

## **NEWS ITEMS ON AUDIT DIWAS**

### **1. President Murmu asks CAG others to contribute towards making India developed nation by 2047 (*theweek.in*)** Published: Nov 16, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday called upon Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and other important organisations to contribute towards making India a developed nation by 2047.

Addressing a gathering at the 'Audit Diwas' organised by CAG, the President also lauded the apex government auditor for taking many steps, including the establishment of the Centre for Data Management and Analytics, in which digital technology and other modern methods are being used in line with the future.

This awareness towards the future will prove useful, she said.

"Today our countrymen want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by the year 2047. All important institutions and communities of the country, including CAG, have to contribute to achieve this goal," Murmu said.

Audit Diwas commemorates the occasion of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India on November 16, 1860 and creation of the CAG organisation.

Recognising the significance of the day in the annals of the Indian history, since 2021, the CAG has celebrated November 16 as Audit Diwas.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said that in cognisance of the paradigm shift in governance to a digital bedrock, the apex auditor too has leveraged technology.

"...this year we achieved a remarkable milestone. Effective April 2023, we have transitioned to 100 per cent digital auditing processes, utilising our unique enterprise-wide audit process and knowledge management IT System (One IAAD One System - OIOS), creating a single source of truth for our audit activities," he said.

This achievement, he added is attributable to the unstinting efforts of many, those who conceptualised it, designed it, painstakingly integrated module after module, valiantly initiated implementation, training many, hand-holding 24X7.

"Data analytics is a regular feature of our audit processes and routinely deploying advanced tools like drones, Global Positioning System (GPS) and remote sensing has enabled us to make incisive observations that would not have been possible otherwise," the CAG said.

He informed that concerted efforts of the organisation resulted in 183 audit reports covering the entire gamut of government activities, tabled in Parliament and State Legislatures, during 2022-23.

Winners of the second bilingual national online essay writing competition on theme 'Celebrating the resilience of the Indian Democracy and the role of the CAG of India' were awarded on the occasion. <https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/business/2023/11/16/del24-prez-cag.html>

## **2. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates the Audit Diwas and address the Accountants and senior officers (*ddnews.gov.in*) Nov 16, 2023**

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates the Audit Diwas and address the Accountants and senior officers

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waV5pI5NwkM>

## **3. President Murmu: Government's audit community made significant contributions in strengthening integrity (*newsonair.gov.in*) Published: Nov 16, 2023**

President Droupadi Murmu has said that the government's audit community has made significant contributions to strengthening integrity, governance and system building. She said that India's leading position in the world community is visible in the field of audit. The President was addressing the 3rd Audit Diwas function which was organised by Comptroller and Auditor General of India in New Delhi. The President added that India's Presidency of the G20 has been appreciated worldwide as G20 countries account for about 85 percent of the world's total GDP. She said, therefore, further strengthening financial propriety and good governance in G20 countries will have global benefits. She said, India's C&AG Institute is also playing a leading role in other international forums.

She mentioned that as an external auditor, C&AG of India has audited many important institutions associated with the United Nations which is a testament to the world-class proficiency of the C&AG team.

The President said that auditors should be considered not as a critic but a facilitator of good governance. She said, they should be considered as a pathfinder whose scrutiny teaches them to follow the right path. President Murmu said that removing obstacles to achieving the national goals of accelerated growth and development while ensuring financial propriety and legality is the benchmark of effective contribution by every institution and individual responsible for good governance.

Speaking on the occasion Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu said that presenting Audit Reports is the hallmark product of C&AG which helps enhance good governance and ensure transparency. <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=President-Murmu%3A-Government%26%2339%3Bs-audit-community-made-significant-contributions-in-strengthening-integrity&id=471401>

#### **4. President Murmu asks CAG others to contribute towards making India developed nation by 2047 (*outlookindia.com*)** Published: Nov 16, 2023

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[330990#:~:text=%22Today%20our%20countrymen%20want%20to,this%20goal%2C%22%20Murmu%20said.](#)

## **5. President Murmu: Government's audit community made significant contributions in strengthening integrity (*therightnews.in*)**

Published: Nov 16, 2023

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The President said that auditors should be considered not as a critic but a facilitator of good governance. She said, they should be considered as a pathfinder whose scrutiny teaches them to follow the right path. President Murmu said that removing obstacles to achieving the national goals of accelerated growth and development while ensuring financial propriety and legality is the benchmark of effective contribution by every institution and individual responsible for good governance.

Speaking on the occasion Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu said that presenting Audit Reports is the hallmark product of C&AG which helps enhance good governance and ensure transparency. <https://www.therightnews.in/2023/11/16/governments-audit-community-made-significant-contributions-in-strengthening-integrity/>

## **6. President Murmu asks CAG, others to contribute towards making India developed nation by 2047 (*ptinews.com*)** Published: Nov 16, 2023

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CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said that in cognisance of the paradigm shift in governance to a digital bedrock, the apex auditor too has leveraged technology.

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This achievement, he added is attributable to the unstinting efforts of many, those who conceptualised it, designed it, painstakingly integrated module after module, valiantly initiated implementation, training many, hand-holding 24X7.

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## **7. Murmu Asks CAG, Others to Contribute Towards Making India Developed Nation By 2047 (*dailyexcelsior.com*) Nov 16, 2023**

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**9. President Murmu asks CAG, others to contribute towards making India developed nation by 2047** (*udayavani.com*) Published: Nov 16, 2023

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## **10. PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 3RD AUDIT DIWAS CELEBRATIONS** (*pib.gov.in*) Published: Nov 16, 2023

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 3rd Audit Diwas Celebrations in New Delhi today (November 16, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that under the leadership of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, government's audit community has made significant contributions in strengthening integrity, governance and system building.

The President said that people of India want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by the year 2047. All important institutions and communities of the country, including C&AG, have to contribute to achieve this goal. She was happy to note that C&AG has taken many forward looking steps, including the establishment of the Centre for Data Management and Analytics, in which digital technology and other modern methods are being used in line with the future.

The President said that the entire team of C&AG is expected to contribute as a controller and an examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country's developmental journey. She stated that C&AG team will have an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world.

The President said that the impact of today's market system characterized by global competition is relevant to all institutions and enterprises. The ability to compete on the basis of ethics should continuously increase in all enterprises and activities of the country. Removing obstacles in achieving the national goals of accelerated growth and development while ensuring financial propriety and legality is the touchstone of effective contribution by every institution and individual responsible for good governance, including the C&AG. She emphasised that the auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics. She added that they should be considered guides whose scrutiny teaches us to follow the right path.

The President said that India's leading position in the world community is also visible in the field of audit. The emphasis on the issues of Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence during India's presidency of Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI 20) is a good effort to prepare a roadmap for the future. She was happy to note that C&AG is also playing a leading role in other international forums. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1977327>

## **11. President Droupadi Murmu graces the Audit Diwas Celebrations at CAG Headquarters in New Delhi** (*presidentofindia.nic.in*) Nov 16, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu graces the Audit Diwas Celebrations at CAG Headquarters in New Delhi

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGWS9yT-4b0>

## **12. President Murmu asks CAG, others to contribute towards making India developed nation by 2047** (*kashmirvision.in*) Published: Nov 16, 2023

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### 13. राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने कैग, अन्य संस्थाओं से 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने में योगदान देने को कहा (*hindi.theprint.in*) Published: Nov 16, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने बृहस्पतिवार को नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) एवं अन्य महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों का आह्वान किया कि वे 2047 तक भारत को विकसित राष्ट्र बनाने के लिए योगदान दें।

कैग द्वारा आयोजित 'ऑडिट दिवस' को संबोधित करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने विभिन्न कदम उठाने के लिए नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक की तारीफ भी की। इनमें डाटा प्रबंधन और विश्लेषण केंद्र की स्थापना शामिल है जिसमें डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी और अन्य आधुनिक तरीके अपनाये जा रहे हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि भविष्य के प्रति यह जागरूकता उपयोगी साबित होगी।

मुर्मू ने कहा, "आज, हमारे देशवासी 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने की दिशा में तेजी से बढ़ना चाहते हैं। कैग समेत देश के सभी महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों और समुदायों को इस लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए योगदान देना होगा।"

देश में 16 नवंबर, 1860 को प्रथम महालेखा परीक्षक की नियुक्ति और कैग के गठन के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हुए 2021 से हर साल आज के दिन 'ऑडिट दिवस' मनाया जाता है।

कैग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा कि डिजिटल तकनीक के परिप्रेक्ष्य में शासन में आमूल-चूल बदलाव को देखते हुए नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक ने भी प्रौद्योगिकी को अपनाया है। <https://hindi.theprint.in/india/president-murmu-asked-cag-other-institutions-to-contribute-in-making-developed-india-by-2047/628330/>

### 14. ऑडिटर को आलोचक नहीं, सुशासन का मार्गदर्शक समझा जाए: राष्ट्रपति (*royalbulletin.in*) Published: Nov 16, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने गुरुवार को कहा कि ऑडिटर को आलोचक नहीं बल्कि सुशासन का मार्गदर्शक समझा जाए। ऐसा मार्गदर्शक, जिसकी स्कूटनी से सही राह पर चलने की सीख मिलती है।

राष्ट्रपति ने नई दिल्ली में सीएजी मुख्यालय में ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में अपने संबोधन में कहा कि नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक के नेतृत्व में सरकार की ऑडिटर बॉडी ने अखंडता, शासन और प्रणाली निर्माण को मजबूत करने में योगदान दिया है। उन्होंने कहा कि आज सीएजी की पूरी टीम से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे ऐसे नियंत्रक और परीक्षक के रूप में योगदान दें, जो देश की विकास यात्रा में सहयात्री भी हो तथा मार्गदर्शक भी हो। निकट भविष्य में भारत को विश्व की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थ-व्यवस्था बनाने में आप सब की विशेष भूमिका रहेगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि वित्तीय औचित्य तथा वैधानिकता सुनिश्चित करते हुए त्वरित वृद्धि और विकास के राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में आने वाले अवरोधों को दूर करना, सीएजी सहित, सुशासन के लिए जिम्मेदार प्रत्येक संस्था एवं व्यक्ति के प्रभावी योगदान की कसौटी है। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा, “ऑडिटर को आलोचक नहीं बल्कि सुशासन का सूत्रधार समझा जाए; ऐसा मार्गदर्शक समझा जाए जिसकी स्कूटनी से सही राह पर चलने की सीख मिलती है।”

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि बाह्य लेखा परीक्षक के रूप में भारत के सीएजी द्वारा संयुक्त राष्ट्र से जुड़े अनेक महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों का ऑडिट किया गया है। अन्य अनेक प्रतिष्ठित अंतर-राष्ट्रीय संस्थान ऑडिट के लिए भारत की सीएजी की टीम की सेवाएं प्राप्त करते हैं। यह सीएजी टीम की विश्व-स्तरीय दक्षता का प्रमाण है।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस दौर में औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता से बाहर आकर समता-मूलक और लोकतान्त्रिक सोच के साथ आगे बढ़ने को एक राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता का दर्जा दिया गया है। परंपराओं और व्यवस्थाओं में जो कुछ उपयोगी है, उसे हम जारी रखें तथा जो कुछ समता, लोकतन्त्र तथा त्वरित विकास के अनुरूप नहीं है, उसे छोड़ दें या सुधारें।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि आज हमारे देशवासी वर्ष 2047 तक एक विकसित भारत के निर्माण की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं। सीएजी सहित, देश के सभी महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों और समुदायों को इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में अपना योगदान देना है। <https://royalbulletin.in/auditor-should-be-considered-a-guide-to-good-governance-and-not-a-critic-president/108569>

## 15. देशवासी वर्ष 2047 तक एक विकसित भारत के निर्माण की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं: राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू (*rajexpress.co*) Published: Nov 16, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू आज गुरुवार को नई दिल्ली के सीएजी मुख्यालय में आयोजित ऑडिट दिवस समारोह में शामिल हुईं और समारोह को संबोधित किया।

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने अपने संबोधन में कहा, External Auditor के रूप में भारत के C&AG द्वारा United Nations से जुड़े अनेक महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों का audit किया गया है। अन्य अनेक प्रतिष्ठित अंतर-राष्ट्रीय संस्थान audit के लिए भारत की C&AG की टीम की सेवाएं प्राप्त करते हैं। यह C&AG टीम की विश्व-स्तरीय दक्षता का प्रमाण है। इस दौर में colonial mind-set से बाहर आकर समता-मूलक और लोकतान्त्रिक सोच के साथ आगे बढ़ने को एक राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता का दर्जा दिया गया है। परंपराओं और व्यवस्थाओं में जो कुछ उपयोगी है उसे हम जारी रखें तथा जो कुछ समता, लोकतन्त्र तथा त्वरित विकास के अनुरूप नहीं है उसे छोड़ दें या सुधारें।

आज हमारे देशवासी वर्ष 2047 तक एक विकसित भारत के निर्माण की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं। C&AG सहित, देश के सभी महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों और समुदायों को इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में अपना योगदान देना है। --राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू

-आज C&AG की पूरी टीम से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे ऐसे नियंत्रक और परीक्षक के रूप में योगदान दें जो देश की विकास यात्रा में सहायत्री भी हो तथा मार्गदर्शक भी हो। निकट भविष्य में भारत को विश्व की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थ-व्यवस्था बनाने में आप सब की विशेष भूमिका रहेगी।

-Financial propriety तथा legality सुनिश्चित करते हुए accelerated growth and development के राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में आने वाले अवरोधों को दूर करना, C&AG सहित, सुशासन के लिए जिम्मेदार प्रत्येक संस्था एवं व्यक्ति के प्रभावी योगदान की कसौटी है।

-Auditor को आलोचक नहीं बल्कि सुशासन का सूत्रधार समझा जाए; ऐसा मार्गदर्शक समझा जाए जिसकी scrutiny से सही राह पर चलने की सीख मिलती है।  
<https://www.rajexpress.co/india/delhi/president-murmu-addresses-audit-diwas-celebrations-at-cag-headquarters-in-new-delhi>

## **16. CAG expresses concern about security, integrity of data due to AI malware** (*business-standard.com*) Published: Nov 15, 2023

**"The discussions emphasized the importance of international collaboration, capacity building and consultation with various stakeholders to derive optimum benefits from AI"**

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has expressed concern about the security and integrity of data as it can be manipulated by AI-generated malware.

In a press release issued today, the CAG said that it has been following the developments in artificial intelligence (AI) closely and is concerned about the potential risks associated with the use of AI, such as the manipulation of data by AI-generated malware.

"CAG of India is the Chair of SAI20, the G20 engagement group for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI). During India's presidency of SAI20, CAG had chosen Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) as one of the focus areas. A seminar on Responsible AI was organised at CAG headquarters to acquaint the senior officials with challenges and opportunities presented by AI in February 2023. Extensive discussions on Responsible AI were held as part of the Senior Officers Meeting of SA120 at Guwahati in May 2023 and at the SAI Summit in Goa in June 2023. The discussions emphasized the importance of international collaboration, capacity building and consultation with various stakeholders to derive optimum benefits from AI," read the CAG release.

"As a follow-up of the SA120 deliberations, a panel discussion on Responsible Artificial Intelligence was held today at the CAG office. The Panel discussion demonstrated CAG's commitment to fulfilling the SA120 Commitment to raise awareness on the issues and concerns relating to responsible AI, to engage with stakeholders, to identify mechanisms to integrate AI in the CAG institution and to initiate the process for auditing through AI and the audit of AI." further read the release.

CAG of India G C Murmu, while inaugurating the event, highlighted the opportunities and challenges posed by AI.

G C Murmu laid down the roadmap for panel discussion by raising several important questions to ponder - how can audit equip itself to test whether AI is responsible or not; can criterion or framework be laid out to test AI tools used by govt; how can audit help government in deriving assurance about interpretability and fairness of such AI systems. He also expressed concerns about the security and integrity of data based on which an audit is conducted since the data can be manipulated by AI-generated malware.

Earlier, Parveen Mehta, Deputy CAG of India, in her welcome address, emphasized that it is the collective duty of CAG of India and other government bodies to ensure that AI is developed, deployed, and used in a responsible and ethical manner. She also elaborated on the importance of the Compendium on AI, shared with the delegates, in auditing in a relatively uncharted domain.

During the panel discussion, speakers from diverse backgrounds spoke on different facets of responsible AI.

Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MEITY, and CEO, NeGD/Digital India painted a wide canvas of activities undertaken by the Government for the rapid deployment of AI. He also spoke on how Responsible AI can be implemented in the Indian context taking into account the regional disparity.

Alok Lall, National Security Officer from Microsoft India, talked about the challenges of "AI and Cybersecurity". He mentioned that AI should never be a pilot but can only be a co-pilot. He also talked about Microsoft six principles for Responsible AI.

Ganesh Ramamoorthy, Managing Vice President Gartner spoke on identifying apt AI solutions to solve enterprise-level challenges using a combination of Open source and proprietary tools. He remarked that with innumerable number of AI-driven tools available now, choosing the right tool to ensure security, sustainability and cost-effectiveness has gained importance. Shri Parag Singla, Professor IITD delved on the synergy between research and deployment of AI for the greater public good. He talked about Generative AI and also discussed few Gen AI use cases on which IIT Delhi is working.

Anand Mohan Bajaj, Additional Deputy CAG and Chief Technology Officer of IAAD moderated the panel discussion. While summing up, he highlighted that the panellists covered wide areas around responsible AI, such as current research and development, the use of AI in governance and improving public service delivery, current market scenarios and the journey that an organisation like SAI India can take now and in future.

Anand Mohan Bajaj, further mentioned that it becomes clear that the use of AI in audits will supplement the domain expertise of our auditors and enhance the quality and effectiveness of audits. [https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/cag-expresses-concern-about-security-integrity-of-data-due-to-ai-malware-123111501303\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/cag-expresses-concern-about-security-integrity-of-data-due-to-ai-malware-123111501303_1.html)

## **17. CAG expresses concern about security, integrity of data due to AI-generated malware (*aninews.in*) Nov 15, 2023**

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## **18. CAG expresses concern about security, integrity of data due to AI-generated malware (*economictimes.indiatimes.com*) Nov 16, 2023**

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<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/cag-expresses-concern-about-security-integrity-of-data-due-to-ai-generated-malware/105247137>

## **19. CAG expresses concern about security, integrity of data due to AI-generated malware (*latestly.com*) Nov 15, 2023**

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Anand Mohan Bajaj, further mentioned that it becomes clear that the use of AI in audits will supplement the domain expertise of our auditors and enhance the quality and effectiveness of audits. <https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-cag-expresses-concern-about-security-integrity-of-data-due-to-ai-generated-malware-5564768.html>

## **20. CAG: 2023 से देश में नई ऑडिट प्रक्रिया और ज्ञान प्रबंधन प्रणाली की हुई शुरुआत, सीएजी मुर्मू ने कही यह बात (*amarujala.com*) Nov 16, 2023**

कैंग गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा है कि देश भर में डिजिटल शासन के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण विकास और परिवर्तन हुए हैं। इस आमूलचूल परिवर्तन को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमने तकनीक का भी लाभ उठाया है। इस साल हमने एक उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि हासिल की है।

अप्रैल 2023 से, हमने एक अद्वितीय उद्यम-व्यापी ऑडिट प्रक्रिया और ज्ञान प्रबंधन प्रणाली (वन आईएएडी वन सिस्टम - ओआईओएस) का उपयोग करके 100% डिजिटल ऑडिट प्रक्रियाओं को अपनाया है। यह अब हमारी ऑडिट प्रक्रियाओं के लिए विश्वसनीयता का स्रोत होगा। <https://www.amarujala.com/business/business-diary/from-april-2023-we-have-transitioned-to-100-digital-audit-processes-says-cag-murmu-2023-11-16>

## **21. CAG expresses concern about security, integrity of data due to AI-generated malware (*devdiscourse.com*) Nov 15, 2023**

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has expressed concern about the security and integrity of data as it can be manipulated by AI-generated malware.

In a press release issued today, the CAG said that it has been following the developments in artificial intelligence (AI) closely and is concerned about the potential risks associated with the use of AI, such as the manipulation of data by AI-generated malware.

"CAG of India is the Chair of SAI20, the G20 engagement group for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI). During India's presidency of SAI20, CAG had chosen Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) as one of the focus areas. A seminar on Responsible AI was organised at CAG headquarters to acquaint the senior officials with challenges and opportunities presented by AI in February 2023. Extensive discussions on Responsible AI were held as part of the Senior Officers Meeting of SA120 at Guwahati in May 2023 and at the SAI Summit in Goa in June 2023. The discussions emphasized the importance of international collaboration, capacity building and consultation with various stakeholders to derive optimum benefits from AI," read the CAG release.

"As a follow-up of the SA120 deliberations, a panel discussion on Responsible Artificial Intelligence was held today at the CAG office. The Panel discussion demonstrated CAG's commitment to fulfilling the SA120 Commitment to raise awareness on the issues and concerns relating to responsible AI, to engage with stakeholders, to identify mechanisms to integrate AI in the CAG institution and to initiate the process for auditing through AI and the audit of AI." further read the release.

CAG of India G C Murmu, while inaugurating the event, highlighted the opportunities and challenges posed by AI.

G C Murmu laid down the roadmap for panel discussion by raising several important questions to ponder - how can audit equip itself to test whether AI is responsible or not; can criterion or framework be laid out to test AI tools used by govt; how can audit help government in deriving assurance about interpretability and fairness of such AI systems. He also expressed concerns about the security and integrity of data based on which an audit is conducted since the data can be manipulated by AIgenerated malware.

Earlier, Parveen Mehta, Deputy CAG of India, in her welcome address, emphasized that it is the collective duty of CAG of India and other government bodies to ensure that AI is developed, deployed, and used in a responsible and ethical manner. She also elaborated on the importance of the Compendium on AI, shared with the delegates, in auditing in a relatively uncharted domain.

During the panel discussion, speakers from diverse backgrounds spoke on different facets of responsible AI.

Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MEITY, and CEO, NeGD/Digital India painted a wide canvas of activities undertaken by the Government for the rapid deployment of AI. He also spoke on how Responsible AI can be implemented in the Indian context taking into account the regional disparity.

Alok Lall, National Security Officer from Microsoft India, talked about the challenges of "AI and Cybersecurity". He mentioned that AI should never be a pilot but can only be a co-pilot. He also talked about Microsoft six principles for Responsible AI.

Ganesh Ramamoorthy, Managing Vice President Gartner spoke on identifying apt AI solutions to solve enterprise-level challenges using a combination of Open source and proprietary tools. He remarked that with innumerable number of AI-driven tools available now, choosing the right tool to ensure security, sustainability and cost-effectiveness has gained importance. Shri Parag Singla, Professor IITD delved on the synergy between research and deployment of AI for the greater public good. He talked about Generative AI and also discussed few Gen AI use cases on which IIT Delhi is working.

Anand Mohan Bajaj, Additional Deputy CAG and Chief Technology Officer of IAAD moderated the panel discussion. While summing up, he highlighted that the panellists covered wide areas around responsible AI, such as current research and development, the use of AI in governance and improving public service delivery, current market scenarios and the journey that an organisation like SAI India can take now and in future.

Anand Mohan Bajaj, further mentioned that it becomes clear that the use of AI in audits will supplement the domain expertise of our auditors and enhance the quality and effectiveness of audits. <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/2714330-cag-expresses-concern-about-security-integrity-of-data-due-to-ai-generated-malware>

## **22. AG office to celebrate Audit Week from Nov 19** (*greaterkashmir.com*) Nov 16, 2023

Jammu: To commemorate the foundation day of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAC), Audit Week is to be celebrated in the whole country from November 19 to 24.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the office of Principal Accountant General (Audit and A&E) is going to organize numerous programmes/activities during the week which include a Blood donation camp, Interaction with students, interface with PRIs, Environmental awareness, support activities and cultural activities. <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/business/ag-office-to-celebrate-audit-week-from-nov-19/>

## **23. Accountant General Office plans series of activities to celebrate Audit Week from Nov 19 to Nov 24** (*jammulinksnews.com*) Nov 15, 2023

JAMMU: To commemorate foundation day of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Audit week is to be celebrated in the whole country from 19 November 2023 to 24th November 2023.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the office of Pr. Accountant General (Audit and A&E) is going to organize numerous programmes/activities during the week which include Blood donation camp, Interaction with students, interface with PRIs, Environmental awareness, supports activities and cultural activities

The weeklong activities will culminate on 24th of Nov 2023 and the valedictory function would witness the participation of Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir as the Chief Guest. <https://www.jammulinksnews.com/mb/newsdet.aspx?q=334706>

#### **24. AG Office plans series of activities to celebrate Audit Week from 19 to Nov 24 (*onlykashmir.in*) Nov 15, 2023**

JAMMU: To commemorate foundation day of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Audit week is to be celebrated in the whole country from 19 November 2023 to 24th November 2023.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the office of Pr. Accountant General (Audit and A&E) is going to organize numerous programmes/activities during the week which include Blood donation camp, Interaction with students, interface with PRIs, Environmental awareness, supports activities and cultural activities

The weeklong activities will culminate on 24th of Nov 2023 and the valedictory function would witness the participation of Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir as the Chief Guest. <https://www.onlykashmir.in/25025/ag-office-plans-series-of-activities-to-celebrate-audit-week-from-19-to-nov-24/>

#### **25. Accountant General Office plans series of activities to celebrate Audit Week from Nov 19 to Nov 24 (*thekashmirhorizon.com*) November 16, 2023**

Jammu: To commemorate foundation day of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAC), Audit week is to be celebrated in the whole country from 19 November 2023 to 24th November 2023.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the office of Pr. Accountant General (Audit and A&E) is going to organize numerous programmes/activities during the week which include Blood donation camp, Interaction with students, interface with PRIs, Environmental awareness, supports activities and cultural activities

The weeklong activities will culminate on 24th of Nov 2023 and the valedictory function would witness the participation of Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir as the Chief Guest. <https://thekashmirhorizon.com/2023/11/16/accountant-general-office-plans-series-of-activities-to-celebrate-audit-week-from-nov-19-to-nov-24/>

## 26. आज 163 वर्ष का हुआ नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक विभाग ([inextlive.com](http://inextlive.com)) Nov 16, 2023

भ्रष्टाचार के विरुद्ध महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाला नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (सीएजी) विभाग 16 नवंबर (गुरुवार) को 163 वर्ष का हो जाएगा। इतने वर्षों में कई बदलाव हो गए। पूर्व में दिए गए कई अधिकारों में कटौती हो गई। लेकिन नाम वही पुराना चला आ रहा है। अपने लंबे इतिहास को समेटे हुए विभाग के स्थापना दिवस के अवसर पर 16 से 23 नवंबर तक आडिट सप्ताह मनाया जाएगा। सप्ताह भर तक प्रयागराज स्थित महालेखाकार (एजी) कार्यालय में कई कार्यक्रम होंगे।

### नाव से लाए जाते थे अभिलेख

ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी से भारत का शासन नियंत्रण ब्रिटिश के हाथों में जाने के साथ ही सीएजी के गठन की शुरुआत हो गई थी। 16 नवंबर 1860 को इसकी स्थापना हुई और पहले महालेखापरीक्षक सर एडवर्ड नियुक्ति किए गए। दो वर्ष बाद प्रयागराज (पूर्व के इलाहाबाद) में महालेखाकार कार्यालय खोला गया और जी लुशिंगटन महालेखाकार बनाए गए थे। उन दिनों रेल सुविधा नहीं थी तो अभिलेखों को नावों से लाया जाता था। सरकार के सभी तरह के खर्चों का यह विभाग लेखा और आडिट करता है। खर्च में गड़बड़ी पाए जाने पर नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक को बजट रोकने का अधिकार था। आजादी के बाद यह अधिकार खत्म कर दिया है। लेकिन नाम में अब भी नियंत्रक जुड़ा है और काम लेखा व आडिट का ही है। प्रयागराज स्थित लेखा एक और दो में सभी तरह के आय व्यय का ब्यौरा और सरकारी कर्मचारियों के देनदारियों (हकदारी) का हिसाब रखा जाता है। इसके अलावा यहां पर आडिट के तीन सेक्शन हैं। प्रधान निदेशक सेंट्रल की टीम यूपी, उत्तराखंड, बिहार और झारखंड में स्थित केंद्र सरकार के विभागों का आडिट करता है। वहीं आडिट वन प्रदेश के 58 विभागों और आडिट टू अन्य विभागों का आडिट करता है। एजी यूपी के मीडिया प्रभारी राजेश तिवारी ने बताया कि वर्ष भर आडिट की प्रक्रिया चलती है। उन्होंने बताया कि स्थापना दिवस को लेकर तैयारी पूरी हो गई है। 16 नवंबर को कार्यालय के सरस्वती सभागार में रंगोली प्रतियोगिता होगी। 17 को अंतर कार्यालय प्रश्नोत्तरी और 18 को बच्चों के बीच चित्रकला प्रतियोगिता होगी। 18 और 19 नवंबर को गवर्नमेंट प्रेस के ग्राउंड पर क्रिकेट प्रतियोगिता होगी। 21 को स्वच्छता अभियान, 22 को आनलाइन निबंध प्रतियोगिता और 23 नवंबर को सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया जाएगा। प्रतियोगिता के विजेताओं को प्रधान महालेखाकार सम्मानित करेंगे।

<https://www.inextlive.com/uttar-pradesh/allahabad/comptroller-and-auditor-general-of-india-turns-163-today-1700079599>

## OTHER NEWS ITEMS ON CAG

### 27. Government 'whistleblowers' to examine reports of Vidhan Sabha, CAG ([tribuneindia.com](http://tribuneindia.com)) Nov 16, 2023

#### Serving, retired officers appointed Chief Vigilance Officers

The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Vidhan Sabha committees and the Press will now be under the scanner of the government-appointed "whistleblower" Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs).

As part of its “zero tolerance to corruption” campaign, the Khattar government has appointed the CVOs for “meticulous scrutiny of reports from various sources, including internal auditors, CAG, Vidhan Sabha committees and the Press” in a bid to check corruption in governance.

Powers to investigate

- Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) to identify cases of misappropriation, irregularities
- To keep Administrative Secretary, Special Secretary (Vigilance) and Chief Secretary in loop
- Can make inquiries, investigation after nod from Administrative Secretary

Terming the CVOs as government-appointed whistleblowers, a senior government functionary asserted that “their multifaceted role involved preventive vigilance functions, aiming to thwart corrupt practices by identifying potential corruption spots and sources.”

With that end in view, Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal has appointed serving and retired officers as CVOs, either on deputation or on contractual basis.

Currently, there is hardly any follow-up action on the reports of CAG, Vidhan Sabha committees and the Press. Though the government took cognisance of these reports, they continue to gather dust for years. However, the functionary said since the reports were prepared by the statutory bodies, the government would now get to the bottom of the allegations levelled in the reports.

The CVOs would keep the Administrative Secretary concerned, Special Secretary (Vigilance) and Chief Secretary in the loop while preparing reports about departmental functioning. “Special attention is to be given to areas prone to discretion or favoritism, such as the awarding of tenders, the progression of civil works, and instances of potential abuse of discretionary powers in decision-making processes,” it was highlighted.

Sources said the main aim of creating the new institutional mechanism was to identify instances of misappropriation of funds and financial irregularities to check corruption. After getting a tip-off regarding any irregularity, the CVO has been authorised to initiate further inquiry or investigation after approval from the Administrative Secretary concerned.

The CVO has also been mandated to compile a list of “Officers of Doubtful Integrity”.

20 designated as inquiry officers

The state government has empanelled 20 officers for conducting departmental inquiries under the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeals) Rules, 2016. They include Sunil Kumar Gulati, former IAS officer; Sat Parkash, former IPS officer; PK Goel, Manoj Bansal, Tarsem Kumar Gupta, Ram Kishan Sharma, Arun Kumar Goyal, Rakesh Manocha, Rakesh Jolly and Thakuar Dass, all former chief engineers; Parminder Pal Singh and Jagdish Khushdil, both retired District and Sessions judges; and Parveen Garg and Narender Kumar Arora, both retired Director-General of Health

Services.<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/government-whistleblowers-to-examine-reports-of-vidhan-sabha-cag-562712>

**28. Aircraft carriers aren't the Russian navy's only problem. It has also struggled for decades to build jets for them** (*businessinsider.in*) Nov 16, 2023

In July, Russian state media reported that Russia's sole aircraft carrier, Admiral Kuznetsov, could return to active service by the end of 2024.

Kuznetsov has been undergoing repairs since 2017, and its return to duty has been delayed repeatedly by mishaps and malfunctions.

The carrier has done only one combat deployment in its nearly 30-year career, and its return would be a milestone, but even if the Kuznetsov passes its planned sea trials, equipping the ship with a fully functioning air wing will remain a significant task for Russia.

Despite operating aircraft-carrying ships for more than a half-century, Russia has struggled to build effective fixed-wing jets for those ships to carry into action.

### **Yakovlev Yak-38**

The dawn of the jet age after World War II ushered in advances in carrier aviation as well.

The Soviets had seen the advantages in the vertical/short-takeoff-and-landing, or V/STOL, design used by Britain's Hawker Siddeley Kestrel — the precursor to the now-renown Harrier "jump jet" — in the 1960s, and opted to use that design for their first carrier jets.

The result, the Yak-38, was introduced in 1976 — three years before the British navy's Sea Harrier entered service — as the Soviet Union's first fixed-wing aircraft for its first true aircraft carriers, the Kiev-class.

The Yak-38 had two lift jets behind the cockpit and a single vectored-thrust turbofan engine with two adjustable nozzles that could be pointed downward for vertical flight. Its stub wings, which could be folded to save space, had four hardpoints enabling the jet to carry about 2,000 pounds of ordnance.

A total of 231 Yak-38s were eventually built. Despite its novelty, however, the jet was mostly a failure.

It was prone to mechanical issues, especially in hot and humid environments. By the end of the Kiev's first cruise in 1976, for instance, only one of its six Yak-38s was still operational. The jet also had trouble with its automatic ejection system, which activated by accident on multiple occasions and wrecked the jets.

The Yak-38 had many other shortcomings. Its range, payload, and speed were less than that of rival militaries' aircraft. Even the updated Yak-36M, with a longer range and double the payload, was underpowered compared to NATO carrier aircraft.

The inefficiency of the Yak-38's lift engines meant the jet rarely took off vertically, as it consumed too much fuel and limited the jet's already small payload. The Yak-38 didn't have its own radar, meaning its pilot was reliant on visual sightings or on other Soviet forces for guidance. The jet could carry Kh-23 anti-ship missiles, but since it was a single-seater, the pilot would have to fly the jet and guide the missile at the same time.

The Yak-38 only saw combat in landlocked Afghanistan. At least four Yak-38s operated alongside other Soviet jets from a base in the country's southwest in 1980. While it conducted a number of airstrikes during its month-long deployment, the jet still struggled with the heat and dust, and its performance was not particularly noteworthy.

Soviet leaders decided against further upgrades and retired the Yak-38 shortly after the Soviet collapse in 1991.

### **Su-33**

Even as the first Kiev-class carriers and Yak-38s began to enter service in the mid-1970s, the Soviets were planning their replacements. By that time, the Soviet military's thinking about the value of sea control and naval air dominance had changed, and its commanders saw that V/STOL jets and the Yak-38 in particular had limited utility for either.

The Soviets sought a larger carrier and a jet capable of conventional takeoffs and landings — like those of the major NATO powers — to provide greater range and payload and more reliability in dogfights. The result was the Kuznetsov-class carrier and the Su-33.

The Su-33 was effectively a naval variant of the Su-27 air-superiority fighter with several differences, including a reinforced undercarriage and landing gear for carrier landings, forward canards to reduce takeoff distance, a larger wing area for extra lift, foldable wings, and more powerful engines.

The new jet had a top speed of more than 1,400 mph and a range of over 2,000 miles, along with a 30mm cannon and 12 hardpoints that could carry 14,000 pounds of ordnance.

Despite the jet's improvements over the Yak-38, it was also of limited effectiveness. Because the jet was exceptionally large, the Kuznetsov, which was smaller than US carriers, couldn't carry many of them. The jet's size also made it difficult to move around on the carrier. The Su-33 was also meant to be capable of ground-attack missions, but its takeoff weight, and thus the weaponry it could carry, were limited by Kuznetsov's ski-jump ramp.

The Su-33 didn't enter service until after the Cold War, and only about 22 were built. Three have been lost in crashes, and only 17 are believed to still be in service today.

## **MiG-29K**

While the Sukhoi design firm was working on the Su-33 in the 1980s, the Mikoyan Design Bureau was working on its own carrier aircraft, the MiG-29K, a naval variant of the MiG-29.

Work on the MiG-29K was halted in 1991 when the Russian navy selected the Su-33 for its carriers, but the project was revived in 2004 for the Indian navy, which was acquiring the Kiev-class carrier Admiral Gorshkov from Russia, and wanted the jet for the carrier's air wing.

With a top speed of about 1,300 mph and the ability to carry 9,900 pounds of ordnance, the MiG-29K was better suited for ground strikes than the Su-33. India also chose the MiG-29K because its air force already operated the MiG-29 and was familiar with the airframe.

New Delhi placed two orders, in 2004 and 2010, for 45 aircraft and related equipment for \$2.2 billion. Its first MiG-29Ks were delivered in 2009, and the first squadron became operational in 2013. The MiG-29K also underperformed, however.

A 2016 report from India's Comptroller and Auditor General said that between 2009 and 2015, the MiG-29Ks that had been delivered were only available for service between 15.93% and 47.14% of the time. In addition to issues with the jet's airframe and avionics, the report said 62% of the engines delivered by Russia had been withdrawn from service or were rejected because of defects and deficiencies.

At least five of the Indian navy's MiG-29Ks were lost in crashes between 2018 and 2022 — a far higher rate than for the Indian air force's MiG-29s. The problems were compounded by the fact that India was wholly reliant on Russia for major support issues, as Moscow refused to transfer jet-engine technology or allow India to build its own MiG-29Ks.

The Indian navy said in 2018 that all serviceability issues had been resolved. It even deployed some MiG-29Ks to the Sino-Indian border at the height of tensions between the countries in 2020. But Delhi appears ready to move on to other jets.

Despite designing the country's first domestically built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, around the Russian-made jet, India has opted to retire all its MiG-29Ks by 2035 rather than extend their service lives or buy more. India's navy instead plans to buy 26 French-built Rafale-M jets, which will require redesigning Vikrant's aircraft elevator, and eventually to use a domestically developed carrier-based jet.

After the MiG-29K program was restarted for India, Russia's navy ordered 25 of the jets in 2009 to use aboard Kuznetsov. The fighter made its combat debut in 2016, flying from the carrier during a deployment to Syria.

Neither the jet nor the ship emerged unscathed. In one incident, a MiG-29K broke the carrier's arresting cable during landing. As the crew cleared debris from the deck, another MiG-29K circling overhead crashed into the sea after its engines unexpectedly shut off.

Russia had planned to replace its Su-33s with MiG-29Ks but later decided that the MiGs would supplement its Su-33 fleet instead. Since Kuznetsov began its refit in early 2017, however, no jet has flown from the ship. <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/aircraft-carriers-arent-the-russian-navys-only-problem-it-has-also-struggled-for-decades-to-build-jets-for-them-/articleshow/105246065.cms>

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

**29. After Igla-S Deal, Russia Keen To Supply Light ‘Mountain’ Tanks, Infantry Fighting Vehicles to India** (*eurasianimes.com*) Nov 16, 2023

**Russia’s state-owned arms company, Rosoboronexport, has announced it is all set to join the bidding process for supplying light tanks and the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) to India.**

The CEO of the Russian company, Alexander Mikheyev, relayed this information to the state-run media outlet TASS during the International Aerospace Exhibition at Dubai Airshow 2023.

He outlined plans for collaborative efforts with Indian partners, intending to unveil a light tank and a promising infantry fighting vehicle as part of the Indian Ministry of Defense’s FICV project tender.

Mikheyev stressed that these plans are crafted to fully align with the principles of the ‘Make in India’ program.

He further underscored Russia’s understanding of the Indian government’s aspirations, acknowledging India’s commitment to achieving technological sovereignty and fostering independent industrial development.

Earlier, Russia signed a deal to supply India with the Igla-S anti-aircraft system. The Igla-S is a man-portable air defense system (MANPADS) that essentially forms the final line of defense against flying objects in a multi-layered air defense system.

ICV BMP II K SARATH passes through the Rajpath. Twitter

The head of Rosoboronexport also highlighted their longstanding collaboration with Indian enterprises, operating under conditions resembling the requirements of the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Self-Reliant India’ programs well before their formal inception.

Mikheyev reminisced about the numerous successful joint endeavors between the two nations, including Su-30MKI fighters, T-90 tanks, BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles, and the Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles.

The Russian official did not specify which light tank or Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) the Russian company plans to offer to India. However, earlier reports suggested Russia might propose its Sprut-SDM1 light amphibious tank for the Indian Army’s light tank tender.

Additionally, the BMP-III, equipped with improved armament, fire control, power pack, and ammunition handling, was previously offered to India for consideration in the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) project.

India's FICV program aims to replace the aging Soviet/Russian infantry fighting vehicles (BMP-1 and BMP-2) that formed the backbone of the Army's Mechanised Infantry but have surpassed their operational utility.

The aging Russian IFVs, set to be replaced under the FICV initiative, are deployed significantly but lack the capabilities required for modern warfare.

### **India's Endeavor For FICV Procurement Laden With Challenges**

Initially, the Indian military plans to acquire 2,600 modern combat vehicles, with the estimated contract value surpassing US\$10 billion. The terms of the tender specify that only Indian companies are eligible to participate as the main contractors.

India's private sector defense firms interested in the ambitious FICV project encompassed Mahindra and Mahindra, Reliance Defence, L&T, Tata Motors, and Bharat Forge Ltd.

Yet, since its initiation in 2008, this specific program has faced challenges due to political indecision, bureaucratic apathy, and frequent changes in procurement practices. These obstacles have hindered the Indian Army's urgent need for the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV).

In June 2021, the Indian Army issued an RFI for 1,750 units of domestically developed, amphibious, tracked FICVs, marking the third attempt since 2008 to replace the aging fleet of Soviet-era infantry combat vehicles.

In February 2023, India's Defence Acquisition Council approved the Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) procurement for the Mechanised Infantry Regiment.

At the time, the ministry said that the FICV, falling under the 'Buy (Indian)' category, must be amphibious, equipped with a manned turret, and armed with top-attack anti-tank guided missiles.

The initial plan was to induct the Future Infantry Combat Vehicles (FICVs) by 2025. However, given the current trajectory, several experts have said that India is unlikely to meet this induction timeline.

Considering that China has dramatically bolstered its armored resources in the Tibet Autonomous Region, which shares a border with India, over the past few years, the necessity for light tanks and the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) has become exceptionally crucial for the Indian Army.

Meanwhile, Moscow's declaration of its interest in supplying light tanks and the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) to India comes days after reports emerged about

possible joint efforts between the US and India for the co-production of the Stryker armored fighting vehicle (AFV).

The potential Stryker co-production deal will decrease New Delhi's prolonged reliance on Russian weapons. Yet, it has been described as a major setback for Indian defense manufacturers, who have invested heavily in developing indigenous weapon systems in recent years.

Nevertheless, given the escalating security challenges in the region, primarily due to China's aggressive actions, the Indian military must expedite the timely procurement of modern combat vehicles. <https://www.eurasiantimes.com/russia-keen-to-supply-light-mountain-tanks-infantry-fighting/>

**30. AI: A double-edged sword we must live with** (*dailypioneer.com*)  
Govind Bhattacharjee | Nov 16, 2023

**AI is one of the biggest technical advancements in recent times but it can pose a great danger to humanity by unleashing misinformation and deepfakes**

After its launch last year, the generative AI tool with astoundingly diverse capabilities, the ChatGPT, has taken the world by storm. Despite its immense capabilities to improve our lives and solve humanity's problems, it has made data scientists and governments deeply worried about its potential to create a tsunami of misinformation and an atmosphere of distrust. More ominously, it may endanger democracy itself by its potential to manipulate elections through fake news and false propaganda, making it difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood, and elections in the two largest democracies are due only next year.

In March 2023, a thousand technology leaders warned in an open letter that AI posed a profound, existential threat to humanity that needed immediate regulation. The letter called for a six-month moratorium in developing powerful AI systems and called for a pause in AI development, urging that, "Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable." The pause would provide time to introduce "shared safety protocols" for AI systems and governments should step in to institute a moratorium, it added.

Swift government action was a slim possibility, as politicians have very little understanding of AI. However, this time at least some governments have taken the threats rather seriously. On 1st and 2nd November 2023, delegates from 27 governments around the world, as well as the heads of top artificial intelligence companies, gathered for the world's first "AI Safety Summit" at Bletchley Park in the UK, a picturesque venue north of London whose symbolism cannot be missed - it was home to Alan Turing during World War-II where machines devised to decode the Nazis' Enigma Code formed the first blueprints for programmable computers. Among the attendees were delegates from the UN, the USA, China, the EU, and India and tech leaders from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google DeepMind, Microsoft, Meta and XAI.

In 2021, European Union policymakers proposed a law, yet to be passed but designed to regulate AI technologies that might create harm including facial recognition systems, and requiring companies to conduct risk assessments of AI technologies to determine

how their applications could affect health, safety and individual rights. In 2022 alone, 37 regulations mentioning AI were passed around the globe; Italy went so far as to ban ChatGPT, but little global coordination was visible otherwise. This time, the conference delegates from different countries agreed to share a common approach to identifying risks and ways to mitigate them. The "Bletchley Declaration" issued on 1st November recognised the short-term and longer-term risks of AI, affirmed the responsibility of the creators of powerful AI systems to ensure that they are safe, and committed to international collaboration on identifying and mitigating the risks.

The proceedings were held in camera, but the British PM said that on 2nd November, the USA, EU and other "like-minded" countries had reached a "landmark agreement" with select cutting-edge AI companies that models should be rigorously assessed before and after they are deployed – an agreement not signed by China, which signed the "Bletchley Declaration" the previous day. The AI companies at the Summit have agreed to give governments early access to their models to perform safety evaluations. Details are still sketchy, and the only thing we know is that both the UK and the USA would set up permanent bodies called AI Safety institutes to carry out safety evaluations and develop risk assessment guidelines for AI systems. The progress seemed to be limited, but global coordination seen at this level for the first time is a welcome feature to ensure that humanity can come together to counter the threats posed by the unlimited capabilities of AI.

At the end of the Summit, the UK which chaired the Summit, issued a statement summarising the discussions on various objectives. The major objectives of the Summit included developing a shared understanding of the risks posed by frontier AI technologies and the need for concerted action, triggering a process for international collaboration on the safety of frontier AI technologies and development of new standards to support AI-governance.

The consensus emerged on developing common and measurable international standards for safety and on governments' role in testing models, not just pre- and post-deployment, but earlier in the lifecycle of the model, including in training runs of Large Language Models. Delegates also shared the ambition to unlock the significant potential of frontier AI technologies with their potential to transform economies and societies – especially in improving healthcare, education and handling environmental problems inclusively.

Currently, a fragmented and incomplete understanding of frontier AI technologies marks their development in different countries. Inclusivity means equitable realisation and distribution of the benefits of AI for all countries and across all groups, including minorities and marginalised ones; failure in this will create extreme inequality with disastrous consequences for the future. To mitigate risks, there is also a need for shared principles and codes and their standardisation. Some progress has already been achieved in this, like the 2019 OECD Recommendation on AI, and the G7-initiated Hiroshima Process under the presidency of Japan, especially the Hiroshima Process International Guiding Principles and International Code of Conduct for Organisations Developing Advanced AI Systems.

However, ensuring AI safety would require the convergence of multiple branches of activity, including skills, talent, and physical infrastructure. These are presently

monopolised by advanced countries and tech giants, and without shared benefits and inclusivity, the risks cannot be mitigated. Presently there is a huge concentration of AI power within a handful of companies unwilling to let go of their stranglehold.

Profit-driven companies monopolising AI research are likely to lead to bad outcomes, and there is a raging debate about the open-sourcing of codes to address this problem. There are contrary views on this, with some pointing to the dangers of open-sourced codes in the hands of rogue state and non-state players, while others say that open-sourcing of models can accelerate safety research. In regulating AI, there are different approaches followed by different countries which are competing with each other with different objectives. While the US wants self-regulation by tech companies to promote innovation, the EU wants a risk-based approach. For China, socialist values, meaning political control, remain at the forefront of regulation. The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), effective from 2018, focuses on the privacy of personal data, and how that data can be used by AI systems. The Digital Markets Act, which has also passed, focuses on competition and will target the largest cloud players, which are essential for AI systems. US regulation is focused primarily on containing China.

Given the breakneck speed at which AI is evolving, there is also the question of what to regulate. Tech firms want only a narrow regulation, limiting scrutiny to the most powerful frontier models.

Microsoft is calling for a licensing regime requiring firms to register models that exceed certain performance thresholds. Some are advocating controlling the sale of powerful chips used to train the LLMs. The best option, as suggested by many experts, is to create a new global, neutral, non-profit international regulatory agency like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with adequate regulatory authority to guide, coordinate and control the development of frontier AI technologies with mandatory safety standards.

Such a body must be represented by all governments with equal voting powers. That would mean involving all stakeholders, and the biggest obstacle to this would be the advanced countries and their tech companies which can make unlimited profits only so long as the others remain excluded from the cutting-edge AI technologies. <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/columnists/ai--a-double-edged-sword-we-must-live-with.html>

### **31. AI can play the sleuth to expose scientific fraud** (*tribuneindia.com*) Nov 16, 2023

**A strong database may enable a powerful generative AI to verify various types of image and data fraud.**

TWO prominent cases of data fraud, both in the academic domain, have been in the news in the US. Ten research publications by Johns Hopkins' professor and 2019 medicine Nobel Prize winner Gregg Semenza were retracted due to falsified data and images. Retraction of research papers isn't a new phenomenon, even among Nobel laureates. The 2018 chemistry Nobel laureate, Frances Arnold, retracted a 2019 paper when she was unable to replicate the results. Linda Buck, the 2004 Nobel laureate in

medicine, retracted papers published in 2005 and 2006. However, it's unusual to have 10 retractions of papers published within a 15-year period.

Prof Francesca Gino of Harvard Business School was sent on administrative leave following allegations that she had systematically manipulated data and falsified results in four papers that she co-authored. A group behind the Data Colada blog sent a dossier detailing the anomalies to Harvard University in 2021. When examining version control (the practice of tracking and managing changes to a software code) in Microsoft Excel, different rows inside a spreadsheet appeared to have been manipulated. The data following the alleged manipulation did appear to demonstrate the effect the researchers had hoped to find, but the data before the apparent manipulation failed to show it, as the experts perceived. Gino, however, filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the university and her accusers.

While it makes sense that accusations of fraud, including everything from economic to medical data, garner a great deal of public attention, scientific fraud is surprisingly endemic. Selective use and publication of data are also serious types of misconduct. The Oil Drop Experiment (1909) by Robert Andrews Millikan is well known for yielding the electron's charge. After his passing, it was discovered that Millikan examined 140 data points; each was recorded in his notebook. But he chose only 58 'good' data points that supported his theory.

In the 1980s, the academic community was rocked by the John Darsee case. Darsee was a young clinical investigator with a bright future in cardiological research. He had a long list of publications in prestigious journals. At the age of 33, he got an opportunity to join the faculty at Harvard Medical School. However, his career soon started to unravel. By May 1981, his colleagues, suspecting regular and systematic falsification, were making allegations. Darsee 'expanded' other data to report more significant results, according to investigators, and had reported data from experiments that were never performed. Over 80 of his papers were removed from the literature. Finally, he apologised for disseminating 'inaccuracies and falsehoods'.

To what extent does data fraud or its allegations exist? Around the time Darsee was exposed, William Broad and Nicholas Wade, two former news reporters for Science, gave an intriguing and unsettling picture of scientific fraud by compiling case studies of scientific research misconduct in their 1982 book *Betrayers of the Truth: Fraud and Deceit in the Halls of Science*. They asserted that the practice is and has always been pervasive.

Galileo's results on falling bodies, which lacked experimental evidence, and Ptolemy's observations of the stars, which were made in the great library of Alexandria instead of beneath the night sky, are two such examples. And there is the case of Gregor Mendel's work on genetics, which is statistically too perfect. Indeed, an eminent British geneticist and statistician, Sir Ronald Fisher, discovered in the 1930s that the ratio of dominant to recessive phenotypes was implausibly close to the expected ratio of 3:1 after reconstructing Mendel's experiments. Fisher came to the conclusion that "the data of most, if not all, of the experiments has been falsified so as to agree closely with Mendel's expectations".

These are but a few high-profile instances. Daniele Fanelli of Edinburgh, UK, in a 2009 paper published in PLOS One, wrote that an average of 2 per cent of scientists admitted to fabricating, falsifying or altering data at least once — a serious misconduct by any measure — and up to 34 per cent of scientists admitted to engaging in other dubious research practices. One may ponder: were there many who didn't acknowledge it, perhaps?

Can statistics really help identify data fraud? Always? Regretfully, no. Never is it that simple. The book, *Fraud and Misconduct in Biomedical Research*, edited by Frank Wells and Michael Farthing, examines the roles of statistical analysis, peer review and routine enhanced audit in this context. However, let's be honest and acknowledge that available technologies for detecting data fraud are still unable to handle every scenario. Furthermore, statistical methods frequently produce results that are blatantly inconclusive and only serve to cast doubts on the facts at best.

And then there is the extraordinary example of a 'data detective', Dr Elisabeth Bik, who is a microbiologist by training and a scientific misconduct hunter by passion. She got engaged in uncovering the dark side of science by independently detecting thousands of studies containing potentially doctored scientific images using only her eyes and memory. The narrative of this Stanford microbiologist shows how an astute scientist evolved into biology's 'image detective'. After looking over 1,00,000 papers in her areas of expertise, she discovered apparent image falsification in 4,800 of them and other indications of fabrication in 1,700 more. So far, her reports have resulted in about 950 retractions and corrections appearing in numerous other publications. Furthermore, this suggests that manipulation of data and image in scientific publications is quite common.

As we are living in the age of artificial intelligence (AI), can AI play a 'data detective' for scientific research as well, potentially bringing about a revolution on the ethical front? Big data analytics can now help detect plagiarism to a considerable extent. Similarly, by swiftly performing statistical tests and statistical pattern matching, a strong database may enable a powerful generative AI to verify various types of image and data fraud. Consequently, it may become easier to spot fraud in scientific research, especially data fraud. The same is true for examining data fraud in relation to different social, economic and medical datasets. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/ai-can-play-the-sleuth-to-expose-scientific-fraud-562633>

### **32. Awarding of highways halved over a year, MoRTH expresses concern to Cabinet (*business-standard.com*) Nov 15, 2023**

**Experts noted these approvals would be needed for the ministry to be able to infuse funds for awarding new projects**

After the awarding of new highway projects halved in 2023-24, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has conveyed to the Union Cabinet the lag in approving the revised proposal of its flagship highway development programme, Bharatmala Phase-1, whose estimated cost has doubled to more than Rs 10 trillion.

In its monthly report to the Cabinet, the ministry said awarding national highway projects between April and October had been 2,595 km as against 5,007 km during the same period last year — a dip of 48 per cent.

“If the target for award has to be met for this year, decision on the proposal for approval of the revised (Bharatmala) Phase-1 or alternate programme needs to be taken expeditiously. Shortfall in award this year will reflect in the progress of construction in the FY (financial year) 2024-25,” the ministry has informed the cabinet.

The Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-1, approved in 2017 and expected to be delayed by at least five years due to the Covid-19 impact and land acquisition woes, has undergone a massive cost revision. Despite a parliamentary standing committee noting the escalation as early as March 2022, no approval has been granted yet to the revised proposals.

Experts noted these approvals would be needed for the ministry to be able to infuse funds for awarding new projects.

Meanwhile, the Centre has been working on an alternative programme for highway development. This plan may subsume future phases of the Bharatmala Pariyojana, according to reports.

Meanwhile, the construction of highways has been able to overcome some of the early shocks in the financial year, where project milestones had been affected due to unseasonal rain.

Between April and October, MoRTH, through its executing agencies, constructed national highways of 4,474 km, which is 10 per cent higher as against the same period last year. However, seven months into the financial year, this is a little higher than a third of its yearly target.

Constructing national highways usually scales up rapidly in the last quarter of a financial year owing to favourable weather conditions and the need to meet targets.

According to experts, while the construction of highway projects remains resilient, awarding new contracts typically dips in the financial year before the Lok Sabha elections.

A Mumbai-based senior analyst said the slowdown was unlikely to have a major effect on the sector, as most contractors’ order books have doubled or tripled in size due to the recent capital expenditure push by the Centre.

Most players expect awarding to pick up again in 2024-25. [https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/awarding-of-highways-halved-over-a-year-morth-expresses-concern-to-cabinet-123111501170\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/awarding-of-highways-halved-over-a-year-morth-expresses-concern-to-cabinet-123111501170_1.html)

### **33. Assam: Jal Jeevan Mission project turns medium of pocketing money for contractor in Digboi (*indiatodayne.in*) November 16, 2023**

The Jal Jeevan Mission water supply project in Digboi has now turned into a medium of pocketing money by contractors as huge corruption has been reported in the project.

Arup Jyoti Gogoi, vice-president of Borbil village panchayat and a contractor has been allegedly filling up his coffers with money after taking charge of the project. warmed his pocket

A close aide of MLA Suren Phukan, Arup Jyoti Gogoi, who has no earlier experience of taking up projects as contractor, got the contract for the construction of a Jal Jeevan Water Supply plant at Dhekiajan Khalgaon under Digboi constituency.

Unfortunately, even after completion of the construction of the water supply plant, locals have not received water from the plant till date.

Surprisingly, the water supply pipe should be constructed three feet below the ground, but negating the rules prescribed for the construction, the contractor cosntructed the water supply pipe above the ground, thus creating trouble for the people in the area.

Huge embezzlement of government funds has been reported, although a proper probe will only unearth the true facts behind such shoddy work done by the contractor in the name of government scheme. <https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/video/assam-jal-jeevan-mission-project-turns-medium-of-pocketing-money-for-contractor-in-digboi-711888-2023-11-16>

#### **34. Bihar BMSICL employees allege irregularities in awarding contract to purchase medical equipment (*theweek.in*) November 15, 2023**

Employees of the Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) have alleged irregularities in a tender process floated by it to procure medical equipment for a Patna-based drug testing laboratory.

They have alleged that the BMSICL has overlooked its own norms to award contracts to a particular company due to "reasons best known to itself".

BMSICL Managing Director Dinesh Kumar did not respond to emails and WhatsApp messages seeking response to the allegations.

On May 24 this year, the BMSICL floated a tender and the bidders, as per the document available on its website, were asked to submit technical bids in online mode only.

The tender document also said that the technical evaluation will be done only on the basis of documents or papers submitted by the bidders on the e-tender portal -- <https://.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> -- only.

“Four companies participated in the bid. However, one of them did not upload the mandatory documents, technical specifications, and data sheets, among others, online before the due date,” a BMSICL employee said, requesting anonymity.

Instead, the company in question submitted a physical bid and uploaded a letter online saying that it couldn't upload its technical bid due to the huge file size.

“We hereby declare that due to the huge file size, we are unable to upload the technical data sheet and therefore we are submitting hard copies of the same along with other original documents,” said the letter, a copy of which is in possession of PTI.

Once the bid submission date was over, the BMSICL on August 4 intimated the companies about the shortcomings in their bids and asked them to furnish the required documents within seven days.

"In the next step, the BMSICL should have uploaded the technical evaluation report on its website. However, it opened the financial bid of the two companies only on September 15, without intimating the other two companies about the disqualification of their bids," another employee said.

“In a blatant violation, the BMSICL awarded the contract on October 27 to one of the two companies but uploaded the minutes of the technical bid meeting on October 31, four days after awarding the contract. The corporation should have done it before September 15 when it opened the financial bid for the sake of transparency and in compliance with its norms,” the employee said.

According to the employees, the minutes of the meeting should have been uploaded on the website with proper reasoning as to why they (BMSICL) are rejecting the bids of two companies and accepting the two others.

The employees also flagged other violations saying that the BMSICL selected the bids of two companies and the internal documents show that one of the two companies "acted as proxy" for the other.

“Out of 31 brands and models that the two companies have submitted, 29 are strikingly common in both the bids,” said the employee quoted above demanding a probe into the alleged malpractices.

He added, “Even if we presume that it is a mere coincidence, there are other documents of the two companies which are identical word by word. One can verify it on the e-tender portal of the state government.”

The employees have alleged cartelization which “either the Corporation failed to notice or deliberately overlooked”.

Sachin Jain, a Delhi High Court lawyer who has been fighting cases of medical negligence and in the knowledge of the subject, said, “Such tender should be revoked as being unfair, non-transparent and against public policy. It brings a direct loss to the state exchequer.”

The employees have also questioned the estimated cost that the BMSICL has shown for the bid and the price that the successful (qualified) companies have quoted.

“The BMSICL wanted to spend Rs 4 crore to purchase these products but the company which has won the contract quoted Rs 13 crore plus GST. This is over three times more than the estimated cost of this bid,” said the employee, adding that the other company had quoted Rs 16.57 crore plus GST.

The employees allege that in the past five years, this particular company, which has won the contract, has been awarded orders worth more than Rs 170 crore from BMSICL.

The BMSICL is the sole procurement and distribution agency of drugs and equipment for all establishments under the Bihar government's health department. <https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2023/11/15/des22-bihar-bmsicl-tender-irregularity.html>