

NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (23.03.2023)

1. CAG outreach extended to political executives to highlight audit concerns: Murmu (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) March 22, 2023

NEW DELHI: The Comptroller and Auditor General's outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns, build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said here on Wednesday.

The CAG, who was interacting with the trainee officers of the Indian Information Service (IIS) at its headquarters here, said the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society.

“In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government's plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country's image in the international arena,” Murmu said.

He stressed that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise, and asked the IIS officers to guide the ministries and departments in sharing information. “Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to your work,” he added.

The CAG asked the officers, many of whom are from the engineering background, to use their technical skills in handling the challenges of future media, especially with emerging self-help artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT.

Murmu said that the CAG audits strengthen the accountability of government projects and, thereby, upholds the ideals of democracy. The session was organised to explain the working of the institution to the probationary officers and acquaint them with different types of audits it carries out with the highest professional standards. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/cag-outreach-extended-to-political-executives-to-highlight-audit-concerns-murmu/articleshow/98923210.cms>

2. CAG's outreach now being extended to include political executives: G.C. Murmu ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) March 23, 2023

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, on Wednesday said its outreach was now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

“The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions,” he said at an orientation programme with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS). The probationers belong to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Mr. Murmu said the media was a very powerful tool that added value to society. “In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government’s plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country’s image in the international arena,” he said.

Stating that the public had the right to access fair and objective information, the CAG of India said: “As officers, you should be able to guide the Ministries and departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to your work.”

Noting that most of the officers were from an engineering background, Mr. Murmu said their technical skills should be used to handle the challenges of future media, particularly with emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGPT.

During the day-long session, senior CAG officers took sessions on various topics, including the technicalities involved in the auditing process, natural resources accounting and the scope of artificial intelligence in the field of auditing and accounts. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cag-outreach-now-being-extended-to-include-political-executives-gc-murmu/article66650059.ece>

3. Govt. information machinery must set agenda for public good in the digital age, CAG tells young officers ([indianarrative.com](https://www.indianarrative.com)) March 22, 2023

Comptroller and Auditor General of India GC Murmu asked young officers of the Indian Information Service (IIS) to be able to work in a manner that improves the

image of the country. During an orientation programme with the officer trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS) the CAG stressed that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise.

Murmu added that the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. “In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government’s plans and initiatives,” he said, underlining the importance of building shared understanding of the most pressing issues in governance and also finding possible solutions.

“As officers, you should be able to guide the ministries and departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role,” Murmu said, adding that the CAG’s outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

Meanwhile, with India assuming the presidency of G20 and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) the CAG is now chairing SAI20 (Supreme Audit Institutions) as well as SAI SCO.

In line with the Indian theme of the G20 Presidency- “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth, One Family, One Future”, the CAG has selected two priority areas — ‘Blue Economy’ and ‘Responsible AI’ for deliberations.

Earlier, Murmu also said credible accounting will be crucial as India aims to touch the \$5 trillion economy by 2025. Expanded use of technology, upgradation of existing data analysis tools and accounting will be vital, he noted.

Regarded as the guardian of public purse, the CAG has now reached out to all state governments and even the district level administrative bodies seeking cooperation in audit work. It has also started using state of the art technology including drones and other data analytical tools to ensure efficient and accurate auditing.
<https://www.indianarrative.com/economy-news/govt-information-machinery-must-set-agenda-for-public-good-in-the-digital-age-cag-tells-young-officers-122786.html>

4. CAG Extends Outreach to Political Executives to Highlight Audit Concerns (bqprime.com, devdiscourse.com, latestly.com, newsdrum.in) March 22, 2023

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns, the apex government auditor said on Wednesday. Presently, senior CAG officials interact with bureaucrats to select the segments for audits, which include the period to be audited and the terms of an audit.

At the end of the audit, an exit conference is held with bureaucrats. However, now the CAG is proposing to interact with ministers as well. Already, there have been occasions where the apex auditor had interacted with political executives on auditing matters.

"The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns. The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions," CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said during an orientation programme with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS).

The participants belong to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The release further said that during the orientation programme, Murmu said the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. "In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government's plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country's image in the international arena," he said.

The CAG stressed that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise. "As officers, you should be able to guide the ministries and departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to your work," he said.

Observing that most of the officers are from an engineering background, Murmu said that technical skills should be used to handle the challenges of future media, especially with emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGPT.

He said that the trainee IIS officers should gear up to meet the challenges posed by Big Data and artificial intelligence.

During the day-long session, senior CAG officers took sessions to explain the working of the institution. Deputy CAG Ila Singh spoke on the evolution of the CAG and the different types of audits it carries out with the highest professional standards, while the Additional Deputy CAG AM Bajaj explained the technicalities involved in the auditing process.

Additional Deputy CAG RM Johri illustrated several high-profile case studies to highlight the positive impact of auditing, apart from the CAG's path-breaking initiative to natural resources accounting and the scope of artificial intelligence in the field of audit and accounts.

Additional Deputy CAG Rebecca Mathai threw light on CAG's international presence and its global strategy in this year's G20 Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) Meet, which has a focus on Blue Economy and Artificial Intelligence. Director General BR Mondal gave details about the critical coordination between the CAG, Parliament and Public Accounts Committee.
<https://www.bqprime.com/business/cag-extends-outreach-to-political-executives-to-highlight-audit-concerns>

5. CAG outreach from babus to political executives now (aninews.in, theprint.in, lokmatimes.com, latestly.com, devdiscourse.com) March 22, 2023

From just dealing with the bureaucracy, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is now reaching out to the political executive in the Union and states.

In his address to Indian Information Service (IIS) probationers during an orientation programme on Wednesday, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said that the “outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns. The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions.”

The probationers belong to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Underlining that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise, Murmu explained to the IIS probationers: “As officers, you should be able to guide the ministries and

departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to your work.”

Explaining the interactive role of the IIS with the media, the CAG said that the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. “In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government’s plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country’s image in the international arena.”

The CAG also cautioned the young officers of the challenges of the future media saying that they will have to deal with “emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGPT” and also “big data and Artificial Intelligence”. Several high-profile case studies were highlighted during the session including the positive impact of auditing, apart from the CAG’s path-breaking initiative to natural resources accounting and the scope of artificial intelligence in the field of audit and accounts. <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/cag-outreach-from-babus-to-political-executives-now20230322233800/>

6. CAG extending its outreach to include political executives (millenniumpost.in) March 22, 2023

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Girish Chandra Murmu said on Wednesday that the CAG’s outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

The objective behind such an initiative is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions, Murmu said during an orientation programme with the officer trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS) belonging to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Murmu further said that the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. “In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government’s plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country’s image in the international arena,” he said.

Murmu further stressed that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise.

“As officers, you should be able to guide the ministries and departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to your work,” he said.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/nation/cag-extending-its-outreach-to-include-political-executives-512578>

7. CAG extending its outreach to include political executives (ianslive.in, moneylife.in, greaterkashmir.com, siasat.com, ommcomnews.com, daijiworld.com, thenewsmen.co.in) March 22, 2023

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India’s outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

“The intent is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions,” Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu said on Wednesday.

Murmu said that the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society.

“In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government’s plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country’s image in the international arena,” he said this during an orientation programme with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS).

The probationers belong to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Murmu stressed that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise.

“As officers, you should be able to guide the ministries and departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here, positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to you work,” he said.

Noticing that most of the officers are from engineering background, Murmu said that technical skills should be used to handle the challenges of future media, especially with emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGPT.

He said that the trainee IIS officers should gear up to meet the challenges posed by Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

During the Q&A session, one of the probation officers asked Murmu if the CAG, which is the guardian of the public purse, actually enables citizens to know about the government's expenditure and receipts in an informed way.

To this, the CAG replied that there are several IEC programmes for raising awareness on social audits.

Asked whether the perception of the CAG as a paper tiger was true or not, Murmu said "the CAG audits strengthen the accountability of government projects and, thereby, upholds the ideals of democracy".

During the day-long session, senior CAG officers took sessions to explain the working of the institution. Deputy CAG, Ila Singh, spoke on the evolution of the CAG and the different types of audits it carries out with the highest professional standards. <https://www.moneylife.in/article/cag-extending-its-outreach-to-include-political-executives/70215.html>

8. The CAG is expanding its reach to include political officials ([newsjani.com](https://www.newsjani.com)) March 23, 2023

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

"The objective is to create a common understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions," India's Comptroller and Auditor General Girish Chandra Murmu said on Wednesday.

Murmu said that media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society.

"In the Indian context, it has helped spread the government's plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the vision and vision of your department, and it improves the country's image in the international arena. should be made," he said during an orientation program with Indian Information Service (IIS) officer trainees.

The probationers belong to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Murmu stressed that the public has a right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise.

“As an officer, you should be able to guide the ministries and departments, dignitaries and officials you are going to cover. Positioning, marketing and principles will play a role here. Your training will focus on these strategies. to learn, and soft skills to add value to your work,” he said.

Noting that most of the officers are from engineering backgrounds, Murmo said technical skills should be used to tackle future media challenges, especially emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGP. with t.

He said that the IIS officers undergoing training should be prepared to deal with the challenges posed by Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

During the question-and-answer session, one of the probation officers asked Marmo whether the CAG, which is the custodian of the public purse, enables citizens to know the government’s expenditure and receipts in an informed manner.

To this, the CAG replied that IEC has several programs to raise awareness about social audit.

Asked whether the perception of the CAG as a paper lion was correct, Marmo said “CAG audits strengthen accountability of government projects and thus uphold the ideals of democracy”.

During the day-long meeting, senior CAG officers held a session to explain the functioning of the institution. Deputy CAG, Ella Singh spoke about the evolution of CAG and its various types of audits along with its highest professional standards. <https://newsjani.com/india/the-cag-is-expanding-its-reach-to-include-political-officials-news-jani/>

9. IIS OTs SHOULD IMBIBE MODERN TOOLS TO MEET FUTURE MEDIA CHALLENGES: MURMU (indiaeducationdiary.in) 22 March 2023

Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS) met the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG of India), Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, during their

orientation program in the CAG office here yesterday. The probationers belong to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Shri Murmu said that the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. “In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government’s plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve the country’s image in the international arena.”

Shri Murmu stressed that the public has the right to access fair and objective information, whether it is about the government or otherwise. “As officers, you should be able to guide the ministries and departments, the dignitaries and functionaries you are going to cover. Here positioning, marketing and principles will come to play a role. The core of your training is to learn these strategies, and the soft skills to add value to your work.” Noticing that most of the officers are from engineering background, Shri Murmu said that technical skills should be used to handle the challenges of future media, especially with emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGPT. He said that the trainee IIS officers should gear up to meet the challenges posed by Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

Shri Murmu informed that “the CAG’s outreach has now been extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns. The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions.”

During the lively Q&A session, one of the probation officers asked Shri Murmu if the CAG, which is the guardian of the public purse, actually enables citizens to know about the government’s expenditure and receipts in an informed way. To this, the CAG replied that there are several IEC programs for raising awareness on social audits.

On asked whether the perception of the CAG as a paper tiger was true or not, Shri Murmu responded that the CAG audits strengthen the accountability of government projects and, thereby, upholds the ideals of democracy.

During the day-long session, senior CAG officers took sessions to explain the working of the institution. Deputy CAG, Ila Singh, spoke on the evolution of the CAG and the different types of audits it carries out with the highest professional standards, while the Additional Deputy CAG A.M. Bajaj explained about the technicalities involved in the process of auditing.

Additional Deputy CAG, R.M. Johri, illustrated several high-profile case studies to highlight the positive impact of auditing, apart from the CAG's path-breaking initiative to natural resources accounting and the scope of artificial intelligence in the field of audit and accounts.

Additional Deputy CAG, Rebecca Mathai, threw light on CAG's international presence and its global strategy in this year's G20 Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) Summit, which has a focus on Blue Economy and Artificial Intelligence. Director General, B. R. Mondal, gave an in-depth account on the critical coordination between the CAG, Parliament and Public Accounts Committee. <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iis-ots-should-imbibe-modern-tools-to-meet-future-media-challenges-murmu/>

10. राजनीतिक पदाधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए अपनी पहुंच बढ़ा रहे कैग (deshbandhu.co.in, newsnationtv.com) 23 March 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (कैग) की पहुंच अब ऑडिट चिंताओं को उजागर करने के लिए राजनीतिक पदाधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए बढ़ाई जा रही है। भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने बुधवार को कहा, "इरादा शासन में सबसे अधिक दबाव वाली चिंताओं की साझा समझ बनाने और संभावित समाधान खोजने का है।"

मुर्मू ने कहा कि मीडिया एक बहुत शक्तिशाली उपकरण है जो समाज में मूल्य जोड़ता है।

भारतीय सूचना सेवा (आईआईएस) के अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं के साथ एक अभिविन्यास कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने कहा, "भारतीय संदर्भ में इसने सरकार की योजनाओं और पहलों का प्रसार करने में मदद की है। एक परिवीक्षाधीन व्यक्ति के रूप में आपको अपने विभाग के दृष्टिकोण और दृष्टि को समझना होगा और इसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में देश की छवि में सुधार करना चाहिए।"

प्रोबेशनर 2020, 2021 और 2022 के तीन बैच के हैं।

मुर्मू ने जोर देकर कहा कि जनता को निष्पक्ष और वस्तुनिष्ठ जानकारी तक पहुंचने का अधिकार है, चाहे वह सरकार के बारे में हो या किसी और के बारे में।

उन्होंने कहा, "अधिकारियों के रूप में आपको मंत्रालयों और विभागों, गणमान्य व्यक्तियों और पदाधिकारियों का मार्गदर्शन करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए, जिन्हें आप कवर करने जा

रहे हैं। यहां स्थिति, मार्केटिंग और सिद्धांत एक भूमिका निभाएंगे। आपके प्रशिक्षण का मूल इन रणनीतियों को सीखना है।"

यह देखते हुए कि अधिकांश अधिकारी इंजीनियरिंग पृष्ठभूमि से हैं, मुर्मू ने कहा कि तकनीकी कौशल का उपयोग भविष्य के मीडिया की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से चैटजीपीटी जैसे उभरते स्व-सहायता एआई उपकरणों के साथ।

उन्होंने कहा कि प्रशिक्षु आईआईएस अधिकारियों को बिग डेटा और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।

प्रश्नोत्तर सत्र के दौरान, परिवीक्षा अधिकारियों में से एक ने मुर्मू से पूछा कि क्या सीएजी, जो जनता के धन का संरक्षक है, वास्तव में नागरिकों को सरकार के व्यय और प्राप्तियों के बारे में सूचित तरीके से जानने में सक्षम बनाता है।

इस पर कैग ने जवाब दिया कि सोशल ऑडिट पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए कई आईईसी कार्यक्रम हैं।

यह पूछे जाने पर कि सीएजी को कागजी शेर के रूप में देखना सही है या नहीं, मुर्मू ने कहा, "कैग ऑडिट सरकारी परियोजनाओं की जवाबदेही को मजबूत करता है और इस तरह लोकतंत्र के आदर्शों को कायम रखता है।"

दिनभर चले सत्र के दौरान सीएजी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने संस्थान की कार्यप्रणाली को समझाने के लिए सत्र लिया। डिप्टी सीएजी इला सिंह ने सीएजी के विकास और उच्चतम पेशेवर मानकों के साथ किए जाने वाले विभिन्न प्रकार के ऑडिट पर बात की।
<https://www.deshbandhu.co.in/states/cag-widening-its-reach-to-include-political-functionaries-328992-1>

11. अब कैग के दायरे में 'माननीय' भी आएंगे (livehindustan.com) March 22, 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) ने बुधवार को कहा कि शीर्ष सरकारी ऑडिटर की पहुंच अब 'माननीय' यानी मंत्रियों तक हो सकेगी ताकि लेखापरीक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं को उजागर किया जा सके।

वर्तमान में वरिष्ठ कैग अधिकारी लेखापरीक्षा के लिए खंडों का चयन करनेके लिए नौकरशाहों से बात करते हैं, जिसमें लेखापरीक्षा की अवधि और शर्तेशामिल होती हैं। इसके बाद नौकरशाहों के साथ एक कॉन्फ्रेंस आयोजित होती है हालांकि अब कैग ने मंत्रियों सेभी बातचीत का प्रस्ताव दिया है। हालांकि पहले भी शीर्षलेखा परीक्षक ने लेखापरीक्षा मामलों पर मंत्रियों सेबातचीत की है।

भारतीय सूचना सेवा (आईआईएस) के प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों के साथ एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा कि लेखापरीक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं को उजागर करने के लिए भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक के दायरे को, अब मंत्रियों को शामिल करने के लिए विस्तारित किया जा रहा है। इसका उद्देश्य शासन में सबसेअधिक दबाव वाली चिंताओं पर साझा समझ बनाना और संभावित समाधान खोजना है।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान मुर्मू नेअधिकारियों से कहा कि प्रोबेशन के दौरान आपको अपने विभाग के दृष्टिकोण और रुख को समझना होगा और इसके माध्यम सेअंतरराष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में देश की छवि में सुधार करना चाहिए। उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि जनता को निष्पक्ष और वस्तुनिष्ठ जानकारी तक पहुंचने का अधिकार है, चाहे वह सरकार से संबंधित हो या किसी अन्य मामले से। अधिकांश अधिकारियों के इंजीनियरिंग पृष्ठभूमि से होने के कारण मुर्मू ने कहा कि विशेष रूप से चैटजीपीटी जैसे उभरते स्व-सहायता एआई उपकरणों के साथ तकनीकी कौशल का उपयोग भविष्य की चुनौतियों से निपटनेके लिए किया जाना चाहिए।
<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-now-39-honorable-39-will-also-come-under-the-ambit-of-cag-7931525.html>

12. ऑडिट चिंताओं को उजागर करने के लिए राजनीतिक पदाधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए अपनी पहुंच बढ़ा रहा CAG (samacharnama.com) Mar 23, 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (कैग) की पहुंच अब ऑडिट चिंताओं को उजागर करने के लिए राजनीतिक पदाधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए बढ़ाई जा रही है। भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने बुधवार को कहा, इरादा शासन में सबसे अधिक दबाव वाली चिंताओं की साझा समझ बनाने और संभावित समाधान खोजने का है। मुर्मू ने कहा कि मीडिया एक बहुत शक्तिशाली उपकरण है जो समाज में मूल्य जोड़ता है। भारतीय सूचना सेवा (आईआईएस) के अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं के साथ एक अभिविन्यास कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने कहा, भारतीय संदर्भ में इसने सरकार की योजनाओं और पहलों का प्रसार करने में मदद की है। एक परिवीक्षाधीन व्यक्ति के रूप में आपको अपने

विभाग के दृष्टिकोण और दृष्टि को समझना होगा और इसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में देश की छवि में सुधार करना चाहिए।

प्रोबेशनर 2020, 2021 और 2022 के तीन बैच के हैं। मुर्मू ने जोर देकर कहा कि जनता को निष्पक्ष और वस्तुनिष्ठ जानकारी तक पहुंचने का अधिकार है, चाहे वह सरकार के बारे में हो या किसी और के बारे में। उन्होंने कहा, अधिकारियों के रूप में आपको मंत्रालयों और विभागों, गणमान्य व्यक्तियों और पदाधिकारियों का मार्गदर्शन करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए, जिन्हें आप कवर करने जा रहे हैं। यहां स्थिति, मार्केटिंग और सिद्धांत एक भूमिका निभाएंगे। आपके प्रशिक्षण का मूल इन रणनीतियों को सीखना है। यह देखते हुए कि अधिकांश अधिकारी इंजीनियरिंग पृष्ठभूमि से हैं, मुर्मू ने कहा कि तकनीकी कौशल का उपयोग भविष्य के मीडिया की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से चैटजीपीटी जैसे उभरते स्व-सहायता एआई उपकरणों के साथ। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रशिक्षु आईआईएस अधिकारियों को बिग डेटा और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।

प्रश्नोत्तर सत्र के दौरान, परिवीक्षा अधिकारियों में से एक ने मुर्मू से पूछा कि क्या सीएजी, जो जनता के धन का संरक्षक है, वास्तव में नागरिकों को सरकार के व्यय और प्राप्तियों के बारे में सूचित तरीके से जानने में सक्षम बनाता है। इस पर कैग ने जवाब दिया कि सोशल ऑडिट पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए कई आईईसी कार्यक्रम हैं। यह पूछे जाने पर कि सीएजी को कागजी शेर के रूप में देखना सही है या नहीं, मुर्मू ने कहा, कैग ऑडिट सरकारी परियोजनाओं की जवाबदेही को मजबूत करता है और इस तरह लोकतंत्र के आदर्शों को कायम रखता है। दिनभर चले सत्र के दौरान सीएजी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने संस्थान की कार्यप्रणाली को समझाने के लिए सत्र लिया। डिप्टी सीएजी इला सिंह ने सीएजी के विकास और उच्चतम पेशेवर मानकों के साथ किए जाने वाले विभिन्न प्रकार के ऑडिट पर बात की। <https://samacharnama.com/states/delhi-news/cag-expanding-its-reach-to-include-political-functionaries/cid10356163.htm>

13. राजनीतिक अधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए अपनी पहुंच बढ़ा रहा है कैग (jantaserishta.com) Mar 22, 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखापरीक्षक की पहुँच अब लेखापरीक्षा चिंताओं को उजागर करने के लिए राजनीतिक अधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए बढ़ाई जा रही है।

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने बुधवार को कहा, "शासन में सबसे अधिक दबाव वाली चिंताओं की साझा समझ बनाने और संभावित समाधान खोजने का इरादा है।"

मुर्मू ने कहा कि मीडिया एक बहुत शक्तिशाली उपकरण है जो समाज में मूल्य जोड़ता है।

"भारतीय संदर्भ में, इसने सरकार की योजनाओं और पहलों के प्रसार में मदद की है। एक परिवीक्षाधीन व्यक्ति के रूप में, आपको अपने विभाग के दृष्टिकोण और दृष्टि को समझना होगा, और इसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में देश की छवि में सुधार करना चाहिए," उन्होंने भारतीय सूचना सेवा (IIS) के अधिकारी प्रशिक्षुओं के साथ एक उन्मुखीकरण कार्यक्रम के दौरान यह बात कही।

प्रोबेशनर 2020, 2021 और 2022 के तीन बैच के हैं।

मुर्मू ने जोर देकर कहा कि जनता को निष्पक्ष और वस्तुनिष्ठ जानकारी तक पहुंचने का अधिकार है, चाहे वह सरकार के बारे में हो या अन्यथा।

"अधिकारियों के रूप में, आपको मंत्रालयों और विभागों, जिन गणमान्य व्यक्तियों और पदाधिकारियों को आप कवर करने जा रहे हैं, उनका मार्गदर्शन करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए। यहां पोजिशनिंग, मार्केटिंग और सिद्धांतों की भूमिका होगी। आपके प्रशिक्षण का मूल इन रणनीतियों को सीखना है, और आपके काम में मूल्य जोड़ने के लिए सॉफ्ट कौशल," उन्होंने कहा।

यह देखते हुए कि अधिकांश अधिकारी इंजीनियरिंग पृष्ठभूमि से हैं, मुर्मू ने कहा कि तकनीकी कौशल का उपयोग भविष्य के मीडिया की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से चैटजीपीटी जैसे उभरते स्व-सहायता एआई उपकरणों के साथ।

उन्होंने कहा कि प्रशिक्षु आईआईएस अधिकारियों को बिग डेटा और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।

प्रश्नोत्तर सत्र के दौरान, परिवीक्षा अधिकारियों में से एक ने मुर्मू से पूछा कि क्या सीएजी, जो जनता के धन का संरक्षक है, वास्तव में नागरिकों को सरकार के व्यय और प्राप्तियों के बारे में सूचित तरीके से जानने में सक्षम बनाता है।

इस पर कैग ने जवाब दिया कि सोशल ऑडिट पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए कई आईईसी कार्यक्रम हैं।

यह पूछे जाने पर कि सीएजी को पेपर टाइगर के रूप में देखना सही है या नहीं, मुर्मू ने कहा, "कैग ऑडिट सरकारी परियोजनाओं की जवाबदेही को मजबूत करता है और इस तरह लोकतंत्र के आदर्शों को कायम रखता है।"

दिन भर चले सत्र के दौरान सीएजी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने संस्थान की कार्यप्रणाली को समझाने के लिए सत्र लिया। डिप्टी सीएजी, इला सिंह ने सीएजी के विकास और उच्चतम पेशेवर मानकों के साथ किए जाने वाले विभिन्न प्रकार के ऑडिट पर बात की।
<https://jantaserishta.com/local/meghalaya/cag-extending-its-outreach-to-include-political-executives-2151893>

14. CAG की पहुंच बाबुओं से लेकर राजनीतिक अधिकारियों तक है (jantaserishta.com) Mar 23, 2023

केवल नौकरशाही से निपटने से, नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) अब संघ और राज्यों में राजनीतिक कार्यकारी तक पहुंच रहे हैं।

बुधवार को एक ओरिएंटेशन कार्यक्रम के दौरान भारतीय सूचना सेवा (आईआईएस) के परिवीक्षाधीनों को संबोधित करते हुए, कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा कि "ऑडिट चिंताओं को उजागर करने के लिए अब राजनीतिक अधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए आउटरीच बढ़ाया जा रहा है। इरादा एक साझा समझ बनाने का है।" शासन में सबसे अधिक दबाव वाली चिंताएं और संभावित समाधान खोजें।"

प्रोबेशनर 2020, 2021 और 2022 के तीन बैच के हैं।

यह रेखांकित करते हुए कि जनता को निष्पक्ष और वस्तुनिष्ठ जानकारी प्राप्त करने का अधिकार है, चाहे वह सरकार के बारे में हो या अन्यथा, मुर्मू ने आईआईएस परिवीक्षार्थियों को समझाया: "अधिकारियों के रूप में, आपको मंत्रालयों और विभागों, गणमान्य व्यक्तियों और पदाधिकारियों का मार्गदर्शन करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए। कवर करने जा रहे हैं। यहां पोजिशनिंग, मार्केटिंग और सिद्धांत एक भूमिका निभाएंगे। आपके प्रशिक्षण का मूल इन रणनीतियों को सीखना है, और आपके काम में मूल्य जोड़ने के लिए सॉफ्ट कौशल।"

मीडिया के साथ आईआईएस की संवादात्मक भूमिका के बारे में बताते हुए सीएजी ने कहा कि मीडिया एक बहुत शक्तिशाली उपकरण है जो समाज में मूल्य जोड़ता है। "भारतीय

संदर्भ में, इसने सरकार की योजनाओं और पहलों का प्रसार करने में मदद की है। एक परिवीक्षाधीन व्यक्ति के रूप में, आपको अपने विभाग के दृष्टिकोण और दृष्टि को समझना होगा, और इसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में देश की छवि में सुधार करना चाहिए।"

कैग ने युवा अधिकारियों को भविष्य के मीडिया की चुनौतियों के प्रति आगाह करते हुए कहा कि उन्हें "चैटजीपीटी जैसे उभरते स्व-सहायता एआई उपकरण" और "बिग डेटा और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस" से भी निपटना होगा। सत्र के दौरान कई हाई-प्रोफाइल केस स्टडीज पर प्रकाश डाला गया, जिसमें ऑडिटिंग के सकारात्मक प्रभाव के अलावा प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के लेखांकन के लिए कैग की अग्रणी पहल और ऑडिट और खातों के क्षेत्र में आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस का दायरा शामिल है।
<https://jantaserishta.com/delhi-ncr/cags-reach-ranges-from-babus-to-political-officials-2152030>

STATES NEWS ITEMS

15. Varsity promotions in violation of UGC rules cost state Rs 14 cr: CAG (tribuneindia.com) Mar 23, 2023

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India finds that Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Sonapat, and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar, promoted faculty members under the career advancement scheme (CAS) in violation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations. These varsities adopted deviated academic performance indicator (API) based performance based appraisal system (PBAS), which resulted in the inadmissible payment of salary and allowances of Rs 14.75 crore to 117 faculty members.

The CAG report was laid on the table of the Vidhan Sabha on March 22. The UGC vide its regulations on minimum qualification for the appointment and other service conditions of university and college teachers specified the selection procedure for the promotion of teachers of universities under CAS. These regulations provide for incorporating the API-based PBAS, a scoring system proforma at the institutional level for universities and colleges. The regulations also permitted the varsities to adjust weightage without changing the minimum API score requirement. The proposed scores for API in CAS promotions are categorised into three categories. Category I includes teaching, learning and evaluation-related activities; Category II includes co-curricular, extension and

professional development-related activities; and Category III includes research and academic contributions.

The Higher Education Department decided to adopt the UGC regulations of June 2010 and issued orders on CAS regulations.

“The audit observed that both the universities, instead of adjusting the weightages within the prescribed API parameter score, altered the maximum API score defined for that category, leading to the deviation in maximum API scores as prescribed in the UGC guidelines in Category I and II. Further, both universities also assigned additional scores against the prescribed API parameter in excess of that assigned in the UGC guidelines under Category III. New API parameters, other than those prescribed in the UGC guidelines in Category III, were adopted by these universities, and existing API parameters were also modified in Category III,” observed the CAG.

Two universities altered API score

-Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology, Sonapat, and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar, were found violating norms

-The audit observed that both universities, instead of adjusting the weightages within the prescribed academic performance indicator (API) parameter score, altered the maximum API score defined for that category

-This led to the deviation in maximum API scores as prescribed in the UGC guidelines in Category I and II.
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/varsity-promotions-in-violation-of-ugc-rules-cost-state-14-cr-cag-490452>

16. MMRDA under debt ₹60,000 Cr debt, projects undertaken without thought: Jayant Patil ([freepressjournal.in](https://www.freepressjournal.in)) March 22, 2023

Once one of the richest government bodies, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is now under Rs60,000 crore debt, said former water resource minister and NCP leader Jayant Patil during the Assembly session.

Targeting the state government, Patil said it has declared projects worth Rs5,000 crore in the budget but the project implementation body, MMRDA, continues to

avail loans. “Declaring new projects is an eyewash. How will you generate the money? That answer should have come during the budget session, but it hasn’t come until now,” Patil said.

Project cost of Metro 3 increased by 50%

Patil said that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its report, also said that Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) didn’t publish tenders on the Central public procurement portal. “The CAG also said that the estimated cost of many tenders was inflated and MMRCL availed loans in dollars from foreign banks,” said Patil, who further targeted the state for making false promises to people of Maharashtra. “The project cost of Metro 3 has increased by 50% in a year, which is Rs4,000 crore,” he said.

Alleging that projects have been undertaken for “an event”, Patil said, “If there’s an intention to complete the projects, then the government would have arranged the funds first.”

The NCP leader also targeted the government over the breaking of the BMC’s fixed deposits and said that it thinks it now has the “key to BMC locker”. “Spending money indiscriminately on works like Mumbai beautification by liquidating the fixed deposits is being done to deliberately bring down Mumbai,” he said. <https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mmrdaunder-debt-60000-cr-debt-projects-undertaken-without-thought-jayant-patil>

17. फर्जीवाड़े का कैग रिपोर्ट में खुलासा: मृतकों को किसान सम्मान निधि का लाभ, फरीदाबाद निगम में 200 करोड़ का घोटाला ([bhaskar.com](https://www.bhaskar.com)) March 23, 2023

सरकारी विभागों में हो रहे फर्जीवाड़े का खुलासा कैग की रिपोर्ट में हुआ है। प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि योजना में मृतकों को लाभ दे दिया गया, वहीं एक ही परिवार के एक से ज्यादा सदस्यों को भी लाभ पहुंचाया गया। बिना कृषि भूमि भी योजना का लाभ दिया गया।

हाल यह रहा कि पेंशनर्स को भी 1.31 करोड़ रुपए का लाभ दिया गया। फरीदाबाद निगम में ई-टेंडरिंग को दरकिनार कर एक ठेकेदार के नाम में मामूली बदलाव कर उसे नए टिन नंबर के आधार पर काम दिया, जिससे निगम को 23.80 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हुआ।

जबकि काम हुआ ही नहीं था। बिना काम ही ठेकेदार को 183.83 करोड़ रुपए की राशि भी दे दी गई। यानी निगम में 200 करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा की अनियमितता बताई गई है।

नगर निगम गुड़गांव, रोहतक, यमुनानगर में टैक्स ही नहीं वसूला जा रहा। टैक्स 2018 तक 663 करोड़ रुपए नहीं लिया गया तो 2021 में यह राशि बढ़कर 2178 करोड़ रुपए हो गई। खेल विभाग भी पीछे नहीं रहा। अयोग्य खिलाड़ियों को नकद पुरस्कार भी दे दिए गए।

निर्माण कार्य में देरी हुई, ठेकेदारों पर पैनल्टी लगाई नहीं ...

पीडब्ल्यूडी ने बोली की शर्तों का उल्लंघन किया। अयोग्य बोलीदाताओं को कार्य सौंप दिए गए। काम न होने पर पैनल्टी तक नहीं लगाई। जिससे विभाग को 1.53 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ। सोनीपत में राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालय के निर्माण में काफी देरी हुई। यहां तक कि ठेकेदार को 26.46 करोड़ रुपए का अनुचित लाभ पहुंचाया गया।

राजकीय होम्योपैथिक कॉलेज की स्थापना में तीन वर्ष की देरी से जनता और विद्यार्थियों को समय पर लाभ नहीं मिला। राजकोष पर 3.88 करोड़ का भार पड़ा। नियमों को दरकिनार कर फैकल्टी सदस्यों को पदोन्नति दिए जाने से 14.75 करोड़ रुपए का अस्वीकार्य वेतन एवं भत्ते दिए गए। <https://www.bhaskar.com/local/chandigarh/news/benefit-of-kisan-samman-nidhi-to-the-dead-200-crore-scam-in-faridabad-corporation-131072338.html>

18. कैग की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा! देहरादून में रोक के बाद भी हुआ जमकर हुआ खनन (devbhoomimedia.com) March 23, 2023

देहरादून: उत्तराखंड में अवैध खनन को लेकर हमेशा से ही सवाल खड़े होते रहे हैं। हाल ही में सरकार की ओर से जारी कैग की रिपोर्ट में इस बात का खुलासा किया गया है कि जिन क्षेत्रों में खनन पर रोक लगी है, उन क्षेत्रों में भी धड़ल्ले से खनन किया जा रहा है। यही नहीं, कैग की रिपोर्ट में सैटेलाइट इमेज भी जारी करते हुए इस बात की पुष्टि की गई है। साथ ही यह भी बताया गया है कि अनुमति से काफी अधिक क्षेत्रों में खनन किया जा रहा है। साथ ही खनन माल के ट्रांसपोर्टेशन के लिए सरकारी गाड़ियों के नंबरों का भी इस्तेमाल किया गया।

जिला देहरादून में अवैध खनन गतिविधियों का आकलन करने के लिए 2017-18 से 2020-21 तक के खनन सालों का लेखा परीक्षण किया गया। लेखा परीक्षा में पता चला कि जिला देहरादून में 24 खनन स्थलों में से तीन नदी स्तर बालू खनन स्थलों सॉनग-3 (सौंग नदी), ढकरानी में 21/3 और कुल्हाल (यमुना नदी) में 23/3 का चयन किया। कैग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार लेखापरीक्षा द्वारा अवैध खनन की स्थिति का आकलन करने के लिए रिमोट सेंसिंग

और जिओग्राफिक इन्फॉर्मेशन सिस्टम (जीआईएस) टूल्स का इस्तेमाल किया गया. साथ ही रिमोट सेंसिंग टेक्नोलॉजी के परिणामों की पुष्टि के लिए संयुक्त भौतिक सत्यापन, विभाग के ट्रांसिट पास के डेटाबेस का विश्लेषण और सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा खनन सामग्री की खपत के माध्यम से की गयी.

देहरादून के तीन क्षेत्रों में हुए अवैध खनन के खेल में सरकार को करोड़ों रुपए के राजस्व का नुकसान हुआ. कैग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देहरादून जिले के तीन खनन क्षेत्रों ढकरानी खनन क्षेत्र, सौंग-3 साइट और कुल्हान साइट में खनन माफियाओं ने 37.17 लाख मीट्रिक टन अवैध खनन को ठिकाने लगा दिया. पुलिस और प्रशासन के अधिकारी अवैध खनन पर लगाम लगाने में नाकामयाब रहे. इस अवैध खनन से राजस्व को करीब 39.98 करोड़ और जीएसटी के रूप में 5.71 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हुआ.

ढकरानी खनन क्षेत्र: यमुना नदी पर स्थित ढकरानी खनन साइट को जनवरी 2017 से खनन के लिए पट्टे पर नहीं दिया गया. लिहाजा, जनवरी 2017 से कोई खनन गतिविधि नहीं होनी चाहिए थी. बावजूद इसके लेखापरीक्षा द्वारा तकनीकी सलाहकार की मदद से साल 2020 में किए गए अलग-अलग समय में सैटेलाइट इमेज के आकलन के अनुसार फरवरी 2020 तक खनन नहीं किया गया. लेकिन, मई 2020 और उसके बाद इस प्रतिबंधित क्षेत्र में अवैध खनन की गतिविधियां दिखाई दी. जबकि, उस दौरान वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना संक्रमण के चलते प्रदेश भर में संपूर्ण लॉकडाउन था.

सौंग-3 साइट: सौंग-3 साइट वन क्षेत्र में स्थित है. इस साइट के लिए वन/पर्यावरण स्वीकृति मई 2019 तक के लिए दी गई थी. उसके बाद की पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने के लिए परियोजना प्रस्तावक ने आवेदन और स्पष्टीकरण प्रस्तुत किए थे. उत्तराखंड वन विकास निगम से भी पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा था. तकनीकी सलाहकार ने सैटेलाइट रिमोट सेन्सिंग इमेज के आधार पर निष्कर्ष निकाला कि साल 2018 से 2020 तक के सालों में खनन गतिविधियों में वृद्धि हुई. अक्टूबर 2019 तक पूरी नदी के किनारे को कवर कर लिया गया. रिमोट सेन्सिंग इमेज के विश्लेषण से मिले निष्कर्षों की स्थलीय निरीक्षण से भी इसकी पुष्टि की गई.

कुल्हान साइट: कुल्हाल साइट खनन पट्टा और पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति के अनुसार खनन केवल पट्टे पर दिए गए क्षेत्र के भीतर ही किया जा सकता है. जिसका सीमांकन जिला कलेक्टर और खनन विभाग की ओर से संयुक्त रूप से पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति और खनन पट्टे में जियो-कॉऑर्डिनेट का उपयोग करके किया जाता है. तकनीकी सलाहकार ने आधिकारिक तौर पर पट्टे पर दिए गए क्षेत्र के बाहर खनन गतिविधियों को रिपोर्ट किया. जिससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि इस क्षेत्र में अवैध रूप से खनन संचालित किया जा रहा है.

कैग की रिपोर्ट में यह भी खुलासा किया गया है कि देहरादून जिले में तीन खनन साइटों से एंबुलेंस और शव वाहनों से भी खनन सामग्री ढोई गई है। इसके साथ ही हजारों रवन्नाओं में भी सरकारी गाड़ियों के नंबरों का भी इस्तेमाल किया गया है। हालांकि, खनन का यह अवैध खेल 2017-18 से लेकर 2020-21 के बीच खेला गया। कैग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार खनन सामग्री को ढोने के लिए जिन वाहनों का इस्तेमाल किया गया उसमें एंबुलेंस के हजारों नंबर, शव वाहनों और प्राइवेट वाहनों के नंबर भी पाए गए। कैग के आंकड़ों के अनुसार 6303 सरकारी वाहनों, 60,882 बिना पंजीकरण वाले वाहनों और 42,857 अन्य वाहनों का इस्तेमाल खनन सामग्री ढोने में किया गया।

कैग की रिपोर्ट में इस बात का भी जिक्र है कि 2,969 सरकारी वाहनों से करीब एक लाख 24 हजार 474 मीट्रिक टन, 835 यात्री वाहनों से करीब 97 हजार मीट्रिक टन के साथ ही 2500 टैक्सी वाहनों करीब 1.52 मीट्रिक टन अवैध खनन सामग्री को ढोया गया। हालांकि, इनमें 57 हजार से अधिक वाहन ऐसे थे, जो पंजीकृत भी नहीं थे। ऐसे वाहनों की संख्या कैग रिपोर्ट में 40 बताई गई है। साथ ही 782 पेट्रोलियम टैंकरों के नंबर भी अवैध खनन के रवन्नों में पाए गए। इतना ही नहीं, 261 ई-रिक्शा और 201 दोपहिया वाहनों के साथ ही 8000 ट्रैक्टरों से भी खनन सामग्री को ढोना दर्शाया गया।

<https://devbhoomimedia.com/revealed-in-the-cag-report-heavy-mining-happened-even-after-the-ban-in-dehradun/>

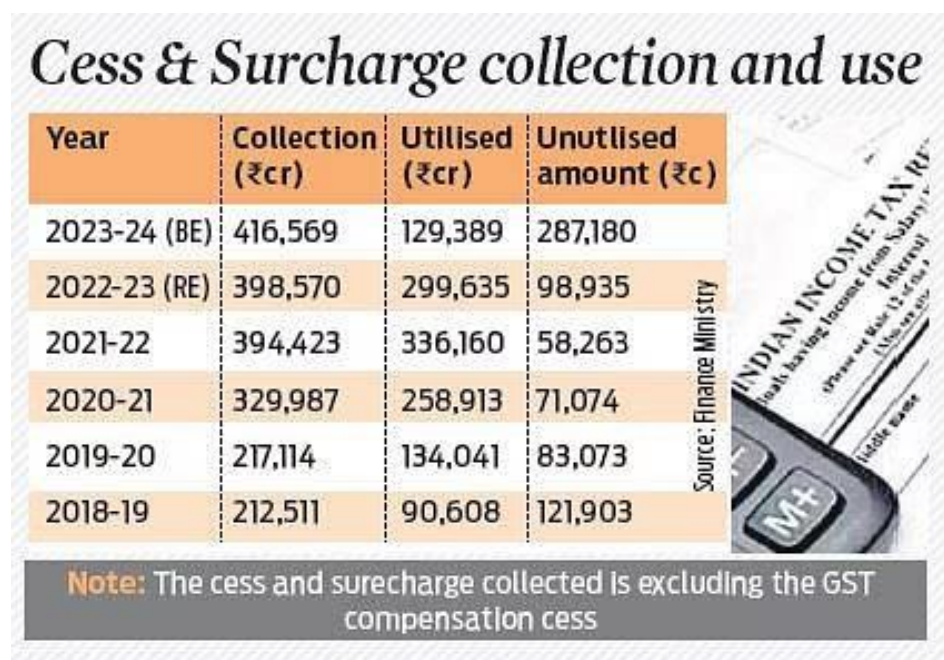
SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

19. Rs 1 lakh crore cess, surcharge may go unspent in FY23
([newindianexpress.com](https://www.newindianexpress.com)) Mar 23, 2023

Even as the Centre's collections through Cesses and surcharges have increased significantly over the past few years, a lot of the fund so collected remains unutilized. Data presented in parliament by the finance ministry shows that the Rs 99,000 crore collected through Cess and surcharges will go unutilized in the current financial year.

This is much higher than Rs 58,000 crore that remained unutilized in 2021-22. In the next financial year, the unutilized amount might go up to Rs 1.3 lakh crore. The finance ministry has informed parliament that revenue from Cess and Surcharge (excluding GST compensation cess) would double in 2023-24 to Rs 4.2 lakh crore from Rs 2.1 lakh crore in 2018-19, showing a 14.5% annual growth in the past five years.

The government is likely to collect Rs 3.98 lakh crore via cess and surcharges, but would spend Rs 2.99 lakh crore in the current fiscal. As per the government's budget estimate for the next financial year, it would spend only Rs 2.87 lakh crore against a collection of Rs 4.2 lakh crore in 2023-24. Of the Rs 3.98 lakh crore spent in 2022-23, primary and higher education accounted for Rs 62,000 crore, but a significant chunk (Rs 2.08 lakh crore) went to construction of roads and infrastructure.



Year	Collection (₹cr)	Utilised (₹cr)	Unutilised amount (₹cr)
2023-24 (BE)	416,569	129,389	287,180
2022-23 (RE)	398,570	299,635	98,935
2021-22	394,423	336,160	58,263
2020-21	329,987	258,913	71,074
2019-20	217,114	134,041	83,073
2018-19	212,511	90,608	121,903

Note: The cess and surcharge collected is excluding the GST compensation cess

Source: Finance Ministry

Surcharges and cesses are collected for specific purposes, and the amount thus collected is transferred to respective reserve funds created for the intended purposes. However, it has often been found that not all of amount collected through such levies are transferred to the reserve funds, and instead being retained in the

Consolidated Fund of India unutilised. Since Surcharges and Cesses are not part of the Centre's tax pool which is shared with the states, many state governments have raised concerns over growing share of such levies in Centre's gross tax collection. The share of surcharges and cesses in the Centre's gross revenue has gone up from 8.6% in 2010-11 to 13% (excluding GST compensation Cess) in 2022-23. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2023/mar/23/rs-1-lakh-cr-cess-surcharge-may-go-unspent-in-fy23-2558700.html>

20. Air Force slashes procurement budget on Russia supply delays (economictimes.indiatimes.com) Mar 23, 2023

With military supplies from Russia facing roadblocks given the war in Ukraine, the Indian Air Force has sharply reduced its projected spending on procurement for FY24. The cut has taken place due to delays in the supply of the critical S400 air defence system and spares for the air force fleet.

The air force informed a parliamentary panel that while there is no paucity of funds available from government for modernisation, it reduced the capital budget projections as "stage-wise payment" expected to take place are unlikely to happen due to delays.

"There is a major project... where the deliveries have been stopped because of the war (that is) going on. So, we had a major delivery in this year, which is not going to take place," an air force representative told the parliamentary standing committee on defence recently. "They have given us in writing that they are not able to deliver it. That is why the major part of projection has been reduced."

India has received three S400 squadrons, two of which have been deployed on the east and west borders.



Issues over payments

The remaining two squadrons that were to be delivered in FY24 are likely to be delayed, with no clear indication on fresh timelines, said people with knowledge of the matter. The \$5.43 billion deal for five S400 squadrons was inked with Russia in 2018, with deliveries scheduled to be completed by mid-2024.

For FY23, the air force had projected capital expenses of Rs 85,322 crore, though the actual allocation was less. However, in the FY24 budget, it projected expenses of Rs 58,808 crore, with the entire amount being allocated.

"As far as projection is concerned, our projection last year was Rs 85,000 crore and we finally got allocation of Rs 57,000 crore which we consumed," the air force representative said. "This year, the projection itself has been less because of this Russia-Ukraine war as some of our deliveries are not taking place. So, we have already been told that those deliveries will not take place. So, we have taken that part of the component out."

Beyond delays in supplies, issues over payments from India to Russia are still to be resolved. Last year, the air force surrendered Rs 1,837 crore from its capital budget, mostly on account of payments not being processed to Russian entities that are facing western sanctions.

India has been taking steps to move towards indigenisation, with big orders for light combat aircraft and helicopters, but the legacy fleet still is dependent on Russian support. A bulk of India's jet fighters - from the Su 30MKI to MiG 29s and in-service MiG 21s - are of Russian origin. Some of these, like the Su 30MKI, are likely to stay in service for the next two decades.
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/air-force-slashes-procurement-budget-on-russia-supply-delays/articleshow/98927147.cms?from=mdr>

21. Reverse the trend. Rejuvenate small water bodies (thehindubusinessline.com) March 22, 2023

Water is paramount for economic development and poverty reduction. But the water-related news coming from different quarters in recent years is worrisome. The United Nation's water website mentions that in the early to mid-2010s, 1.9 billion people or 27 per cent of the global population lived in severely water-scarce areas. But this number will increase to 2.7- 3.2 billion people by 2050.

The Water and Related Statistics (2021), published by the Central Water Commission of India, mentions that one out of three people will live in a water-stressed area by 2025. These suggest that there is an urgent need to augment the water supply wherever possible to avert the looming water crisis.

But unfortunately, the small water bodies (tanks and others) which have been supporting the agriculture and domestic requirement of water for many years in India are fast vanishing now.

What is the state of small water bodies (SWBs)? Why is the area irrigated by SWBs declining at a faster pace? Given the increased demand for water, can we afford to ignore SWBs?

Though small in size, the benefits derived from SWBs are enormous. Since these are spread in all parts of the country, they provide easy access to water for all purposes — domestic needs, animal husbandry, drinking water and agriculture. SWBs have several distinct features from other water sources (canal and groundwater). Because of their small size, they can be easily managed.

The maintenance cost of this water source is low compared to that of canal irrigation, which has increased phenomenally over time.

The command area of most SWBs is normally small, irrigating 100-500 acres. This allows distribution of water effectively, without any conflicts between tail-end and head-reach farmers, which is common in canal command areas. It helps reduce the poverty of resource-poor small and marginal farmers who are the main beneficiaries of SWBs.

The increased water storage from SWBs also helps increase groundwater recharge. Importantly, as SWBs are located in every village, women do not have to walk far to fetch water for their drinking needs.

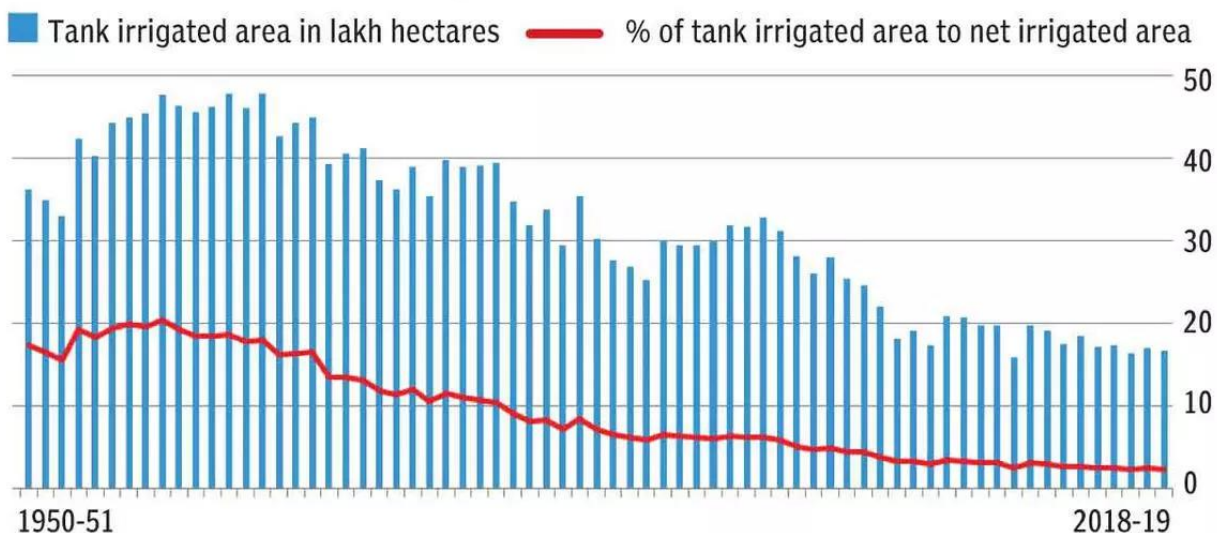
Current status

These SWBs, which have met all the water needs for centuries, are now rapidly declining in terms of numbers and area irrigated. Studies show that rainfall is not the main reason for this. Continuous encroachment on catchment areas and flow canals that carry rainwater to tanks, lack of annual maintenance of tanks by allocating adequate funds, etc., are some of the reasons for the reduction of irrigated area by SWBs.

From 46.30 lakh hectares (lha) in 1960-61, the area irrigated by tanks in India declined to 16.68 lha in 2019-20. As a result, the share of tank area in India's net irrigated area (NIA) declined from 20 per cent to 2 per cent during this period

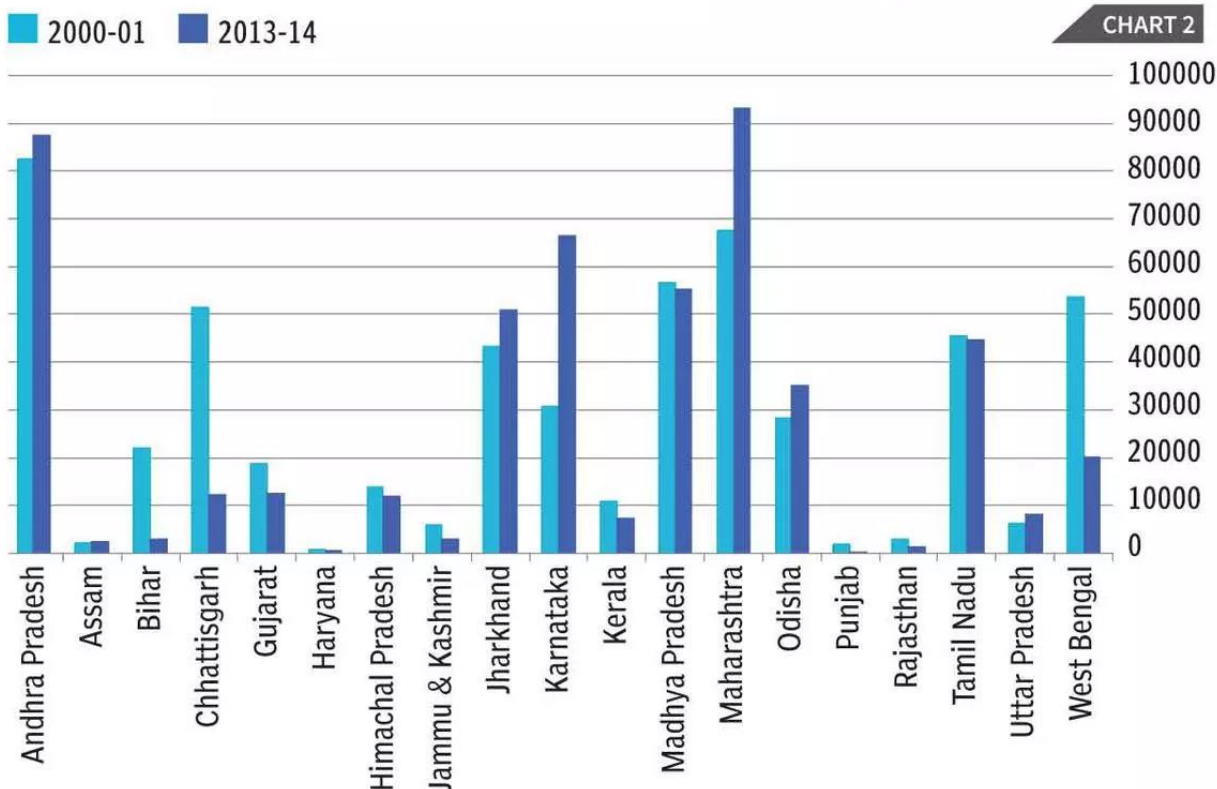
Trends in tank irrigated area in India

CHART 1



Number of surface flow schemes by State

CHART 2



In States like Tamil Nadu, where tank irrigation accounted for one-third of irrigated area in the 1960s and 1970s, the area under tank irrigation declined from 9.36 lha to 3.72 lha during this period.

Due to this, the farmers who were completely relying on tank irrigation for the cultivation of crops have left agriculture or kept the land fallow. Surprisingly, even in years with good rainfall, the area irrigated by tanks has not increased in Tamil Nadu. The same trend is seen in other States too.

The urban agglomeration witnessed from the 1990s has severely impacted SWBs, turning many of them into dumping grounds. The Standing Committee on Water Resources (2012-13) underlined in its 16th report that most of the water bodies in the country were encroached upon by State agencies themselves.

The civic body at large remains silent when encroachments of water bodies happen under its very nose. Besides reducing the water storage capacity of the SWBs, the continuously increasing encroachments also lead to widespread flooding during the monsoon season.

The 5th Minor Irrigation Census, published in 2017 by the Ministry of Water Resources, underlines that the number of surface minor irrigation schemes has declined from 6,01,000 in 2006-07 to 5,92,000 in 2013-14; reduction in the number of SWBs is observed in most States (Chart 2). According to the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2012-13), about one million hectares of irrigation potential was lost due to encroachment and other reasons.

Looking ahead

Policymakers must understand that if SWBs continue to be neglected, the recharge mechanism of wells will collapse. In such a case, even wells will not have water. Already, there is a warning signal from the Central Groundwater Board which tells that the number of blocks classified as over-exploited/critical/semi-critical has increased from 1,645 in 2004 to 2,538 in 2020.

All these indicate that the small water bodies need to be repaired, restored and renovated. First of all, considering the ever-increasing encroachments, strong legislation should urgently be enacted to make encroachment on water bodies a cognisable offence.

Following the judgment of September 6, 2014, by the Madras High Court Madurai Bench, approval for the layout or building plan on lands located on SWBs should not be given.

Understanding the dying state of SWBs, a separate Ministry for Small Water Bodies should be created with adequate funding to conduct periodic repair and rehabilitation works. Without the participation of farmers who are the main beneficiaries of SWBs, it is difficult to improve the performance of these age-old oases.

Therefore, farmers must voluntarily come forward to set up a tank users' organisation and undertake the repairing of SWBs, as followed earlier under the age-old Kudimaramathu system. Since corporates are increasingly using water for various purposes, they should be asked to repair and renovate SWBs under the ambit of corporate social responsibility. If swift actions are not taken to save SWBs, they will slowly disappear and the water woes will aggravate. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/rejuvenate-small-water-bodies/article66650348.ece>

22. Railways Running on Losses a Sign of Gaps in ‘Overall Planning and Management’: Parl Panel ([thewire.in](https://www.thewire.in)) 22 March 2023

The fact that the Indian Railways recorded a revenue loss of Rs 15,024.58 crore in the financial year 2021-22 and there is a persistent downward trend in revenue over the years is a sign of gaps in overall planning and management, a Parliamentary Committee said.

The Indian Railways is running on losses. In 2021-22, it recorded a loss of Rs 15,024.58 crore, which it has put down to an increase in staff expenditure over the last few years. The COVID-19 pandemic too affected its revenues, the Railways has said.

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways noted that there has been a continuous downward trend in revenues in the Railways over the past few years.

The Committee said that the decline in revenue generation is an indicator of “internal deficiencies in the overall planning and management of the Railways”, per The Hindu. The Committee was “perturbed” to see that despite enhanced budgetary support and extra budgetary resources, the Indian Railways has not been able to generate sufficient funds internally, it said.

The Committee noted that Rs 70,516 crore of the Railways' revenues went to its pension fund. This was impacting its operating ratio – which takes into account the total working expenditure and total traffic earnings – adversely, the Committee said.

The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Railways implement measures to stop this downward decline in revenue and ensure means to generate revenues.

Last year, a parliamentary standing committee pulled up the Indian Railways for the “disregard” shown by the Board towards the recommendations of the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) and for not framing safety rules for the operations of goods trains. <https://thewire.in/government/railways-losses-gaps-planning-management-parliamentary-panel>