

NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (20.04.2023)

- 1. Aim of public audit is not fault finding, but improving processes, policies: President Droupadi Murmu (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) Pradeep Thakur | Apr 19, 2023**

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday reminded the CAG of its primary objective to improve the processes and policies through its audit rather than making it a fault-finding exercise.

Addressing newly-inducted officers of the CAG at its training centre in Shimla, the President said that it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction. “This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens,” she added.

Murmu asked officers to ensure “the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres” while keeping in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in approach. “You will be contributing in a big way in India’s further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal. I would also urge you to maintain your physical, mental and professional well-being at all times to be able to perform your personal and professional duties with greater efficiency,” she said.

Expressing her happiness about the work being done for digitisation of the audit process, the President said that the recent launch of the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System (OIOS), a web-enabled IT application with support for multiple languages and a mobile app is a praiseworthy initiative in line with the vision of Digital India.

“Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms etc. can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention. You, the young officers should understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies,” the President said.

Murmu appreciated the efforts of CAG in training officers of neighbouring countries Bhutan and Maldives at its National Academy of Audit and Accounts. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/aim-of-public-audit-is-not-fault-finding-but-improving-processes-policies-president-droupadi-murmu/articleshow/99619270.cms>

- 2. New technologies ensure transparency in public audit, but human intelligence indispensable: President Murmu (economictimes.com) Apr 20, 2023**

President Droupadi Murmu has said technologies such as blockchain, data analytics, virtual audit rooms, etc can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. However, technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention.

The President visited the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, Shimla on Wednesday and interacted with officer trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Addressing the officer trainees at the NAAA, Murmu urged young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens,

while taking decisions and implementing policies. The recent launch of the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System is a praiseworthy initiative, she observed.

The President said that the primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction. This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens. She urged Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers to always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in their approach.

Stating that it is a matter of pride for them to have got the opportunity to enforce principles of accountability and transparency as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, Murmu noted that the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs for informed policy making. The CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives. It is incumbent upon them to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation building, she observed.
<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/new-technologies-ensure-transparency-in-public-audit-but-human-intelligence-indispensable-president-murmu/99627042>

3. President Murmu lauds digitisation of audit process, but says tech can't replace need for human intervention (aninews.in, devdiscourse.com, latestly.com) Apr 19, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday expressed happiness at efforts to bring digitalization in the audit process, but said that technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention.

President Murmu said this in her address to a batch of officer trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (/topic/indian-audit-and-accountsservice) (IAAS) in Shimla on Wednesday.

Speaking on occasion, President Murmu said, "The recent launch of the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System (OIOS), a web-enabled IT application supporting multiple languages and a mobile app is a praiseworthy initiative in line with the vision of Digital India. Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms etc. can be used widely to ensure transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention. You, the young officers should understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens while taking decisions and implementing policies."

President Murmu reminded that the auditing should not be a fault-finding exercise but its primary objective should be to improve the processes and policies.

"You should ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge in professional and personal spheres. The primary objective of an audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction. This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens", she said.

President also urged the young officers to maintain physical, mental and professional well-being so as to perform better in their personal and professional duties with more efficiency.

"You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way to India's further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal. I would also urge you to maintain your physical, mental and professional well-being at all times to be able to perform your personal and professional duties with greater efficiency", she added.

President Murmu further said that the National Academy of Audit and Accounts has been training officers from India, Bhutan and Maldives, thus imparting the virtues of accountability and professionalism within the country and with the country's neighbours.

"I am confident that the elaborate training that you have undergone has primed your young minds to take up the responsibilities and challenges awaiting you in your professional domain", Murmu said.

Speaking on the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) in the country, President said, "IAAS has a widespread presence across the country. In order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of our public resources. Your service aids both central and state governments with their accounting and audit inputs which act as deterrents to deviations and as pointers for public policy formulation from time to time."

President Murmu further added that she was delighted to see that women officers constitute about 45 per cent of the group of officers present at the training. "The officer trainees represent different regions of the country and also have diverse educational backgrounds, which gives immense pleasure", she said.

She expressed the confidence that the skill sets gained by the officers during the training at the prestigious institutions of the country when paired with their diverse educational backgrounds would help them to perform their roles as accountants, auditors and advisors with greater understanding and effectiveness. She urged the officers to contribute positively through constructive criticism and critical thinking towards ensuring improvement and efficiency in the governance system. <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/president-murmu-lauds-digitisation-of-audit-process-but-says-tech-cant-replace-need-for-human-intervention20230419214244/>

4. Always keep in mind well-being of citizens: President Murmu to IAAS officer trainees (theprint.in, latestly.com) 19 April, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday asked IAAS officer trainees to always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens and ensure fairness in their approach.

The President was addressing the officer's trainees of the Indian Audit & Accounts Service (IAAS) of 2021 and 2022 batches at the National Academy of Audit and Accounts here.

The role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making, Murmu said and added the CAG

through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives.

“It is incumbent upon you to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation-building,” the President said.

The Indian Audit and Accounts Service has an widespread presence across the country, in order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of the public resources, she said. “You should ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres. The primary objective of audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction,” the President asked the officer trainees.

This, Murmu said will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens.

“You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way in India’s further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal,” she added.

The President said the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System (OIOS), a web-enabled IT application with support for multiple languages and a mobile app, is a praiseworthy initiative in line with the vision of Digital India.

“Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms etc. can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention.

“You, the young officers should understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies,” she said.

Murmu also urged the officers to contribute positively through constructive criticism and critical thinking towards ensuring improvement and efficiency in the governance system.

<https://theprint.in/india/always-keep-in-mind-well-being-of-citizens-president-murmu-to-iaas-officer-trainees/1528168/>

5. President Droupadi Murmu interacts with Indian Audit and Accounts officer trainees in Shimla (tribuneindia.com) Apr 19, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday interacted with the Indian Audit and Accounts Services Officer Trainees.

She exhorted the trainees to work with integrity and commitment towards nation building.

President Murmu attended the Interactive Programme with IAAS Officers Trainees organised by the National Academy of Audit and Accounts at Yarrows, here.

Governor, Shiv Pratap Shukla and Education Minister, Rohit Thakur were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the trainees, the President said that it was a matter of pride for all of them for the opportunity they have got to enforce principles of accountability and transparency, as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. “The role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs for informed policy making,” she added.

She said that the CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives in its true perspective.

“It is incumbent upon you to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards Nation building”, said the President.

She said that the Indian Audit and Accounts Service has a widespread presence across the country, in order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of our public resources.

“Your service aids both central and state governments with their accounting and audit inputs which act as deterrent to deviations and as pointers for public policy formulation from time to time,” she added.

She urged the young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

The President advised the trainers to ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres. She said that the primary objective of audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it was essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction, she added.

She said it would help in reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens.

“You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way in India’s further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal,” she said.

Earlier, Ms Parveen Mehta, Deputy Comptroller and Audit General welcomed the President and briefed about the training programme.

The Trainees shared their experience during the training programme.
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/president-droupadi-murmu-interacts-with-indian-audit-and-accounts-officer-trainees-in-shimla-498927>

6. Keep in mind well-being of citizens: Prez to IAAS trainees ([dailypioneer.com](https://www.dailypioneer.com)) Apr 20, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday asked IAAS officer trainees to always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens and ensure fairness in their approach. The President was

addressing the officer's trainees of the Indian Audit & Accounts Service (IAAS) of 2021 and 2022 batches at the National Academy of Audit and Accounts here.

The role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making, Murmu said and added the CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives.

"It is incumbent upon you to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation-building," the President said.

The Indian Audit and Accounts Service has an widespread presence across the country, in order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of the public resources, she said.

"You should ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres. The primary objective of audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction," the President asked the officer trainees.

This, Murmu said will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens. "You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way in India's further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal," she added.

The President said the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System (OIOS), a web-enabled IT application with support for multiple languages and a mobile app, is a praiseworthy initiative in line with the vision of Digital India.

"Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms etc. Can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention. "You, the young officers should understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies," she said.

Murmu also urged the officers to contribute positively through constructive criticism and critical thinking towards ensuring improvement and efficiency in the governance system. <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/keep-in-mind-well-being-of-citizens--prez-to-iaas-trainees.html>

7. Audit should help improve policies: President (tribuneindia.com) Apr 19, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu today said that the primary objective of audit should be to help in improving policies rather than just being limited to a fault-finding exercise. "As such it is essential to communicate audit recommendations with clarity and conviction," she added.

She addressed Indian Audit and Accounts Services (IAAS) officer trainees at an interactive programme organised by the National Academy of Audit and Accounts at Yarrows here. Murmu exhorted the trainees to work with integrity and commitment towards nation building.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Education Minister Rohit Thakur were also present on the occasion.

She said, “Your services aid both Central and state governments. Your accounting and audit inputs act as a deterrent to deviations and pointers for public policy formulation.” She urged the young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

The President said that it was a matter of pride that the trainees had been entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing the principles of accountability and transparency, as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. “The role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs for informed policy making,” she added. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/audit-should-help-improve-policies-president-499074>

8. Audit’s primary objective is not fault-finding: President Droupadi Murmu
([sentinelassam.com](https://www.sentinelassam.com)) 20 April 2023

SHIMLA: Stressing that the primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than be a fault-finding exercise, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday that the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs for informed policy making.

Addressing officer trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service at her visit to the National Academy of Audit and Accounts in the Himachal Pradesh capital, she said that it “is a matter of pride for them to have got the opportunity to enforce principles of accountability and transparency as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.”

Murmu said the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs for informed policy making.

The CAG, through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers, has been effectively pursuing both objectives, she said, adding that it is incumbent upon them to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation-building.

About the digitization of the audit process, the president said the recent launch of the One Indian Audit and Accounts Department system is a praiseworthy initiative.

Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms, etc., can be widely used for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention, she noted, and she urged young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens while taking decisions and implementing policies.

“The primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit

recommendations with clarity and conviction. This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens.”

She urged the Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers to always keep in mind the wellbeing of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in their approach. <https://www.sentinelassam.com/topheadlines/audits-primary-objective-is-not-fault-finding-president-droupadi-murmu-646201>

9. President Droupadi Murmu Interacts With Officer Trainees of Indian Audit and Accounts Service at NAAA, Shimla (orissadiary.com) 19 APR 2023

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, Shimla today (April 19, 2023) and interacted with officer trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Addressing the officer trainees, the President said that it is a matter of pride for them to have got the opportunity to enforce principles of accountability and transparency as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. She said that the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making. The CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives. It is incumbent upon them to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation building.

Speaking about the digitisation of the audit process, the President said that the recent launch of the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System is a praiseworthy initiative. Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms etc. can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention. She urged young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

The President said that the primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction. This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens. She urged Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers to always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in their approach. <https://orissadiary.com/president-droupadi-murmu-interacts-with-officer-trainees-of-indian-audit-and-accounts-service-at-naaa-shimla/>

10. PRESIDENT OF INDIA INTERACTS WITH OFFICER TRAINEES OF INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE AT NAAA, SHIMLA (pib.gov.in) 19 APR 2023

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, Shimla today (April 19, 2023) and interacted with officer trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Addressing the officer trainees, the President said that it is a matter of pride for them to have got the opportunity to enforce principles of accountability and transparency as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. She said that the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making. The CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives. It is incumbent upon them to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation building.

Speaking about the digitisation of the audit process, the President said that the recent launch of the One Indian Audit & Accounts Department One System is a praiseworthy initiative. Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms etc. can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention. She urged young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

The President said that the primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction. This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens. She urged Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers to always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in their approach.
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1917862>

11. President Droupadi Murmu interacts with IA&AS Officers Trainees ([5dariyanews.com](https://www.5dariyanews.com)) 19 April 2023

President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu attended the Interactive Programme with IA&AS Officers Trainees organised by the National Academy of Audit & Accounts, Shimla at YARROWS in Shimla on Wednesday. Governor, Shiv Pratap Shukla and Education Minister, Rohit Thakur, who is also the Minister-in-waiting, were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the trainees, the President said that it was a matter of pride for all of them for the opportunity they have got to enforce principles of accountability and transparency, as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

The role of the supreme audit institution was not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making, she added. She said that the CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives in its true perspective.

“It is incumbent upon you to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards Nation building”, said the President. Smt. Murmu said that the Indian Audit and Accounts Service has a widespread presence across the country, in order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of our public resources.

“Your service aids both central and state governments with their accounting and audit inputs which act as deterrent to deviations and as pointers for public policy formulation from time to

time," she added. She urged the young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the Nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

The President advised to ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres. She said that the primary objective of audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise.

Therefore, it was essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction, she added and said that it would help in reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens. "You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way in India's further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal", said Smt. Murmu.

Earlier, Ms Parveen Mehta, Deputy Comptroller & Audit General welcomed the President and briefed about the training programme for officers trainees of IA&AS. She also honoured the Governor on the occasion. Manish Kumar, Director General, Audit & Account honoured the Governor and Education Minister on the occasion.

Officers of IA&AG of different batches have shared their experience during the training programme. Sanjay Kundu, Director General of Police, Bharat Khera, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, senior officers of the State Government were also present on the occasion amongst others. <https://www.5dariyanews.com/news/411601-President-Droupadi-Murmu-interacts-with-IA-AS-Officers-Trainees>

12. Uphold ideals of our Constitution: President (uniindia.com) April 19, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the IA&AS Officers Trainees should uphold the ideals of the constitution and work with integrity towards Nation Building.

Interacting with IA&AS Officers Trainees at an interactive programme, organised by the National Academy of Audit & Accounts, Shimla at Yarrows, she said that it was a matter of pride for all of them for the opportunity they have got to enforce principles of accountability and transparency, as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

Himachal Pradesh Governor, Shiv Pratap Shukla and Education Minister Rohit Thakur were also present on the occasion.

She said the role of the supreme audit institution was not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making.

Murmu said that the CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives in its true perspective.

"It is incumbent upon you to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards Nation building", the President said.

She said that the Indian Audit and Accounts Service has a widespread presence across the country, in order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of our public resources.

“Your service aids both central and state governments with their accounting and audit inputs which act as deterrent to deviations and as pointers for public policy formulation from time to time,” the President said.

She urged the young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the Nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

Murmu advised them to ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres.

She said that the primary objective of audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise.

Therefore, it was essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction, the President said, adding, that it would help in reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens.

“You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way in India's further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal”, Murmu said.

Earlier, Ms Parveen Mehta, Deputy Comptroller & Audit General welcomed the President and briefed about the training programme for officers trainees of IA&AS.

She also honoured the Governor on the occasion.

Manish Kumar, Director General, Audit & Account honoured the Governor and Education Minister on the occasion.

Officers of IA&AG of different batches have shared their experience during the training programme.

Sanjay Kundu, Director General of Police, Bharat Khera, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, senior officers of the State Government were also present on the occasion.
<http://www.uniindia.com/uphold-ideals-of-our-constitution-president/north/news/2956070.html>

13. Audit's primary objective not fault-finding: President (therahnuma.com, canindia.com) April 19, 2023

Stressing that the primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making.

Addressing officer trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service at her visit to the National Academy of Audit and Accounts in the Himachal Pradesh capital, she said that it “is a matter of pride for them to have got the opportunity to enforce principles of accountability and transparency as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department”.

Murmu said the role of the supreme audit institution is not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making.

The CAG, through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its able officers, has been effectively pursuing both these objectives, she said, adding that it is incumbent upon them to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards nation building.

About the digitisation of the audit process, the President said the recent launch of the One Indian Audit and Accounts Department One System is a praiseworthy initiative.

Technologies such as blockchains, data analytics, virtual audit rooms, etc., can be used widely for ensuring transparency and compliance. But technology cannot and should not replace the need for human intervention, she noted and urged young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies.

“The primary objective of the audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it is essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction. This will help reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens.”

She urged the Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers to always keep in mind the wellbeing of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in their approach.
<https://www.therahnuma.com/audits-primary-objective-not-fault-finding-president/>

14. All trainees of NAAA to serve as CAG: Prez ([dailyexcelsior.com](https://www.dailyexcelsior.com)) April 19, 2023

President of India Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday stated that All Indian Audit and Account Officers would serve in the Comptroller and Auditor General in order to implement the principles of accountability and transparency in the country.

The President, participated in an interaction program with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, organized by the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, Shimla, here Wednesday.

The President said it is a matter of pride for all trainee officers to serve as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

Through this, they have got an opportunity to implement the principles of accountability and transparency. She said the role of this apex institution of audit is not limited only to inspection but also to provide necessary support in policy making.

Ms Droupadi said CAG through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its competent officers is effectively implementing both these objectives.

She exhorted the officers to work with full dedication and commitment in nation building while maintaining the ideals of the Constitution. “The Indian Audit and Accounts Service is widely recognised across the country in ensuring financial uniformity and accountability and proper utilization of public resources by various organs of the Government.” she said.

She said these officers provide valuable support in the form of accounting and audit suggestions to the Central and State Governments and this also helps in public policy making.

The President called upon the officer trainees to ensure a high level of integrity and proper application of knowledge, both in their work and personal spheres.

The primary objective of audit should be to improve procedures and policies rather than to find errors. It is, therefore, necessary to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction so that they can be used for improving public services with a view to providing maximum benefits to the citizens.

The President said officer trainees should ensure impartiality in their work keeping in mind the welfare of the citizens of the country. She said he should make his significant contribution in taking India on the path of development in the Amrit period.

Earlier, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General Parveen Mehta welcomed the President and apprised him about the training program for the trainee officers.

Director General, Audit and Accounts, Manish Kumar felicitated the Governor and Education Minister. The trainee officers also shared their experiences during the training programme. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Minister in Waiting, Education Minister, Rohit Thakur were also present on the occasion.

On this occasion Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Bharat Khera and senior officers of the State Government were also present.
<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/all-trainees-of-naaa-to-serve-as-cag-prez/>

15. President interacts with IA&AS Officers Trainees (indianewscalling.com) April 19, 2023

President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu attended the Interactive Programme with IA&AS Officers Trainees organised by the National Academy of Audit & Accounts, Shimla at YARROWS in Shimla on Wednesday.

Governor, Shiv Pratap Shukla and Education Minister, Rohit Thakur, who is also the Minister-in-waiting, were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the trainees, the President said that it was a matter of pride for all of them for the opportunity they have got to enforce principles of accountability and transparency, as officers of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. The role of the supreme audit institution was not just limited to providing oversight but also to providing necessary inputs to informed policy making, she added. She said that the CAG

through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and its officers has been effectively pursuing both these objectives in its true perspective.

“It is incumbent upon you to continue to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and work with integrity and commitment towards Nation building”, said the President.

Smt. Murmu said that the Indian Audit and Accounts Service has a widespread presence across the country, in order to achieve uniformity in financial reporting, accountability, and providing assurance to the organs of governance about the use of our public resources. “Your service aids both central and state governments with their accounting and audit inputs which act as deterrent to deviations and as pointers for public policy formulation from time to time,” she added.

She urged the young officers to understand the value of human touch and sensitivity towards issues concerning the Nation and its citizens, while taking decisions and implementing policies. The President advised to ensure the highest levels of integrity and knowledge both in professional and personal spheres. She said that the primary objective of audit should be to improve the processes and policies rather than to be a fault-finding exercise. Therefore, it was essential to communicate the audit recommendations with clarity and conviction, she added and said that it would help in reform and refine the public services and their delivery for the maximum benefit of the citizens.

“You should always keep in mind the well-being of the citizens of the country and ensure fairness in your approach. You will be contributing in a big way in India's further ascent and development in Amrit Kaal”, said Smt. Murmu.

Earlier, Ms Parveen Mehta, Deputy Comptroller & Audit General welcomed the President and briefed about the training programme for officers trainees of IA&AS. She also honoured the Governor on the occasion.

Manish Kumar, Director General, Audit & Account honoured the Governor and Education Minister on the occasion.

Officers of IA&AG of different batches have shared their experience during the training programme.

Sanjay Kundu, Director General of Police, Bharat Khara, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, senior officers of the State Government were also present on the occasion amongst others. <https://www.indianewscalling.com/news/138817-president-interacts-with-iaas-officers-trainees.aspx>

16. Prez Droupadi Murmu presents medals & degrees to meritorious students at 26th convocation ceremony of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla ([newsonair.com](https://www.newsonair.com))

President Droupadi Murmu presented medals and degrees to meritorious students at the 26th convocation ceremony of Himachal Pradesh University on the second day of her visit to Shimla today. In her address on the occasion, the President expressed confidence that under the guidance of the alumni and teachers of the university, all the students would set new records of success and make the state and country proud. She advised the university to promote research and innovation keeping in mind the needs of the local community and the ecological challenges it faces.

The President further said that out of one lakh students studying in the university, 70 percent are girls and 70 of the gold medalists at today's ceremony are also girls. She added that she feels proud to see this talent of daughters in the field of education. The President called upon all the students to contribute to the development of the country by moving forward in their chosen fields by linking their individual activities with national goals. On this occasion Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Education Minister Rohit Thakur and other dignitaries were also present.

Earlier in the day, the President participated in an interaction programme with the trainee officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, organized by the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, Shimla.

She said that the role of this apex institution is not limited to oversight but also to provide necessary support in policy making. The President exhorted the officers to work with full dedication and commitment in nation-building while upholding the ideals of the Constitution. <https://newsonair.com/2023/04/19/prez-droupadi-murmu-attends-interactive-programme-with-ia-as-officer-trainees-at-yarrows-in-shimla/>

17. राष्ट्रपति ने भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा व लेखा सेवा प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों से बातचीत की (virarjun.com) Apr 19, 2020

राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने आज शिमला स्थित राष्ट्रीय लेखा तथा लेखा परीक्षा अकादमी का दौरा किया तथा भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा सेवा के अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं से बातचीत की।

राष्ट्रपति ने अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि यह उनके लिए गर्व की बात है कि उन्हें नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) तथा भारतीय लेखा तथा लेखा विभाग के अधिकारियों के रूप में दायित्व और पारदर्शिता के सिद्धान्तों को लागू करने का अवसर मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा संस्थान की भूमिका केवल निरीक्षण प्रदान करने तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि सूचित नीति निर्माण में आवश्यक इनपुट देना भी है।

सीएजी भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा विभाग और इसके सक्षम अधिकारियों के माध्यम से इन दोनों उद्देश्यों का प्रभावी ढंग से अनुसरण कर रहे हैं। यह उनकी जिम्मेदारी है कि वे संविधान के आदर्शों को बनाए रखें और सत्यनिष्ठा तथा प्रतिबद्धता के साथ राष्ट्रनिर्माण की दिशा में काम करें।

राष्ट्रपति ने लेखा परीक्षा के डिजिटिकरण की चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि हाल में लॉन्च की गई एक भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग एक प्रणाली सराहनीय पहल है। उन्होंने कहा कि ब्लॉकचेन्स, डाटा एनालिटिक्स, वर्चुअल ऑडिट रूम आदि जैसी टेक्नोलॉजी का व्यापक उपयोग पारदर्शिता और परिपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए किया जाता है, लेकिन टेक्नोलॉजी मानवीय हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकताओं का स्थान नहीं ले सकती और न ही इसे लेना चाहिए।

उन्होंने युवा अधिकारियों से आग्रह किया कि वे निर्णय लेते समय और नीतियों को लागू करते समय राष्ट्र और उसके नागरिकों से संबंधित विषयों में मानवीय स्पर्श और संवेदनशीलता के मूल्य को समझें।

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू शिमला में भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा व लेखा सेवा प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों को सम्मानित करती हुईं। <https://epapervirarjun.com/epapermain.aspx>

18. राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने आज शिमला में भारतीय लेखापरीक्षा और लेखा सेवा के प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों के साथ बातचीत की (newsonair.com) April 19, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने आज शिमला में भारतीय लेखापरीक्षा और लेखा सेवा के प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों के साथ बातचीत की

राज्यपाल शिव प्रताप शुक्ला भी इस अवसर पर उपस्थित थे।

प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों को संबोधित करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा विभाग के अधिकारियों के रूप में जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता के सिद्धांतों को लागू करना उन सभी के लिए गर्व की बात है।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि सर्वोच्च लेखापरीक्षा संस्थान की भूमिका केवल निगरानी प्रदान करने तक ही सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि नीति निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक इनपुट प्रदान करने में भी उसकी भूमिका है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग तथा उसके अधिकारियों के माध्यम से नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक इन दोनों कार्यों को प्रभावी ढंग से कर रहा है।

राष्ट्रपति ने युवा अधिकारियों से निर्णय लेने और नीतियों को लागू करते समय राष्ट्र और उसके नागरिकों से संबंधित मुद्दों के प्रति मानवता संवेदनशीलता के मूल्य को समझने का आग्रह किया। राष्ट्रपति ने उन्हें सलाह दी कि पेशेवर और व्यक्तिगत दोनों मामलों में उच्चतम स्तर की सत्यनिष्ठा और ज्ञान का प्रदर्शन सुनिश्चित करें। <https://newsonair.com/hindi/2023/04/19/president-draupadi-murmu-interacted-with-officer-trainees-of-the-indian-audit-and-accounts-service-in-shimla-today/>

19. नागरिकों की भलाई हमेशा ध्यान में रखें: राष्ट्रपति ने आईएएस के प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों से कहा (ibc24.in) April 19, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने बुधवार को भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा सेवा (आईएएस) के प्रशिक्षुओं से नागरिकों की भलाई की बात हमेशा ध्यान में रखने और अपने प्रयासों में निष्पक्षता रखने को कहा।

वह 2021 और 2022 के आईएएस के प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों को यहां राष्ट्रीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा अकादमी में संबोधित कर रही थीं।

मुर्मू ने कहा कि इस सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा संस्थान की भूमिका केवल निरीक्षण की नहीं है, बल्कि नीति बनाने के लिए आवश्यक जानकारी देने की भी है।

उन्होंने कहा कि नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग तथा उसके काबिल अधिकारियों के माध्यम से इन दोनों उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति के लिए प्रभावी तरीके से काम किया है।

राष्ट्रपति ने प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों से कहा, “आपका कर्तव्य है कि संविधान के आदर्शों को कायम रखें और देश निर्माण के लिए ईमानदारी एवं प्रतिबद्धता से काम करें।”

मुर्मू ने कहा कि इससे लोक सेवाओं को तथा नागरिकों के अधिकतम लाभ के लिए इनकी आपूर्ति में सुधार में मदद मिलेगी। <https://www.ibc24.in/country/always-keep-in-mind-the-well-being-of-citizens-president-tells-iaas-officer-trainees-1506635.html>

20. निजी लक्ष्य को राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य से जोड़कर चुने हुए क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ें विद्यार्थी : द्रौपदी मुर्मू (himachal.punjabkesari.in) April 19, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने कहा कि विद्यार्थी निजी लक्ष्य को राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य से जोड़कर चुने हुए क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ते हुए देश के विकास में अपना योगदान दें। हिमाचल प्रदेश तप, त्याग, अध्यात्म, धर्म और देश के लिए अपने प्राण न्यौछावर करने वाले वीरों की पावन भूमि है। इसकी तरफ महात्मा गांधी, नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस, गुरुदेव रबीन्द्र नाथ टैगोर तथा पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जैसे नेता आकृषित होकर यहां पर प्रवास के लिए आए थे। राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के सभागार में आयोजित 26वें दीक्षांत समारोह को संबोधित कर रही थीं। उन्होंने कहा कि आज अनेक युवा स्टार्टअप स्थापित करके सफलता के शानदार प्रतिमान स्थापित कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इनोवेशन ही इन स्टार्टअप की मुख्य विशेषता है। कुछ दिन पहले ही राष्ट्रपति भवन में फेस्टीवल ऑफ इनोवेशन एंड इंटरप्रिन्योरशिप के दौरान ग्रासरूट इनोवेटर को पुरस्कृत करने का अवसर मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार के सहयोग से विश्वविद्यालय को शोध, इनोवेशन व टैक्नोलॉजी के क्षेत्र में काम करना चाहिए, ताकि उसका लाभ किसानों को मिल सके। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य को प्राकृतिक खेती में नए मापदंड स्थापित करने चाहिए।

आज मौसम शिमला की तरह हो गया

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि लंबे समय तक देश की ग्रीष्मकालीन राजधानी रही शिमला का भारतीय जनमानस के हृदय में एक विशेष स्थान है। देश के कई भागों में अचानक ठंड बढ़ने पर लोग अक्सर आम बोलचाल में कहते हैं कि आज मौसम शिमला की तरह हो गया है।

प्रकृति संरक्षण के लिए सतत विकास लक्ष्य से आगे बढ़ना होगा

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि प्रकृति के संरक्षण के लिए सतत विकास लक्ष्य से आगे बढ़ना होगा। इसके लिए विश्वविद्यालयों का कर्तव्य है कि वह स्थानीय समुदाय की जरूरतों और जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण सामने आ रही चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए शोध व इनोवेशन के साथ पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में भी काम करें।

पद्मश्री नेकराम शर्मा की सराहना की

राष्ट्रपति ने हिमाचल प्रदेश से प्राकृतिक खेती के लिए कार्य करने वाले पद्मश्री नेकराम शर्मा की सराहना की। वह कई दशकों से किसानों को रसायनमुक्त खेती करने और बीजों की पारंपरिक किस्में अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित करते रहे हैं।

ज्ञानम विज्ञानम सहितम वाक्य को आधार बनाकर आगे बढ़ने का आह्वान

महान शिक्षाविद् एवं पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डॉ. एस. राधाकृष्णन की पंक्तियों का उल्लेख करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने ज्ञानम विज्ञानम सहितम वाक्य को आधार बनाकर आगे बढ़ने का आह्वान किया। उन्होंने कहा कि राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 को इसका आधार बनाकर गुणवत्ता शिक्षा पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि संविधान में कहा गया है कि यह हर नागरिक का मूल कर्तव्य है कि वह वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण यानी सांख्यिक टैंपर, मानववाद यानी ह्यूमनिज्म और ज्ञानार्जन तथा सुधार की भावना यानी द स्पिरिट ऑफ इन्कायरी एंड रिफॉर्म का विकास करें। उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता जताई कि हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय ने भी इनक्यूबेशन सेंटर की स्थापना करके युवाओं में इंटरप्रिन्योरशिप की भावना को प्रोत्साहित करने की पहल की है।

संविधान के आदर्शों को अपनाते हुए राष्ट्र निर्माण को कार्य करें

राष्ट्रपति ने यहां राष्ट्रीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा अकादमी शिमला की तरफ से आयोजित भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा एवं लेखा सेवा के प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों के साथ संवाद कार्यक्रम में भाग लेते हुए अधिकारियों का आह्वान कि वे संविधान के आदर्शों को बनाए रखते हुए राष्ट्र निर्माण में पूरी निष्ठा एवं प्रतिबद्धता के साथ कार्य

करें। उन्होंने कहा कि नियंत्रक महालेखा परीक्षक और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारियों के रूप में कार्य करना सभी प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों के लिए गर्व की बात है। इसके माध्यम से उन्हें जवाबदेही एवं पारदर्शिता के सिद्धान्तों को क्रियान्वित करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि लेखा परीक्षा के इस सर्वोच्च संस्थान की भूमिका केवल निरीक्षण तक ही सीमित नहीं है बल्कि नीति निर्माण में आवश्यक सहयोग प्रदान करना भी है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग और उसके सक्षम अधिकारियों के माध्यम से नियंत्रक, महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) इन दोनों ही उद्देश्यों को प्रभावी ढंग से क्रियान्वित कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि वित्तीय एकरूपता एवं जवाबदेही तथा सरकार के विभिन्न अंगों द्वारा सार्वजनिक संसाधनों का उचित उपयोग सुनिश्चित करने में भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा सेवा की देशभर में व्यापक पहचान है। उन्होंने कहा कि ये अधिकारी केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों में लेखा और लेखा जांच सुझावों के रूप में बहुमूल्य सहयोग देते हैं और इससे सार्वजनिक नीति निर्माण में भी सहायता मिलती है।

त्रुटियां खोजने की बजाय नीतियों में सुधार पर ध्यान दें
राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि लेखा परीक्षा का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य त्रुटियां खोजने की बजाय प्रक्रियाओं और नीतियों में सुधार होना चाहिए। इसलिए लेखा जांच की सिफारिशों को स्पष्टता और दृढ़ निश्चय के साथ संप्रेषित करना आवश्यक है ताकि नागरिकों को अधिकतम लाभ प्रदान करने के दृष्टिगत सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में सुधार के लिए इनका उपयोग किया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों को देश के नागरिकों के कल्याण को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपने कार्य में निष्पक्षता सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि अमृत काल में भारत को विकास पथ पर अग्रसर करने में वे अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दें। इस अवसर पर राज्यपाल शिव प्रताप शुक्ल और मिनिस्टर इन चार्ज व शिक्षा मंत्री रोहित ठाकुर, उप नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक परवीन मेहता, महानिदेशक तथा लेखा परीक्षा एवं लेखा मनीष कुमार सहित प्रदेश सरकार के अन्य अधिकारी मौजूद थे। <https://himachal.punjabkesari.in/himachal-pradesh/news/president-draupadi-murmu-1807125>

21. निर्णय लेते और नीति लागू करते समय संवेदनशीलता रखें अधिकारी: मुर्मू (navyugsandesh.com) April 19, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने कहा है कि अधिकारियों को निर्णय लेते और नीतियों को लागू करते समय राष्ट्र तथा नागरिकों से संबंधित मामलों में संवेदनशीलता रखनी चाहिए। राष्ट्रपति ने बुधवार को शिमला स्थित राष्ट्रीय लेखा तथा लेखा परीक्षा अकादमी का दौरा किया और भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा एवं लेखा सेवा के अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं से बातचीत की।

राष्ट्रपति ने अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि यह उनके लिए गर्व की बात है कि उन्हें नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) तथा भारतीय लेखा तथा लेखा विभाग के अधिकारियों के रूप में दायित्व और पारदर्शिता के सिद्धान्तों को लागू करने का अवसर मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा संस्थान की भूमिका केवल निरीक्षण प्रदान करने तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि सूचित नीति निर्माण में आवश्यक इनपुट देना भी है।

सीएजी भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा विभाग और इसके सक्षम अधिकारियों के माध्यम से इन दोनों उद्देश्यों का प्रभावी ढंग से अनुसरण कर रहे हैं। यह उनकी जिम्मेदारी है कि वे संविधान के आदर्शों को बनाए रखें और सत्यनिष्ठा तथा प्रतिबद्धता के साथ राष्ट्रनिर्माण की दिशा में काम करें।

राष्ट्रपति ने लेखा परीक्षा के डिजिटिकरण की चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि हाल में शुरू की गई भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग प्रणाली सराहनीय पहल है। उन्होंने कहा कि ब्लॉकचेन, डाटा एनालिटिक्स,

वर्चुअल ऑडिट रूम आदि प्रौद्योगिकी का व्यापक उपयोग पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए किया जाता है,

लेकिन प्रौद्योगिकी मानवीय हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकताओं का स्थान नहीं ले सकती और न ही इसे लेना चाहिए। उन्होंने युवा अधिकारियों से आग्रह किया कि वह निर्णय लेते समय और नीतियों को लागू करते समय राष्ट्र तथा उसके नागरिकों से संबंधित विषयों में मानवीय स्पर्श और संवेदनशीलता के मूल्य को समझें।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि लेखा परीक्षा का पहला उद्देश्य दोष निकालने की जगह प्रक्रिया और नीतियों में सुधार होना चाहिए। इसलिए स्पष्टता और दृढ़ता के साथ लेखा परीक्षा सिफारिशों को सूचित करना आवश्यक है। इससे लोक सेवा को सुधारने और परिष्कृत करने और नागरिकों के अधिकतम लाभ के लिए सेवाओं की डिलीवरी में मदद मिलेगी।

उन्होंने भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा सेवा के अधिकारियों से आग्रह किया कि वह देश के नागरिकों की भलाई को हमेशा ध्यान में रखें और अपने दृष्टिकोण में निष्पक्षता सुनिश्चित करें।
<https://www.navyugsandesh.com/officers-should-be-sensitive-while-taking-decisions-and-implementing-policies-murmu/>

22 Ministry of Education plans to develop a twotier accreditation system (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) April 20, 2023

The Radhakrishnan Committee appointed by the is working to make the accreditation process for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) a two-tier structure by constituting National Accreditation Council (NAC).

The Education Minister recently held a meeting to review the developments, which was attended by the senior members of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the University Grants Commission (UGC), and the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF).

The Radhakrishnan Committee, headed by former ISRO chief Dr K Radhakrishnan was set up in November 2022 to restructure the accreditation of HEIs by bringing changes in the current accreditation and ranking systems. UGC will support the Ministry, which will increase the participation of more institutes. In March, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) pulled up NAAC for glaring discrepancies in its assessment process.

"Accreditation and ranking are complex tasks requiring continual upgradation. I am mindful that the qualitative and quantitative methods used by NAAC need careful examination and improvements," M Jagadesh Kumar, chairperson, UGC, told TOI.

Prof Manish Ratnakar Joshi, secretary, UGC, says, "UGC is helping in streamlining the accreditation process so that the entire process becomes both transparent and qualitative. Introducing changes in the accreditation system is continuous and constantly evolving. The Radhakrishnan committee is working to bring the proposed changes and will soon submit its report that would suggest the list of changes to accommodate modern-day colleges and universities having more professional courses."

Speaking to Education Times, Anil Joseph Pinto, registrar, Christ University, Bangalore, says, "Currently, there exist two accreditation bodies which are the National Assessment

Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) that accredit institutions and the courses, respectively. The two-tier accreditation system will streamline the process, in sync with the objectives of NEP 2020.”

Based on the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee, the central government will establish NAC under which various government and private accrediting agencies would work. Once NAC is established, the accreditation system in the country would become a two-tier system and NAAC would be one of the accrediting agencies under NAC. Apart from NAAC, other accreditation agencies that would be established by the consortium of government and private HEIs and organisations would also be empaneled as the accrediting agencies.”

“The committee would consult NAAC, HEIs, and other stakeholders in order to recommend the new structure of accreditation,” adds Pinto.

“The two-tier system would qualitatively enhance the accreditation system in the country and would be instrumental in accrediting more institutions which would raise the quality of higher education levels in the country. Currently, less than 10% of the institutions in the country are accredited,” says Pinto. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/education/news/ministry-of-education-plans-to-develop-a-two-tier-accreditation-system/articleshow/99629025.cms>

23. Fake Aadhaar, PAN Cards a Click Away: Report (moneylife.in) April 19, 2023

Till a few years ago, online scamsters had to hire 'experts' to make fake identity cards for a fee. But making a bogus Aadhaar or PAN card is just a mouse click away. Any person with some basic knowledge of the dark web can easily prepare a fake identity card for anybody using some websites and applications. The soft copy of the ID card can be printed and used practically for any purpose, says a report.

In the report, quoting an official from a cybercrime cell, Times of India says, "One such website has recorded over 10 lakh downloads of Aadhaar and PAN card templates in the last couple of years, and many of them were done from Gujarat."

All these bogus cards are used for committing crimes, including bank loan fraud and online cheating. It happens because there is no real-time verification or authentication of the ID proof submitted by anyone. This is the harsh reality of Aadhaar, which is now mandatorily being linked with the PAN card.

According to a November 2022 report from The Hindu (), fraudsters from Vishakhapatnam created an Aadhaar using all original details, except the photo, matching with the database of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to record a land registration deal. It was detected timely, as the victim had received an alert on her mobile phone.

Interestingly, the UIDAI and the Union government have been promoting Aadhaar as a unique ID all these years. However, the newspaper reporter obtained a fake Aadhaar prepared with his own photograph, the name of another person, and the address of a famous Bollywood actor.

It took five minutes to make the bogus Aadhaar card, which is very similar to the original, the report says, adding the police stumbled on these websites while interrogating a fraudster.

"He revealed how he had learned to make duplicate Aadhaar cards to execute a loan scam. Fraudsters use some websites to make fake ID cards within minutes," a cybercrime official told TOI.

Cyber experts told the newspaper that gangs access such websites and apps through the dark web by using Android package kits (APK). "Such apps have ready templates of Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, and driving licences. One just has to feed the name, photo, and address, and the fake ID card pops up on your screen. This is a security concern as such fake cards can be used for booking hotel rooms or buying SIM cards," Mayur Bhusawalkar, a Vadodara-based cyber expert, told TOI.

For criminals, Aadhaar is the easiest tool to cheat or dupe anyone, including lenders and individuals. With Aadhaar, anyone can easily get a SIM card, open a bank account, and obtain various things. The reason is there are no real-time checks when one submits Aadhaar as ID proof. For example, all mobile service providers insist on providing an Aadhaar number for issuing a new SIM. However, except for some fingerprint scanning (done on low-cost devices), there is hardly any verification regarding whether the Aadhaar number belongs to the same person.

In fact, earlier this month, the Union government admitted that nearly 6%, or more than 60mn (million) dead people, still hold their Aadhaar numbers since there is no provision to delete or deactivate these numbers.

According to the data shared by the government, nine states and UTs have assigned more Aadhaar numbers than their projected population till 2022. These states with saturation percentage of more than 100% include Delhi (108.66%), Goa (103.79%), Haryana (101.22%), Himachal Pradesh (104.61%), Kerala (105.06%), Lakshadweep (108.84%), Punjab (102.56%), Telangana (101.78%) and Uttarakhand at 100.85%. (Read: Nearly 6 Crore Dead People Still Have Aadhaar Numbers: Govt)

This is the state of Aadhaar cards issued officially by UIDAI. Add to this the bogus and fake Aadhaar cards being created and circulating in the system and you would realise the dangerous implications of it.

In January this year, UIDAI, the agency tasked with Aadhaar, issued a set of guidelines for offline verification-seeking entities (OVSEs) highlighting several usage hygiene issues. "Any Aadhaar can be verified using the QR code available on all forms of Aadhaar (Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, Aadhaar PVC card, and m-Aadhaar) using mAadhaar app, or Aadhaar QR code Scanner. Tampering of Aadhaar documents can be detected by offline verification, and tampering is a punishable offence and liable for penalties under Section 35 of the Aadhaar Act," UIDAI had said.

Last year in April, the comptroller and auditor general (CAG) pointed out several issues like faulty biometrics and unpaired documents in the UIDAI database. In its performance audit report, the CAG says, "All Aadhaar numbers were not paired with the documents relating to personal information of their holders, and even after nearly ten years, the UIDAI could not identify the exact extent of mismatch. Though with the introduction of inline scanning in July 2016, the personal information documents were stored in the central identities data repository (CIDR), the existence of unpaired biometric data of earlier period indicated deficient data management."

As the CAG report pointed out and was revealed by TOI report, UIDAI simply has no mechanism to check uniqueness of Aadhaar, whether issued by itself or created illegally by fraudsters. "There were instances of issue of Aadhaars with the same biometric data to different residents indicating flaws in the de-duplication process and issues of Aadhaars on faulty biometrics and documents. Though UIDAI has taken action to improve the quality of the biometrics and has also introduced iris-based authentication features for enrolment for Aadhaar, the database continued to have faulty Aadhaars, which were already issued," CAG says.

The auditor-general also expressed doubt about the collection of documents from residents and their management. It says, "All the Aadhaar numbers stored in the UIDAI database were not supported with documents on the demographic information of the resident, causing doubts about the correctness and completeness of resident's data collected and stored by UIDAI prior to 2016." <https://www.moneylife.in/article/fake-aadhaar-pan-cards-a-click-away-report/70495.html>

STATES NEWS ITEMS

24. CAG picks countless holes in J&K Tax department's handling of refund cases (thekashmirimages.com) April 19, 2023

Irregular refund claims worth crores of rupees and ineligible transitional Input Tax Credit (ITC) amounting to further so many crores have been executed by J&K's Taxes Department, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has said.

The apex audit institution of India while auditing the Commissioner State Taxes Department detected "the department considered ITC availed on input services in five refund cases (two ST circles). The mistake resulted in an irregular allowance of refund to the tune of ₹ 39.82 lakh".

During the audit, it was noticed that out of 33 refund cases examined, the department considered ITC available on input services in five refund cases (two ST circles). The mistake resulted in an irregular allowance of refund to the tune of ₹ 39.82 lakh.

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The cases where excess ITC, according to CAG, was granted included M/s GSP Power Ltd, M/s Apsara Plastic Pvt Ltd, M/s Accent Pharma, and Rahim Engineering Works.

The audit report revealed that for the year ended March 31, 2021, the department had issued a provisional refund of 90 percent in three cases of one taxpayer in Circle Anantnag-II on account of inverted duty structure which were other than the cases of zero-rated supply of goods or services.

The assessee has been identified as 'Kafie and Kafie Enterprises' who according to the CAG report, had been refunded an irregular excess amount of Rs 19,93,733 as IGST on a provisional basis.

The national auditor found that refunds had been sanctioned in respect of 26 cases despite the non-filing of returns (GSTR I) by the registered persons for prior periods between November

2018 and June 2020. The funds had been sanctioned even to five dealers whose registrations were cancelled with two from the Kashmir division and three dealers in the Jammu division.

The department has been asked to review the cases and fix the responsibility of the erring officials responsible for sanctioning of refunds despite the non-filing of returns.

The CAG said, “in respect of 15 refund claims exceeding ₹ two lakh in each case, a refund of ₹ 328.25 lakh was sanctioned without obtaining certificates from the Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant in violation of the above rules.”

It found the refund of ₹ 144.67 lakh, in respect of sanction on exports, was sanctioned in favour of a dealer without documentary evidence such as shipping bills/export invoices/undertaking of no duty drawback claimed.

Audit scrutiny of refund records revealed to the CAG say that the refund of ₹ 144.67 lakh was sanctioned in favour of the dealer M/s Amar Singh & Sons in STO Circle-G, Jammu, for the periods (pre-automation period).

Prescribed documentary evidence to establish that the refund was due to the applicant were not found on record. In terms of Rules 12 and 13 of the Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback Rules 1995, the shipping bill is treated as a claim for drawback in terms of declaration made on the shipping bill.

However, neither any shipping bills/export invoices nor any undertaking of no duty drawback claimed was found on record, the report said, adding the statement containing the number and date of shipping bill/bill of export containing the number and date of relevant export invoices has also not been filed by the dealer.

The auditor further found that the refund of ITC in respect of zero-rated supplies (two cases) and Inverted Duty Structure (eight cases) revealed that a refund had been claimed and admitted by the department despite the difference of ₹ 110.33 lakh between GSTR-3B and GSTR-2A, in support of which no invoices were found on record. Post-audit of refund cases has not been conducted, resulting in non-compliance with Board’s instructions.

In respect of 46 transitional credit cases, the front-end data shared by GSTN did not match with the data shared by GSTN at the back-end. There was a mismatch of data in these 46 cases with respect to transitional credit (TRAN-1) amounting to ₹ 282.56 lakh.

In four cases, transitional credit amounting to ₹ 11.25 lakh was claimed in excess of actual balance of Input Tax Credit available under the earlier VAT regime, it said.

The CAG noted that in four cases, the dealer(s) had not filed all the requisite returns but carried forward the input tax credit in the Electronic Credit Ledger resulting in ineligible transitional credit of ITC amounting to ₹ 10.75 lakh.

In 13 cases, the undue/excess transitional credit claims were reversed under the provisions of the J&K GST Act, 2017. However, the interest liability under section 50(3) of the J&K GST Act, 2017 was not charged. <https://thekashmirimages.com/2023/04/20/cag-picks-countless-holes-in-jk-tax-departments-handling-of-refund-cases/>

25. Ensure land you allot is free of disputes, AG tells Noida Authority
(timesofindia.indiatimes.com) April 19, 2023

NOIDA: The state's principal accountant general (AG) has asked the Noida Authority to ensure that the plots it allots are free of disputes, citing the additional payout of Rs 295 crore that was made for land on which the DLF Mall of India now stands.

The accountant general sought to know how the land was allotted when it wasn't properly acquired and asked whether any action had been taken against the officials who were responsible for the error.

"As a matter of prudence, Noida Authority should ensure that plots to be allotted to allottees are free from all encumbrances/encroachment and disputes to enable them to construct and utilise the project in accordance with prescribed terms and conditions. Allotment without ensuring the same gives rise to disputes with the allottee later on, which may result in a delay in construction of projects and non-achievement of the objectives of allotment, besides adversely affecting the financial interest of the Noida Authority," the account general wrote.

In May 2022, the Supreme Court ordered the Noida Authority to pay compensation to Bengaluru-based realtor Reddy Veerana at the rate of Rs 1.1 lakh per square metre, besides 30% solatium, 15% statutory interest on the amount of compensation and 3% penal interest for two plots of land measuring 7,400 sqm he had brought at Chhalera Bangar in 1997. Veerana's land, however, was part of a 54,320 sqm land parcel that Noida allotted in 2004 for the Mall of India.

A calculation on the court's ruling pegged the amount to be paid to Veerana at Rs 359 crore, which was reduced to Rs 295 crore after the Noida Authority held talks with Veerana. To ensure timely implementation of the court order, Noida Authority paid him Rs 295 crore on December 1, 2022.

Subsequently, it sent a demand notice to DLF, asking it to deposit Rs 234 crore, after some adjustments. DLF approached the Supreme Court against the notice and then filed a petition in Allahabad high court. The case is still being heard.

"Thus, due to allotment (April 2004) of the plot in Sector 18 which included a land parcel of 7,400 sqm and was not acquired up to the time, Noida Authority had to incur an additional expenditure of Rs 234.57 crore (after adjusting Rs 60.79 crore towards premium and interest thereon from DLF Universal Limited against the said land parcel of 7,400 sqm). The said land parcel could be acquired in January 2006 i.e 21 months after its allotment. It is recommended that the Authority should allot the plots only after its acquisition and ensure that it is encumbrance free," the accountant general wrote.

Noida Authority officials said the land records department would send a report describing the factual position to the accountant general.
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/ensure-land-you-allot-is-free-of-disputes-ag-tells-noida-authority/articleshow/99626427.cms>

26. BJP demands CAG audit of discoms over power subsidies paid by Delhi govt
([business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)) April 19, 2023

The Delhi BJP on Wednesday termed as a "sham" the AAP government's order to conduct a special audit of discoms over power subsidies released to them.

Speaking at a press conference, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva demanded an audit of power subsidy by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

"We do not accept the audit of power subsidy by CAG empanelled audit. The government and discoms can easily influence such an audit," Sachdeva alleged.

No immediate reaction was available from the Delhi government or the discoms over the issue.

Has any private auditor ever given a report against their client in an audit report, Sachdeva asked.

The Delhi government on Tuesday issued a direction to power regulator DERC to conduct a special audit of discoms over power subsidies released to them from 2016 to 2022 to identify any irregularities and ensure transparency.

An order issued by Special Secretary (Power) Ravi Dhawan stated that in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 108 of the Electricity Act 2003, the Lt Governor has given a direction to the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for conducting the special audit through CAG empanelled auditors.

The Delhi BJP president alleged the Kejriwal government did not attempt any audit of the subsidy in the last six years although it paid Rs 13,549 crore to the discoms, and accused the government of "dilly dallying" over the matter.

The BJP and people of Delhi will not accept the CAG empanelled audit, he added.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the AAP has been promising audit of private power companies by the CAG since 2013 but has now developed cold feet. https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/bjp-demands-cag-audit-of-discoms-over-power-subsidies-paid-by-delhi-govt-123041900493_1.html

27. Tamil Nadu govt reduces Governor's discretionary fund from Rs 5 crore to 3 crore
([news9live.com](https://www.news9live.com)) 20 April 2023

In a big blow to the Raj Bhavan, the Tamil Nadu government on Thursday reduced the allocation for the Governor's Discretionary Fund from ₹5 crore to ₹3 crore this year.

Government sources said that the state finance department would soon initiate an audit over the use of the Finance Code and the expenditure by the Raj Bhavan.

State Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan earlier in the Assembly announced that the finance department decided to conduct an audit to ensure that the allocated funds were utilized properly and to avoid issues that could be raised by CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India).

The Finance Minister informed the assembly that Raj Bhavan violated Finance Code and diverted funds from discretionary funds to Governor's household grant.

"The total funds allocated to the Governor's house was Rs 18.38 crore. Of this, Rs 11.32 crore was transferred to the personal account of the Governor on the pretext of 'Akshaya Patra' and few transactions were made for something else. No details of the expenditure of Rs 11.32 crore spent by the Governor's House have been provided to the government. They have spent so much money without the knowledge of the government. This is a violation of the rules," the Minister said.

Thiagarajan further said it was Tamil Nadu that allocates Rs 5 crore every year to the Governor when other states provide only a few lakhs.

"As far as discretionary funds are concerned, many states provide very little funds to the Governor's office. For example, Rs 25 lakh in Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal and Rs 1 crore in Uttar Pradesh," he added. <https://www.news9live.com/state/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-govt-reduces-governors-discretionary-fund-from-rs-5-crore-to-3-crore-au385-2111867>

28. Visva-Bharati to take possession of land from Amartya Sen on May 6
([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) 20 April 2023

Visva-Bharati has issued a notice to Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen saying the central university will take possession of .13 decimal of the 1.38 acre leased land from his ancestral property on its campus at Santiniketan in West Bengal on May 6

The notice, a copy of which HT has seen, accusing Sen of occupying public land was issued on Wednesday under the Public Premises (Eviction and Unauthorised Occupants) Act. Sen, 89, is in the US and usually visits his ancestral home in Santiniketan in winter.

"There are directives/advisories from the Gov't of India/West Bengal, reports of the expert committees on security and maintenance of assets of Visva-Bharati, and the CAG's audit observations regarding the necessity and urgency of removing unauthorized occupation or encroachment from the public premises of Visva-Bharati," the order said.

"Now, the question is which portion covering .13 decimals area in the scheduled public premises may be recovered from Sri Sen."

The notice said Visva-Bharati owns plots on the west and east sides of the premises. "On the southern side, Sri Sen and his family own their private lands. Sri Sen could have participated in joint survey/hearing, etc and indicate his choice."

It cited the absence of such choice and study of survey reports and access to Sen's ancestral house and said it has been decided that .13 decimals of land are to be recovered.

Visva-Bharati vice-chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty has claimed Sen's father, Ashutosh Sen, a professor at the university, rented only 1.25-acre land on a 99-year lease in 1943 and thus .13 decimal should be returned.

Three letters have been sent to Sen in this regard since January 24. The first eviction notice was issued to him on March 17. Sen sent his lawyers to the university hearings. He returned to the US in February.

Visva-Bharati officials did not comment on the fresh eviction notice.

Gora Chand Chakrabarty, Sen's lawyer, said he was indisposed and does not know about the fresh notice. "I did not receive any e-mail from Visva-Bharati till Wednesday night."

On January 30, chief minister Mamata Banerjee met Sen, who has been a critic of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government, and handed over a state land and revenue department record showing that all land covered under his property belong to him through a mutation executed in 2006. Visva-Bharati challenged the document.

In an earlier notice, the university said it has come to the understanding that Sen does not want to face an inquiry and that no further opportunity for showing cause or attending a personal hearing shall be allowed.

Sen sent an e-mail to Visva-Bharati on April 17 saying the university's claim on part of the leased land has no legal standing. "I am the holder of the land, and it was passed on to me after the death of my parents, Ashutosh Sen and Amita Sen. They also purchased other land in close proximity to the leased land."

He added the use of the land has remained the same for over 80 years. "Any contrary claim to this leased land before the expiry of the lease cannot stand," Sen wrote. He added he would visit Santiniketan in June.

Chakrabarty said that based on his client's appeal, a magistrate issued an order asking police to maintain peace and tranquillity at Pratchi, Sen's ancestral home. "That order is still valid."

Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore founded the university in 1921 and the Prime Minister is its chancellor. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/visvabharati-to-take-possession-of-nobel-laureate-amartya-sen-s-land-issues-eviction-notice-sen-accused-of-occupying-public-land-101681960252185.html>

29. Cow conservation scam of Rs 12.39L hits Gopalan department (*firstindia.co.in*) 20 April 2023

Jaipur: A scam of Rs 29 lakh has been confirmed in the name of the conservation and promotion plan of Gir, Tharparkar breeds in the Gopalan department. The payment was made to the firm without the permission of the Finance Department. First India News has exposed the scam on March 9 and now the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has accepted in its report that there was a scam.

The amount spent on the plan item is considered suspicious and instructions have been given to recover the amount of Rs 12.39 lakh.

This is the first scam of its kind in the name of cattle promotion in the state. In fact, for the conservation and promotion of cows of the Gir and Tharparkar breed, the cows were inseminated through embryo transfer technique by the Dept of Gopalan. Embryo implantation

was done in 150 cows, but only 31 of these cows were successful in pregnancy. But the Gopalan Dept completed the payment to the Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala firm of Rs 28,81,725. While according to the rules, full payment could be made to the firm only if all 150 cows were pregnant. The extent is that the then Gopalan Director Dr. Lal Singh paid Rs 13.69 lakh to the firm on July 29, 2022, which was his last working day despite opposition from the Chief Accounts Officer of the department. <https://www.firstindia.co.in/news/india/cow-conservation-scam-of-rs-12391-hits-gopalan-department>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

30. GST evasion detection nearly doubles to Rs 1.01 lakh cr in FY23 (economictimes.indiatimes.com) Apr 20, 2023

GST evasion detection by tax officers almost doubled year-on-year to over Rs 1.01 lakh crore in the just concluded 2022-23 fiscal, an official said. During the last fiscal, a recovery of Rs 21,000 crore was made by the officers of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI).

The official said the government is taking steps to increase compliance and using data analytics and human intelligence to identify fraud.

"DGGI officers have detected evasion to the tune of Rs 1,01,300 crore in 2022- 23. Of this, recovery of Rs 21,000 crore have been made," the official told PTI. Image used for representative purpose

In 2021-22, DGGI, the investigative agency under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, detected evasion of over Rs 54,000 crore and made a tax recovery of over Rs 21,000 crore.

The total number of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion cases has gone up this fiscal with about 14,000 cases detected in 2022-23, up from 12,574 cases in 2021-22 and 12,596 cases in 2020-21.

The modus operandi adopted by fraudsters included short payment of tax by undervaluing taxable goods and services, wrong availment of exemption notifications, wrong availment of the input tax credit, non-payment of tax on supply of taxable goods and services (clandestine removal), and fraudulent availment of the input tax credit on the basis of invoices from fake firms.

In a reply to the Lok Sabha last month, the Finance Ministry said total GST evasion detected between July 2017 to February 2023 was close to Rs 3.08 lakh crore, of which over Rs 1.03 lakh crore was recovered. GST authorities had arrested 1,402 persons for evading taxes in the last five-and-a-half years till February 2023
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/gst-evasion-detection-nearly-doubles-to-rs-1-01-lakh-cr-in-fy23/articleshow/99637667.cms?from=mdr>

31. Nuclear Power: A revival will need more regulation, not less (moneycontrol.com) APRIL 20, 2023

After decades of winter for nuclear power in North America and Western Europe, there's recently been some long-overdue signs of spring.

In the state of Georgia, the first unit of the 2.2 gigawatt Vogtle expansion project — \$34 billion and 17 years in the making — was connected to the grid April 1. It may have come in at more than double the cost and seven years later originally forecast, but it's just the second new civilian reactor completed in the US since 1996. The unit has begun testing and may start up as soon as this year.

Similar green shoots are showing in northern Europe. Finland's 1.6 gigawatt Olkiluoto 3 reactor, plagued by similar time and cost overruns, finally delivered electricity April 16, becoming the continent's first reactor in more than 15 years.

It's popular to blame environmentalists for the way atomic power stopped growing in rich countries three decades ago. Too many protests and consequent safety regulations have made it impossible to build nuclear power plants (the argument goes) slowing what should be an easy path to decarbonising our economies. Clear away the red tape, and the market will do the rest.

Look at the long and painful histories of Vogtle and Olkiluoto, however, and it becomes clear that the truth is close to the opposite. It's not simply a surfeit of regulations, but more importantly the deregulation of energy markets that has stifled atomic power in recent decades.

Most of the world will need modest, but crucial, shares of nuclear energy in tandem with wind and solar to build affordable zero-carbon grids over the coming decades. Correctly identifying the source of the problem, rather than turning renewables versus nuclear into a culture-war battle, will be crucial to making sure those plants get built.

Atomic power facilities are, by their nature, megaprojects. Only hydroelectric dams can compete with them in terms of sheer energy output. There's an entire United Nations agency dedicated in part to ensuring that the fissile fuel supply isn't diverted toward military uses, and a complex global convention to help governments share liability in the event of an accident. Even in a best-case scenario, nuclear plants take the best part of a decade and billions of dollars to build, followed by further decades before they've paid for themselves.

Almost every other megaproject we construct depends on coordinated government support, if not outright ownership, because only states or protected monopolies have the capacity to take on the financial and operational risks. That was the case for power, too, during the nuclear boom from 1970 to 1990, when monopolistic utilities in Europe, North America and the former Soviet Union constructed plants with little regard to cost or even demand.

Those risks have only been heightened by the way that western countries have deregulated energy markets since the 1990s, exposing multi-decade nuclear projects to the vagaries of volatile pricing rather than the fixed returns that they once expected. It's no coincidence that the nuclear construction boom has lasted longest in Asian and former Soviet countries where state-backed monopolies and managed power pricing still hold sway.

While being ostensibly private-sector projects, Vogtle and Olkiluoto both underline this point. The former was only finished thanks to some \$12 billion of loan guarantees from the US government. VC Summer, an almost identical plant across the state border in South Carolina that ran into simultaneous difficulties when their common contractor Westinghouse filed for bankruptcy in 2017, failed to attract funding from Washington and was abandoned. The key ultimate shareholder in Olkiluoto, meanwhile, is not a profit-maximising investor, but a cooperative of local power users.

Some form of government support will be necessary if atomic power isn't to wither as its aging plants reach the end of their lives. Contracts-for-difference are a type of financial derivative used in the UK power market that allow low-carbon generators to swap volatile electricity prices for fixed ones, with a government agency acting as counterparty. Sticking to boring but familiar water-cooled reactor designs, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel with fast neutron or small modular reactors, is the best way of ensuring that projects come in closer to time and budget plans. Governments shouldn't be long-term owners of reactors, but their vast financial capacity and ability to knock heads together means they're best-placed to manage the construction stage before selling off operating projects to private investors.

It might be an enjoyable sport to turn the problems of our power grids into a cage fight between hippies and engineers. If we want affordable zero-carbon power in 2050, however, we will need to fix the real-world issues that have held back nuclear energy for decades, rather than blaming everything on omnipotent environmental campaigners. There are solutions to atomic power's malaise. But the first step toward recovery is admitting you have a problem. <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/opinion/nuclear-power-a-revival-will-need-more-regulation-not-less-10444381.html>