is no corruption in LKA. He defended the LKA's decision in all the matters and said that everything has been done as per the norms.

“Government organisations give utilisation certificates late. We are in the process of getting those certificates. Where is corruption in that? The APO's appointment is as per the recruitment rules. There is no violation in anything,” Vedala said.

When asked that the CAG's audit observation has questioned the hiring and deployment of vehicles worth Rs 54.76 lakh from 2016-17 to 2021-22 without adopting limited/open tender enquiry, Vedala said, “If we are doing programmes and if our staff are going here and there to achieve objectives of Lalit Kala Akademi on various projects like doing visual arts camps, can't we hire vehicles? Are the staff not eligible to go here and there to get the work done?” Situated in New Delhi, LKA was inaugurated on August 5, 1954 by the then education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to promote visual arts. Three years later in 1957, it was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and at present it has seven other centres in the country. <https://theprint.in/india/cag-flags-irregularities-in-lalit-kala-akademi-wrong-and-fabricated-says-art-institution/1278294/>

## **22. "Wrong," Says Lalit Kala Akademi after Auditor Flags "Irregularities" (ndtv.com) 23 Dec 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged serious financial "irregularities" in the Lalit Kala Akademi, according to officials in the know of the audit observation. The audit observation of LKA, a prestigious art institution under the Culture Ministry to promote visual arts in India, by the CAG for a period from 2016-17 to 2021-22 points out various anomalies in violation of the government's general financial rules.

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The CAG sent the audit observation to the LKA in October 2022 for its response. The LKA has further forwarded it to the ministry, which is yet to revert to the Akademi. After the ministry's response, the LKA will send it to CAG which will compile and table it in the Parliament.

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“Akademi needs to take effective measures to ensure that the utilisation certificates (UCs) are received and also ensure that funds have actually been utilised for the purpose for which they have been released...”, the report said.

“The quality of maintenance of records was very poor. There was no evidence regarding sincere action taken by the Akademi to reduce the number of outstanding UCs,” it added.

It has also flagged the irregularities in hiring and deployment of vehicles, engaging legal counsels, purchase and distribution of laptops, and undue favours to contractors, among other violations.

Questioning the Akademi's decision to advertise through private agencies, the report said, "The imprudent decision of awarding the work of publishing advertisements of LKA through a private agency and without following the prescribed norms was highly irregular." Alleging that Vadela himself travelled to Mexico in 2019 without any approval from the competent authorities, the report suggested, "An ex-post facto sanction may be obtained from the ministry or the amount may be recovered from the concerned official." It also indicated irregularities in appointment of an assistant programme officer (APO) and said that the present APO doesn't fulfil the eligibility conditions.

Vedala dismissed all allegations and said that there is no corruption in LKA. He defended the LKA's decision in all the matters and said that everything has been done as per the norms.

"Government organisations give utilisation certificates late. We are in the process of getting those certificates. Where is corruption in that? The APO's appointment is as per the recruitment rules. There is no violation in anything," Vedala said.

When asked that the CAG's audit observation has questioned the hiring and deployment of vehicles worth ₹ 54.76 lakh from 2016-17 to 2021-22 without adopting limited/open tender enquiry, Vedala said, "If we are doing programmes and if our staff are going here and there to achieve objectives of Lalit Kala Akademi on various projects like doing visual arts camps, can't we hire vehicles? Are the staff not eligible to go here and there to get the work done?" Situated in New Delhi, LKA was inaugurated on August 5, 1954 by the then education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to promote visual arts. Three years later in 1957, it was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and at present it has seven other centres in the country. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cag-flags-irregularities-in-lalit-kala-akademi-wrong-and-fabricated-says-art-institution-3631401>

### **23. CAG Points Out Financial Irregularities In Lalit Kala Akademi, LKA Calls It 'Wrong & Fabricated' ([news.abplive.com](https://news.abplive.com)) 23 Dec 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged serious financial "irregularities" in the Lalit Kala Akademi, according to officials in the know of the audit observation. The audit observation of LKA, a prestigious art institution under the Culture Ministry to promote visual arts in India, by the CAG for a period from 2016-17 to 2021-22 points out various anomalies in violation of the government's general financial rules.

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**24. कैग ने ललित कला अकादमी में 'अनियमितताएं' उजागर की, संस्थान ने उन्हें खारिज**

**किया** ([hindi.theprint.in](https://hindi.theprint.in), [latestly.com](https://latestly.com), [bhasha.ptinews.com](https://bhasha.ptinews.com), [hindi.newsclick.in](https://hindi.newsclick.in), [amritvihar.com](https://amritvihar.com)) Dec 23, 2022



नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक ने ललित कला अकादमी (एलकेए) में गंभीर वित्तीय 'अनियमितताएं' उजागर की हैं। कैंग अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी।

कैंग की यह टिप्पणी 2016-17 से 2021-22 के बीच संस्कृति मंत्रालय के तहत प्रतिष्ठित कला संस्थान, ललित कला अकादमी में सरकार के सामान्य वित्तीय नियमों को धत्ता बताते हुए कई अनियमितताएं बरते जाने का संकेत करती है।

अधिकारियों के अनुसार रिपोर्ट में आरोप लगाया गया है कि एलकेए ने अन्य निकायों को भुगतान करने, अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करने, बाहरी एजेंसियों की सेवाएं लेने, विदेश यात्रा की मंजूरी देने में कई नियमों की अनदेखी की।

अकादमी की अध्यक्ष एवं संस्कृति मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव उमा नंदूरी ने इस संबंध में कुछ भी कहने से इनकार कर दिया जबकि अकादमी के सचिव (प्रभारी) रामकृष्ण वेदाला ने कैंग की टिप्पणी को ' गलत एवं मनगढंत' करार देते हुए खारिज कर दिया।

कैंग ने अपनी टिप्पणी अक्टूबर 2022 में अकादमी के पास उसकी प्रतिक्रिया के लिए भेजी थी। अकादमी ने उसे मंत्रालय के पास अग्रसारित कर दिया जिसने अब तक उसे अकादमी को नहीं लौटाया है।

मंत्रालय के जवाब के बाद एलकेए इसे कैंग को भेजेगा जो इसे संकलित कर संसद के पटल पर रखेगी।

कैंग ने आरोप लगाया है कि एलकेए ने 1997-98 से 2021-22 तक 2,568.66 लाख रुपये के संदर्भ में विभिन्न संस्थानों से उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्र हासिल नहीं किये।

कैंग की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, " अकादमी को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाने की जरूरत है कि उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र (यूसी) हासिल किये जाएं । उसे यह भी सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है कि जिस उद्देश्य के लिए धनराशि जारी किया गया है, उसका उपयोग वाकई उस उद्देश्य के लिए किया जाए।"

उसमें कहा गया है, " रिकार्ड के रखरखाव की गुणवत्ता बहुत खराब है। लंबित यूसी की संख्या घटाने के लिए अकादमी की ओर से वास्तविक कदम उठाये जाने का कोई सबूत नहीं है।"

कैग ने यह भी कहा है कि वाहनों को भाड़े पर लेने , वकीलों की सेवा लेने, लैपटॉप की खरीद एवं वितरण में भी अनियमितताएं बरती गयीं तथा ठेकेदारों के साथ अनुचित पक्षपात किया गया।

उसकी रिपोर्ट में आरोप लगाया गया है कि वेदाला ने खुद सक्षम प्राधिकार से अनुमति के बगैर ही 2019 में मैक्सिको की यात्रा की। उसमें कहा गया है, “इस संबंध में मंत्रालय से कार्योत्तर स्वीकृति ली जा सकती है या संबद्ध अधिकारी से धनराशि की वसूली की जा सकती है।”

वेदाला ने सभी आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया और कहा कि अकादमी में कोई भ्रष्टाचार नहीं है। उन्होंने सभी मामलों में अकादमी के निर्णय का बचाव किया और कहा कि हर चीज नियमानुकूल की गयी।

उन्होंने कहा, “ सरकारी संगठन देर से उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्र देते हैं। हम इन प्रमाणपत्रों को हासिल करने में लगे हैं। उसमें भ्रष्टाचार कहा है।....” <https://hindi.theprint.in/india/cag-exposes-irregularities-in-lalit-kala-akademi-institute-dismisses-them/444405/>

**25. कैग ने कला अकादमी में 'अनियमितताएं' को उजागर किया, संस्थान ने रिपोर्ट को खारिज किया** ([livehindustan.com](http://livehindustan.com)) Dec 23, 2022

नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक ने ललित कला अकादमी (एलकेए) में गंभीर वित्तीय 'अनियमितताएं' उजागर की हैं। कैग अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी।

कैग की यह टिप्पणी 2016-17 से 2021-22 के बीच संस्कृति मंत्रालय के तहत प्रतिष्ठित कला संस्थान, ललित कला अकादमी में सरकार के सामान्य वित्तीय नियमों को धता बताते हुए कई अनियमितताएं बरते जाने का संकेत करती है।

अधिकारियों के अनुसार रिपोर्ट में आरोप लगाया गया है कि एलकेए ने अन्य निकायों को भुगतान करने, अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करने, बाहरी एजेंसियों की सेवाएं लेने, विदेश यात्रा की मंजूरी देने में कई नियमों की अनदेखी की।

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कैग ने अपनी टिप्पणी अक्टूबर 2022 में अकादमी के पास उसकी प्रतिक्रिया के लिए भेजी थी। अकादमी ने उसे मंत्रालय के पास अग्रसारित कर दिया जिसने अब तक उसे अकादमी को नहीं लौटाया है।

मंत्रालय के जवाब के बाद एलकेए इसे कैग को भेजेगा जो इसे संकलित कर संसद के पटल पर रखेगी।

कैग ने आरोप लगाया है कि एलकेए ने 1997-98 से 2021-22 तक 2,568.66 लाख रुपये के संदर्भ में विभिन्न संस्थानों से उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्र हासिल नहीं किये।

कैग की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, “ अकादमी को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाने की जरूरत है कि उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र (यूसी) हासिल किये जाएं । उसे यह भी सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है कि जिस उद्देश्य के लिए धनराशि जारी किया गया है, उसका उपयोग वाकई उस उद्देश्य के लिए किया जाए।”

उसमें कहा गया है, “ रिकार्ड के रखरखाव की गुणवत्ता बहुत खराब है। लंबित यूसी की संख्या घटाने के लिए अकादमी की ओर से वास्तविक कदम उठाये जाने का कोई सबूत नहीं है।”

कैग ने यह भी कहा है कि वाहनों को भाड़े पर लेने , वकीलों की सेवा लेने, लैपटॉप की खरीद एवं वितरण में भी अनियमितताएं बरती गयीं तथा ठेकेदारों के साथ अनुचित पक्षपात किया गया।

उसकी रिपोर्ट में आरोप लगाया गया है कि वेदाला ने खुद सक्षम प्राधिकार से अनुमति के बगैर ही 2019 में मैक्सिको की यात्रा की। उसमें कहा गया है, “इस संबंध में मंत्रालय से कार्योत्तर स्वीकृति ली जा सकती है या संबद्ध अधिकारी से धनराशि की वसूली की जा सकती है।”

वेदाला ने सभी आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया और कहा कि अकादमी में कोई भ्रष्टाचार नहीं है। उन्होंने सभी मामलों में अकादमी के निर्णय का बचाव किया और कहा कि हर चीज नियमानुकूल की गयी।

उन्होंने कहा, “ सरकारी संगठन देर से उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्र देते हैं। हम इन प्रमाणपत्रों को हासिल करने में लगे हैं। उसमें भ्रष्टाचार कहां है।...”<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/story-cag-flags-irregularities-in-lalit-kala-akademi-wrong-and-fabricated-says-art-institution-7529371.html>

26. CAG ने ललित कला अकादमी में वित्तीय अनियमितताओं की ओर इशारा किया, LKA ने इसे गलत और मनगढ़ंत बताया ([thenewsocian.in](http://thenewsocian.in)) Dec 23, 2022

लेखापरीक्षा टिप्पणियों से अवगत अधिकारियों के अनुसार, नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने ललित कला अकादमी में गंभीर वित्तीय “अनियमितताओं” को चिन्हित किया है। 2016-17 से 2021-22 की अवधि के लिए CAG द्वारा भारत में दृश्य कला को बढ़ावा देने के लिए संस्कृति मंत्रालय के तहत एक प्रतिष्ठित कला संस्थान LKA का ऑडिट अवलोकन सरकार के सामान्य वित्तीय नियमों के उल्लंघन में विभिन्न विसंगतियों को इंगित करता है।

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, रिपोर्ट में आरोप लगाया गया है कि एलकेए ने अन्य निकायों को भुगतान करने, अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करने, बाहरी एजेंसियों से सेवाओं का लाभ उठाने और अन्य विसंगतियों के बीच एक विदेशी दौरा आवंटित करने में कई मानदंडों की अवहेलना की है। एलकेए की अध्यक्ष उमा नंदूरी, जो संस्कृति मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव भी हैं, ने जवाब देने से इनकार कर दिया, एलकेए के सचिव (प्रभारी) रामकृष्ण वेदला ने ऑडिट अवलोकन को “गलत और मनगढ़ंत” बताते हुए खारिज कर दिया।

कैग ने अपनी प्रतिक्रिया के लिए अक्टूबर 2022 में एलकेए को ऑडिट अवलोकन भेजा। एलकेए ने इसे आगे मंत्रालय को भेज दिया है, जिसे अभी अकादमी को वापस करना है। मंत्रालय के जवाब के बाद एलकेए इसे सीएजी को भेजेगा जो इसे संकलित कर संसद के पटल पर रखेगी।

CAG ने आरोप लगाया है कि LKA को 1997-98 से 2021-22 तक 2,568.66 लाख रुपये की राशि के लिए विभिन्न संस्थानों से उपयोग प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त नहीं हुए।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, “अकादमी को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रभावी उपाय करने की आवश्यकता है कि उपयोग प्रमाण पत्र (यूसी) प्राप्त किए गए हैं और यह भी सुनिश्चित किया जाए कि धन वास्तव में उसी उद्देश्य के लिए उपयोग किया गया है जिसके लिए उन्हें जारी किया गया है ...”।

“रिकॉर्ड के रखरखाव की गुणवत्ता बहुत खराब थी। बकाया यूसी की संख्या को कम करने के लिए अकादमी द्वारा की गई गंभीर कार्रवाई के संबंध में कोई सबूत नहीं था।

इसने वाहनों को किराए पर लेने और तैनात करने, कानूनी सलाहकारों को नियुक्त करने, लैपटॉप की खरीद और वितरण, और अन्य उल्लंघनों के साथ ठेकेदारों को अनुचित लाभ देने में अनियमितताओं को भी चिन्हित किया है।

निजी एजेंसियों के माध्यम से विज्ञापन देने के अकादमी के फैसले पर सवाल उठाते हुए, रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, “निजी एजेंसी के माध्यम से और निर्धारित मानदंडों का पालन किए बिना एलकेए के विज्ञापन प्रकाशित करने का काम देने का अविवेकपूर्ण निर्णय अत्यधिक अनियमित था।” यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि वेदला ने खुद 2019 में सक्षम अधिकारियों से किसी अनुमोदन के बिना मैक्सिको की यात्रा की, रिपोर्ट ने सुझाव दिया, “मंत्रालय से कार्योंतर मंजूरी प्राप्त की जा सकती है या संबंधित अधिकारी से राशि वसूल की जा सकती है।” इसने सहायक कार्यक्रम अधिकारी (एपीओ) की नियुक्ति में भी अनियमितताओं का संकेत दिया और कहा कि वर्तमान एपीओ पात्रता शर्तों को पूरा नहीं करता है।

वेदला ने सभी आरोपों को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि एलकेए में कोई भ्रष्टाचार नहीं है। उन्होंने सभी मामलों में एलकेए के फैसले का बचाव किया और कहा कि सब कुछ नियमों के मुताबिक किया गया है।

“सरकारी संगठन उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र देर से देते हैं। हम उन प्रमाणपत्रों को प्राप्त करने की प्रक्रिया में हैं। इसमें भ्रष्टाचार कहां है? एपीओ की नियुक्ति भर्ती नियमों के अनुसार होती है। किसी भी चीज का उल्लंघन नहीं है।’

यह पूछे जाने पर कि कैग के ऑडिट अवलोकन में 2016-17 से 2021-22 तक सीमित/खुली निविदा जांच को अपनाए बिना 54.76 लाख रुपये के वाहनों को किराए पर लेने और तैनात करने पर सवाल उठाया गया है, वेदला ने कहा, “यदि हम कार्यक्रम कर रहे हैं और यदि हमारे कर्मचारी जा रहे हैं ललित कला अकादमी के विभिन्न परियोजनाओं जैसे दृश्य कला शिविर लगाने के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए इधर-उधर, क्या हम वाहन किराए पर नहीं ले सकते? क्या कर्मचारी काम करवाने के लिए इधर-उधर जाने के योग्य नहीं हैं?” नई दिल्ली में स्थित, LKA का उद्घाटन 5 अगस्त, 1954 को तत्कालीन शिक्षा मंत्री मौलाना अबुल कलाम आज़ाद ने दृश्य कला को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किया था। तीन साल बाद 1957 में, इसे सोसायटी पंजीकरण अधिनियम 1860 के तहत पंजीकृत किया गया और वर्तमान में देश में इसके सात अन्य केंद्र हैं। <https://www.thenewsocean.in/cag-%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%87-%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%85%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A6%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%80-%E0%A4%AE%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%82-%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%A4/>

**27. CBI files charge sheet in probe linked to its ex-chief Ranjit Sinha** ([hindustantimes.com](http://hindustantimes.com)) Dec 23, 2022

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet in its 2017 probe pertaining to allegations that its former director Ranjit Sinha, while heading the agency, met some of the

accused in a United Progressive Alliance-era coal block allocation case, aiming to “scuttle” or “influence” the cases, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Sinha died in April 2021 due to Covid-19 related complications and the charges against him have been abated. However, a legal officer of CBI and some individuals, who were beneficiaries in the improper allocation of coal blocks and allegedly met Sinha, have been named in the charge sheet said one person familiar with the case, who asked not to be named.

“The charge sheet has been filed against an additional legal advisor (ALA) and some beneficiaries ,” added this person, a CBI officer.

CBI refused to divulge names of those accused in the charge sheet, filed this week in a special court in Delhi.

Sinha, who headed the agency from 2012 to 2014, was named an accused in the CBI First Information Report (FIR), filed on April 24, 2017, to probe allegations of “scuttling” and “influencing” probe into the coal block allocation cases by meeting the accused.

Allegations against the former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer surfaced when a ‘visitors’ diary revealed that Sinha “privately” met some of the high profile accused at his official residence in Delhi several times.

Following a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report in 2012, which stated that there was a loss of ₹1.86 lakh crore in allocation of blocks to private companies by the coal ministry, the Supreme Court in 2014 cancelled all 214 coal block allocations on the grounds of arbitrariness and legal flaws.

After the allegations about Ranjit Sinha meeting the accused were brought to the notice of the Supreme Court by advocate Prashant Bhushan, the top court held that it was completely inappropriate for the CBI chief to have done so without the investigating officer or team being present .

The apex court, in May 2015, stated that it was necessary to look into the question whether any one or more such meetings of Sinha with accused persons without the investigating officer have had any impact on the investigations and subsequent charge sheets or closure reports filed by CBI.

On September 21, 2015, the apex court constituted a team headed by former Special Director of CBI , M L Sharma to enquire into the matter.

After Sharma submitted his report, the SC constituted “a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by CBI Director on January 23, 2017 to look into the report prepared by Sharma and other relevant documents and conduct an investigation into the abuse of authority prima facie by Sinha with a view to scuttle inquiries, investigations and prosecutions being carried out by the CBI in coal block allocation cases”, according to the CBI FIR filed in 2017.

CBI booked Sinha under “criminal misconduct” and section 13 (1) (d), pertaining to abusing official position while holding a public office and indulging in corruption, of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act.

Ranjit Sinha was the second CBI director to be probed by agency itself after AP Singh, who was booked by the agency for corruption charges along with meat exporter Moin Qureshi (in February 2017). <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cbi-files-charge-sheet-in-probe-linked-to-its-ex-chief-ranjit-sinha-101671744669215.html>

## **STATES NEWS ITEMS**

**28. Bhopal: Over 25 departments fail to use supplementary grants, according to CAG report ([freepressjournal.in](http://freepressjournal.in)) 23 Dec 2022**

More than 25 departments of the Madhya Pradesh government have failed to utilise the funds allocated to them under the supplementary budget in the 2021-22 fiscal.

This fact came to light in the appropriation accounts report-2021-22 prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). The report was tabled in the MP House on Wednesday.

The government departments seek supplementary grants to fill the financial gap because of inaccurate estimation of the main budget.

The CAG report has highlighted the fact that most of the departments have failed to spend the funds allocated under the main budget, besides the grants they received under the supplementary accounts.

According to sources, the funds, sanctioned for the welfare schemes run for the Other Backward classes (OBC), the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) people, remained unutilised.

According to the CAG report, a sum of Rs 80.95 crore was sanctioned from the supplementary budget for the department that handles the ST/SC and OBC welfare schemes. Nevertheless, it failed to spend Rs 70.90 crore.

The department also failed to provide scholarship to the students of class 11 and class 12 and those who study in degree colleges.

A sum of Rs 92.40 crore was allocated for scholarship, but only an amount of Rs 72.94 crore was distributed. The department failed to disburse Rs 19.54 crore.

Similarly, a sum of Rs 64.6 crore was allocated to set up girls' hostels in the districts, but the department spent only Rs 32.8 crore. A sum of Rs 31.8 crore remained unspent. Besides Rs 3.20 crore set aside for training of SC/ST youths remained unutilised, the report says.

Police department, too, fails to spend funds

The state government allocated a huge amount for the police department under the supplementary budget. An amount of Rs 15 crore and a sum of Rs 50 lakh were given to the department in August and in December last year, but the department could not spend the money. According to the CAG report, the department also failed to utilise the funds allocated to the department under the main budget. Similarly, a sum of Rs 42 lakh was given to the

narcotics branch, but the department did not use it. A sum of Rs 1.50 was allocated to modernise the Nagar Sena, but not a single penny was spent.

As the expenses were less than the provisions made in the budget, supplementary grant of Rs 100 crore given in the month of December 21 was unnecessary, according to CAG report. Apart from that, the department has failed to spend Rs 204 crore under the main budget. <https://www.freepressjournal.in/bhopal/bhopal-over-25-departments-fail-to-use-supplementary-grants-according-to-cag-report>

**29. 31 हजार करोड़ का हिसाब नहीं दिया 29 विभागों ने - कैग ने जताई कड़ी आपत्ति** ([yashbharat.co.in](http://yashbharat.co.in)) 23 Dec 2022

भोपाल । मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के 29 विभागों ने 30926.48 करोड़ रुपये का हिसाब ऑडिट के दौरान नहीं दिया। 2021-22 में व्यव किए गए उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र भी नहीं दिया गया। महालेखा परीक्षक ने अनुदान राशि के दुरुपयोग और धोखाधड़ी की आशंका जाहिर की है।

वर्ष 2021-22 के खर्च के ऑडिट में यह जानकारी सामने आई है। ऑडिट में 20114 उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र दिए जाने थे। राज्य के निकायों तथा प्राधिकरण ने उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र भी प्रस्तुत नहीं किए। 30926 करोड़ रुपए की राशि किस उद्देश्य के लिए ली गई थी। कहां खर्च की गई है। इसका भी हिसाब किताब महालेखा नियंत्रक को नहीं मिला।

### महालेखा परीक्षक की कड़ी आपत्ति

महालेखा परीक्षक की रिपोर्ट में 29 विभागों ने 2 साल से खर्च का कोई हिसाब ही नहीं दिया। वर्ष 2021 की अवधि तक के बकाया की उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र से संबंधित 3933। 99 करोड़ रुपये समायोजित कर दिए गए। इसी तरह से वर्ष 2020 -21 में 15553.96 करोड़ के 19600 उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र और वर्ष 2021 -22 में 15392.52 करोड़ रुपए के उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र ऑडिट के दौरान नहीं दिए गए। महालेखा परीक्षक ने बड़े पैमाने पर गबन और घोटाले की आशंका जताई है। <https://yashbharat.co.in/31-%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%9C%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B0-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%A1%E0%A4%BC-%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE-%E0%A4%B9%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%AC-%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%B9%E0%A5%80%E0%A4%82-%E0%A4%A6/>

**30. Rs 108 cr diverted from CM's Nagarothana scheme: CAG** ([deccanherald.com](http://deccanherald.com)) 23 Dec 2022

The city corporations of Ballari, Tumakuru and Vijayapura “diverted” Rs 108.75 crore of funds meant for the Chief Minister’s Nagarothana scheme towards other projects in contravention of guidelines, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has said.



The CAG's performance audit on the Nagarothana scheme (phase-3) for city corporations was tabled in the Karnataka Assembly on Friday.

The Nagarothana scheme (phase-3) was launched at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore to upgrade infrastructure in 10 city corporations, with each one getting Rs 100 crore. The performance audit covered the period 2014-15 to 2020-21 in Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Vijayapura.

According to the CAG findings, civic bodies at Ballari, Tumakuru and Vijayapura diverted Rs 108.75 crore towards "paying their contribution amounts for other schemes (AMRUT, Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana and 24\*7 water supply) or on works being executed under other grants".

This "deprived the city corporations the full benefit which was to be accrued from the scheme", the CAG said.

Rejecting the government's claim that this was not a "diversion" but utilisation of funds towards other schemes, the CAG said, "...scheme guidelines specifically prohibited funding of works taken up under other schemes. Reply was also silent regarding utilisation of scheme funds for ineligible components such as payment of land compensation, construction of building etc."

'Undue favour'

The appointment of three project management consultants (PMC) for Belagavi, Davangere, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Tumakuru and Vijayapura was "incorrect", the CAG said. The "undue favour" led to works worth Rs 14.63 crore being awarded to these "ineligible" consultants, it said.

Civil Technologies India Pvt Ltd, CADD Station Technologies Pvt Ltd and Infra Support Engineering Consultants Pvt Ltd did not meet the selection criteria and "were liable to be rejected".

The government said that some minor qualification criteria were "relaxed" to "create competitiveness and complete the project within the stipulated time". The CAG rejected this as "factually incorrect" as the criteria were mandatory. <https://www.deccanherald.com/state/rs-108-cr-diverted-from-cm-s-nagarothana-scheme-cag-1174336.html>

### **31. CAG flags diversion of funds, delay in execution of works in Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Vijayapura ([thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)) 23 Dec 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has said that four city corporations in Karnataka — Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Vijayapura — diverted funds amounting to ₹108.75 crore (40% of total expenditure of ₹269.28 crore) under the Mukhyamantrigala (CM's) Nagarothana Yojane towards other works.

The civic bodies did not give wide publicity to tenders and awarded works without inviting fresh tenders in cases of insufficient participation of bidders. The corporations of Ballari and Mysuru awarded six (19%) out of 31 packages to ineligible contractors. The the civic corporations of Ballari, Mysuru, and Tumakuru awarded contracts in 18 (42%) out of 43 packages after the expiry of bid validity, according to the report of the CAG on performance

audit of Mukhyamantrigala Nagorathana Yojane (Phase-III) for city corporations, for the year ending March 2021.

The report was tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on December 23.

The cost of 70% of works in the four corporations was less than the mandated minimum cost of ₹50 lakh. “The civic corporations failed to create tangible assets as the cost of majority of the works was less than the prescribed limit of ₹50 lakh,” according to the report. Incorrect technical evaluation by Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) led to project management consultant works aggregating to ₹14.63 crore going to ineligible consultants.

Eleven (69%) out of 16 works in seven packages in Ballari, Mysuru and Tumakuru were not executed due to non-availability of work sites. Further, there were delays ranging from 75 to 547 days in completion of eight works out of 43 packages in Ballari, Mysuru and Tumakuru. Delays were mainly due to non-completion of underground draining works, not shifting of electric poles, before entrusting works.

Expenditure of ₹68.95 lakh incurred in the four cities was irregular, which was attributable to adoption of incorrect rates and payment for earthwork excavation at higher rates.

None of the four CCs attained the minimum allocation of ₹15 crore stipulated in respect of water supply and underground drainage works. Out of four cities, only Vijayapura executed traffic management works.

Karnataka Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund Trust (KWSPFT) incurred avoidable interest liability of ₹5.09 crore due to non-recouping of loan diverted from Nagarothana Phase II and III, which was availed at a higher interest rate.

There was additional expenditure of ₹4.87 crore due to availing loans at higher interest rate than the quoted interest rate, non-exercising the option of availing loans available at lower interest rates, and delay in repayment of loan as per the schedule prescribed in the agreement.

The scheme was launched for city corporations at an estimated cost of ₹1,000 crore with the objective of upgrading infrastructure and civic amenities in 100 cities in Karnataka. The scheme was implemented from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

Each city was allotted ₹100 crore with 50% allocation through government grants and remaining 50% by obtaining a loan borrowed through Karnataka Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund Trust. The Urban Development Department was the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme.

The audit involved examination of records of Urban Development Department, DMA and the District Urban Development Cells (DUDCs) and Karnataka Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund Trust, four (Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Vijayapura) out of 10 city corporations and DUDCs. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cag-flags-diversion-of-funds-delay-in-execution-of-works-in-ballari-mysuru-tumakuru-and-vijayapura/article66296300.ece>

**32. SIT to probe NRHM fund misuse in Nagaland, says SC ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) 23 Dec 2022**

The Supreme Court has constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe alleged misuse of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) funds by the Nagaland government in 2012 and directed it to submit a report to a competent court within six months.

Earlier in 2018, the state police had constituted an SIT which substantiated the allegation of misuse of funds but did not disclose its findings.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and JK Maheshwari passed the orders while deciding on a petition filed by activist Rosemary Dzuwichu, who approached the top court in 2014.

“The most appropriate recourse would be to constitute another SIT comprising three senior IPS officers, preferably direct recruits, to further investigate the allegations and if any substance in such allegations is found, to submit a supplementary charge sheet,” the bench said in its order dated December 6.

In 2013, the petitioner had approached the Kohima bench of Gauhati high court, seeking an independent probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In 2014, the high court dismissed the petition, saying it was satisfied by the efforts taken by the state to probe the allegations.

In her petition in the top court, Dzuwichu alleged that the engineering division of NRHM paid bulk advances in cash for various fictitious works and paid kickbacks to high ranking officials associated with the scheme.

“Instead of extending a helping hand to pregnant women or lactating mothers and little children at public health centres, the funds provided by the Government of India were allegedly spent on purchasing of high end luxury vehicles,” senior advocate Colin Gonsalves who appeared for the activist said.

The top court said it will not be appropriate for it to make any expression of the matter as it is pending trial before a special CBI court in Nagaland where a charge sheet has already been filed.

“This court is not the correct forum for the investigation or to reach any logical conclusion with respect to the veracity of the allegations levelled by the appellant. Similarly, the impartiality, objectivity and fairness of the investigation carried out by the SIT will be considered by the court of competent jurisdiction in due course of time,” the bench said.

Nagaland advocate general and senior advocate KN Balagopal denied the charges and said a thorough probe was already conducted by another SIT earlier and a part of the allegations were turned down by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

The CAG report highlighted discrepancies in use of NRHM funds. For instance, it said, the helpline contract awarded to one M/s Neile Enterprises never saw the light of the day though the firm was paid a whopping amount of ₹33 lakh. In another instance, M/s Anthropological Society of Nagaland was stated to be paid ₹11 lakhs for producing radio programmes but the said society denied receiving any payments from NRHM.

Balagopal also said a charge sheet has already been filed.

After taking consent from both sides, the bench said the allegations could be looked into again by an SIT headed by Nagaland deputy inspector general (DIG) M Roopa. It will also comprise Sanmeet Kaur (DIG), planning and development, Nagaland Police) and superintendent of police (organised crime) Amit Nigam.

“The SIT, so constituted, shall look into all the allegations and will further consider the CAG report, and make an endeavour to conclude the further investigation as early as possible and preferably within six months and submit its report to the court of competent jurisdiction whereupon, the law will take its own course,” the bench said.

Prior to the probe by the first SIT, two senior Nagaland Police officials had conducted preliminary enquiries to examine the allegations but did not complete their probe.

With its directive, the top court disposed of the proceedings in the appeal pending since 2014, granting liberty to the new SIT to file its report before the competent trial court where a charge sheet in related allegations is pending. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/sit-to-probe-nrhm-fund-misuse-in-nagaland-says-sc-101671735874530.html>

**33. मुंबई म्युनिसिपल कमिश्नर के कोलिनटुडी: 12 हजार करोड़ के गबन मामले में कैग जांच पर आपत्ति, नोटिस भी भेजा ([samacharnama.com](http://samacharnama.com)) 23 Dec 2022**

मुंबई नगर निगम में 12,000 करोड़ रुपये के घोटाले मामले में एक दिलचस्प मोड़ आया है। मुंबई नगर निगम के आयुक्त इकबाल सिंह चहल ने पहले नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) की विशेष ऑडिट टीम को जांच में पूर्ण सहयोग का आश्वासन दिया था। लेकिन, अब अचानक उनके तेवर बदल गए हैं। उन्होंने कैग के ऑडिट पर आपत्ति जताते हुए कहा कि कोरोना महामारी के दौरान लिए गए फैसलों की जांच कैग नहीं कर सकता है। क्योंकि, उनके ऑडिटर को कोरोना के दौरान लिए गए फैसलों की जांच का कोई अनुभव नहीं है।

### **मुंबई नगर पालिका को कैग का नोटिस**

इकबाल सिंह चहल के सुझाव पर मुंबई नगर निगम के कानूनी विभाग ने भी कैग को नोटिस भेजा है। मुंबई नगर निगम ने कैग को नोटिस भेजकर कहा है कि कैग महामारी रोग निवारण अधिनियम, 1897 और आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम, 2005 के प्रवर्तन के दौरान हुए खर्च का ऑडिट नहीं कर सकता है। क्योंकि आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम के अनुसार, नगरपालिका प्राधिकरण उस समय की स्थिति के अनुसार निर्णय लेने का पूर्ण अधिकार होता है। इसके अलावा, जब आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम लागू होता है, तो CAG और CrPC सहित सभी कानून अमान्य हो जाते हैं।

### **मुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे ने जांच के आदेश दिए**

अहम बात यह है कि कैग की टीम दिसंबर महीने तक जांच पूरी कर लेना चाहती है. नगर आयुक्त चहल ने अपने अधिकारियों को बैठक कर इस काम में मदद करने का निर्देश भी दिया था, लेकिन अब वे किसी तरह जांच में बाधा डाल रहे हैं. दिलचस्प बात यह है कि राज्य में सत्ता परिवर्तन के बाद मुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे ने अक्टूबर 2022 में मुंबई नगर निगम द्वारा 28 नवंबर, 2019 से 28 फरवरी, 2022 तक लिए गए फैसलों की कैग जांच का आदेश दिया था। <https://samacharnama.com/city/thane/Collintudy-of-Thane-Mumbai-Municipal-Commissioner-Objection/cid9528303.htm>

### **SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING**

**34. Modi govt's booster for Armed Forces; Def proposals worth ₹84,328 CR get nod ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) Dec 23, 2022**

In a major boost to the defence preparedness of the armed forces, the defence ministry approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth ₹84,328 crore. These proposals include futuristic infantry vehicles, light tanks, and mounted systems for the Army. The IAF will be strengthened with enhanced lethal capabilities by the introduction of a new range of missile systems, long-range guided bombs, etc. The Navy will receive anti-ship missiles, multi-purpose vessels, and other items as part of the new purchases. The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared the procurement proposals, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Watch this video to know more. #army #iaf #navy #coastguard #rajnathsingh #defenceminister #defenceministry #defence #armedforces #defenceequipment #weapons #arms #ammunition Hindustan Times Videos bring you news, views and explainers about current issues in India and across the globe. We're always excited to report the news as quickly as possible, use new technological tools to reach you better and tell stories with a 360 degree view to give you a better understanding of the world around you. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/videos/news/modi-govt-s-boost-for-indian-armed-forces-clears-21-defence-proposals-worth-rs-84-328-cr-101671787966178.html>

**35. Indian Armed Forces To Get New Weapons And Equipment Worth Over Rs 84,000 Crore As DAC Clears 24 Acquisition Proposals ([swarajyamag.com](https://www.swarajyamag.com)) Dec 23, 2022**

India on Thursday (22 December) approved defence projects worth Rs 84,328 crore to enhance the combat potential of its armed forces with new military hardware, including light tanks, futuristic infantry combat vehicles (FICVs), mounted gun systems, missiles and bombs.

"The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in its meeting held on 22 December 2022, has accorded approval for Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 24 capital acquisition proposals," the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the apex procurement body of the Defence Ministry.

"These proposals include six for Indian Army, six for Indian Air Force, 10 for Indian Navy and two for Indian Coast Guard for a total value of Rs 84,328 crore," the ministry added.

The ministry said that of the 24 proposals, 21 proposals worth Rs 82,127 crore are approved for procurement from indigenous sources, providing a significant boost to the defence industry as part of the government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

The approvals accorded will equip the Indian Army with platforms and equipment such as Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles, Light Tanks and Mounted Gun System, giving a quantum jump to the Army's operational preparedness.

The proposals for the Indian Army also include the procurement of Ballistic Helmets with enhanced protection for soldiers.

Approvals for procurement of Naval Anti-Ship Missiles, Multi-Purpose Vessels and High Endurance Autonomous Vehicles will further enhance maritime strength giving boost to Indian Navy's capabilities, the ministry said.

Further, the Indian Air Force will be strengthened with the induction of a new range of missile systems, Long Range Guided Bombs, a Range Augmentation Kit for conventional bombs, and advanced surveillance systems.

The procurement of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard will enhance surveillance capability in the coastal areas, the ministry said. <https://swarajyamag.com/defence/indian-armed-forces-to-get-new-weapons-and-equipment-worth-over-rs-84000-crore-as-dac-clears-24-acquisition-proposals>

### **36. Gas procurement policy tweaked to bring down cost of fertilisers ([financialexpress.com](https://www.financialexpress.com)) December 23, 2022**

The government has modified the gas procurement policy for fertiliser companies, allowing them to buy about a fifth of their monthly needs from the spot market.

With the revision, fertiliser companies will also have to buy 40% of their supplies under a "take or pay" rule, while no such guaranteed offtake is part of the current norms.

As per the extant guidelines, fertiliser plants are required to procure 80% of their gas needs through long-term contracts and the balance through three-month tenders.

A sharp spike in prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG) amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict has pushed up the cost of production of urea in recent months. Higher global prices of soil nutrients are seen to inflate fertiliser subsidy to Rs 2.25 trillion in FY23, up from Rs 1.5 trillion in the last fiscal.

In a recent interview to FE, fertiliser secretary Arun Singhal said the government will tweak the LNG sourcing policy to deal with volatility in its prices, including reverse auction, aggregation of demand etc".

In the last one month, we have saved `3,288 crore by swapping, which allowed us to source cheaper LNG through short-term tender method. We are now considering to include offtake guarantee under the gas pooling mechanism," he had said.

The country's urea production is dependent a lot on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The installed domestic urea manufacturing capacity is 28.3 million tonne (MT), against annual requirement of around 35 MT.

The government makes available urea at rates much below cost to farmers, with subsidy routed through fertiliser producers.

Fertiliser plants can source gas through the Indian Gas Exchange and inter-company contracts. The new rule also allows fertiliser companies to withdraw tenders if they feel the bidding has led to higher than expected prices.

In October-December quarter, fertiliser plants bought gas at \$38 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) through a tender. The maximum price quoted in the tender was \$55 while gas was available at the Indian Gas Exchange and bilateral markets for \$15 to \$20 per mmBtu.

India imports up to 40% of the 50 million tonne of fertiliser it needs annually. But the prices of fertilisers have risen substantially due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Early last month, fertilisers minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that due to higher global prices, India's fertiliser subsidy bill for the fiscal year would rise to a record `2.25 trillion from about Rs 1.5 trillion the previous year. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/gas-procurement-policy-tweaked-to-bring-down-cost-of-fertilisers/2923866/>