

NEWS ITEMS ON AUDIT DIWAS

1. "We have also taken advantage of technology": CAG of India on use of drones, GPS and remote sensing (*aninews.in*) Updated: Nov 16, 2023

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Audit Day commemorates the momentous occasion of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India and the establishment of the institution of CAG on 16 November 1860.

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

"Recognizing the importance of this historic day, from the year 2021 onwards, we will observe November 16 as Audit Day," said Girish Chandra.

The CAG of India further said that if the recent past is looked upon, there is a sense of satisfaction at the significant progress made by the Supreme Audit Institution of India on many fronts.

"This has been a time where we have played a greater leadership role among the global Supreme Audit Institutions (SAOs) community while fulfilling our constitutional obligation," he said.

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.

"As we all know, there have been significant developments and changes in the field of digital governance across the country. Keeping this paradigm shift in mind, we have also taken advantage of technology. And this year we have achieved a remarkable achievement," he added.

Girish Chandra, during his speech, also said that from April 2023, there has been a 100 per cent digital transition in audit processes, using a unique enterprise-wide audit process and knowledge management system (One IAAD One System - OIOS), which will now be the single source of truth for the audit processes.

Further speaking on Data analysis, Girish Chandra said, "Data analysis is a permanent feature of our audit processes and the regular use of advanced tools such as Drones, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Remote Sensing has enabled us to gain nuanced observations that would not have been possible previously."

"The integration of our accounting offices with state government financial systems has given us access to financial information flows and large datasets. We will strive to further strengthen the relationship between Accounts and Audit by developing data analytics capabilities in the accounting function, especially for financial information analysis," said the CAG of India.

He expressed a belief that this will lead to better-informed audits and help in enhancing Public Financial Management outcomes.
<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/we-have-also-taken-advantage-of-technology-cag-of-india-on-use-of-drones-gps-and-remote-sensing20231116162051/>

2. "We have also taken advantage of technology": CAG of India on use of drones, GPS and remote sensing (*devdiscourse.com*) November 16, 2023

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<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/2714918-we-have-also-taken-advantage-of-technology-cag-of-india-on-use-of-drones-gps-and-remote-sensing>

3. हमने टेक्नोलॉजी का भी फायदा उठाया: कैग (livehindustan.com)

November 16, 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने तीसरे ऑडिट दिवस के अवसर पर कहा कि देश भर में 43,000 से अधिक लोग अब कैग कार्यालय से वेबकास्ट के माध्यम से जुड़ गए हैं।

गिरीश चंद्र ने कहा, 'मैं तीसरे ऑडिट दिवस पर भारत के माननीय राष्ट्रपति का स्वागत करते हुए खुद को बेहद सौभाग्यशाली मानता हूँ। वर्तमान में देश भर में हमारे कार्यालयों से 43,000 से अधिक लोग वेबकास्ट के माध्यम से जुड़े हुए हैं।

ऑडिट दिवस भारत के पहले महालेखा परीक्षक की नियुक्ति और 16 नवंबर 1860 को सीएजी संस्था की स्थापना के महत्वपूर्ण अवसर की याद दिलाता है। भारतीय इतिहास में इस दिन के महत्व को पहचानते हुए 2021 से कैग ने 16 नवंबर को ऑडिट दिवस के रूप में मनाया है। गिरीश चंद्र ने कहा कि अगर हाल के दिनों पर नजर डाली जाए तो भारत के सर्वोच्च लेखापरीक्षा संस्थान द्वारा कई मोर्चों पर की गई महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति पर संतुष्टि का भाव है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'यह एक ऐसा समय रहा है जब हमने अपने संवैधानिक दायित्व को पूरा करते हुए वैश्विक सुप्रीम ऑडिट इंस्टीट्यूशंस (एसएओ) समुदाय के बीच एक बड़ी नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका निभाई है। सीएजी ने कहा कि शासन में डिजिटल आधार पर बदलाव को ध्यान में रखते हुए शीर्षलेखा परीक्षक ने भी प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ उठाया है और इस वर्ष हमने एक उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि हासिल की है।

गिरीश चंद्र ने अपने भाषण के दौरान यह भी कहा कि अप्रैल 2023 से एक अद्वितीय उद्यम-व्यापी ऑडिट प्रक्रिया और ज्ञान प्रबंधन प्रणाली (वन आईएएडी वन सिस्टम- ओआईओएस) का उपयोग

करके ऑडिट प्रक्रिया 100 प्रतिशत डिजिटल हो गई, है, जो होगा अब ऑडिट प्रक्रियाओं के लिए एकमात्र स्रोत बनेगा।

<https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-we-also-took-advantage-of-technology-cag-8983374.html>

4. ड्रोन, जीपीएस और रिमोट सेंसिंग के इस्तेमाल पर बोले भारत के सीएजी (*jantaserishta.com*) November 16, 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने तीसरे ऑडिट दिवस के अवसर पर अपने भाषण के दौरान कहा कि देश भर में 43000 से अधिक लोग अब वेबकास्ट के माध्यम से सीएजी कार्यालयों से जुड़े हुए हैं।

गिरीश चंद्र ने कहा, “मैं तीसरे ऑडिट दिवस पर भारत के माननीय राष्ट्रपति का स्वागत करते हुए खुद को बेहद सौभाग्यशाली मानता हूँ। वर्तमान में, देश भर में हमारे कार्यालयों से 43,000 से अधिक लोग वेबकास्ट के माध्यम से जुड़े हुए हैं।”

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भारतीय इतिहास के इतिहास में इस दिन के महत्व को पहचानते हुए, 2021 से CAG ने 16 नवंबर को ऑडिट दिवस के रूप में मनाया है।

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भारत के सीएजी ने आगे कहा कि अगर हाल के दिनों पर नजर डाली जाए तो भारत के सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा संस्थान द्वारा कई मोर्चों पर की गई महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति पर संतुष्टि का भाव है।

उन्होंने कहा, “यह एक ऐसा समय रहा है जब हमने अपने संवैधानिक दायित्व को पूरा करते हुए वैश्विक सुप्रीम ऑडिट इंस्टीट्यूशंस (एसएओ) समुदाय के बीच एक बड़ी नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका निभाई है।”

सीएजी गिरीश चंद्र मुर्मू ने कहा कि शासन में डिजिटल आधार पर बदलाव को ध्यान में रखते हुए, शीर्ष लेखा परीक्षक ने भी प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ उठाया है।

उन्होंने कहा, “जैसा कि हम सभी जानते हैं, देश भर में डिजिटल प्रशासन के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण विकास और बदलाव हुए हैं। इस बदलाव को ध्यान में रखते हुए, हमने प्रौद्योगिकी का भी लाभ उठाया है। और इस वर्ष हमने एक उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि हासिल की है।” जोड़ा गया.

गिरीश चंद्र ने अपने भाषण के दौरान यह भी कहा कि अप्रैल 2023 से, एक अद्वितीय उद्यम-व्यापी ऑडिट प्रक्रिया और ज्ञान प्रबंधन प्रणाली (वन आईएएडी वन सिस्टम - ओआईओएस) का उपयोग करके ऑडिट प्रक्रियाओं में 100 प्रतिशत डिजिटल संक्रमण हो गया है, जो होगा अब ऑडिट प्रक्रियाओं के लिए सत्य का एकमात्र स्रोत बनें।

डेटा विश्लेषण पर आगे बोलते हुए, गिरीश चंद्र ने कहा, “डेटा विश्लेषण हमारी ऑडिट प्रक्रियाओं की एक स्थायी विशेषता है और ड्रोन, ग्लोबल पोजिशनिंग सिस्टम (जीपीएस) और रिमोट सेंसिंग जैसे उन्नत उपकरणों के नियमित उपयोग ने हमें सूक्ष्म अवलोकन प्राप्त करने में सक्षम बनाया है। पहले संभव नहीं था।”

“राज्य सरकार की वित्तीय प्रणालियों के साथ हमारे लेखा कार्यालयों के एकीकरण ने हमें वित्तीय सूचना प्रवाह और बड़े डेटासेट तक पहुंच प्रदान की है। हम लेखांकन कार्य में डेटा विश्लेषण क्षमताओं को विकसित करके, विशेष रूप से वित्तीय जानकारी के लिए, खातों और लेखा परीक्षा के बीच संबंधों को और मजबूत करने का प्रयास करेंगे। विश्लेषण, “भारत के सीएजी ने कहा।

उन्होंने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि इससे बेहतर जानकारी वाले ऑडिट होंगे और सार्वजनिक वित्तीय प्रबंधन परिणामों को बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी। <https://jantaserishta.com/uncategorized/cag-of-india-spoke-on-the-use-of-drones-gps-and-remote-sensing-639585>

5. Consider auditors as facilitators of good governance, not critics: Prez Murmu (*hindustantimes.com*) November 16, 2023

Auditors should not be considered as ‘critics’ but facilitators of good governance, President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday, while adding that the entire team of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is expected to contribute as a controller and an examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country’s developmental journey.

Speaking at the third ‘Audit Diwas’, organised by the CAG at its headquarters in New Delhi the President lauded the federal auditor for steps taken in auditing such as use of artificial intelligence and other technological tools.

“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 CAG. The auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics. They should be considered guides whose scrutiny teaches us to follow the right path,” she said.

The President said that the entire team of CAG is expected to contribute as a controller and an examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country’s developmental journey. “CAG team will have an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world,” she said.

She further lauded the CAG for its work and use of technology. “Under the leadership of CAG, government’s audit community has made significant contributions in strengthening integrity, governance and system building. I am happy to note that CAG 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.

Referring to India’s growing position in the world community, the President said it 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”.

Earlier, speaking at the event, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said concerted efforts of the entire organisation resulted in 183 audit reports covering the entire gamut of government activities, being tabled in the Parliament and the state legislatures during 2022-23.

On use of technology for audits, the CAG said effective April 2023, “we have transitioned to 100 percent digital auditing processes, utilizing our unique enterprise-wide audit process and knowledge management IT System, creating a single source of truth for our audit activities.” <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/consider-auditors-as-facilitators-of-good-governance-not-critics-prez-murmu-101700133385862.html>

6. CAG to play a key role in making India the third largest economy: Murmu (*thehindu.com*) November 16, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the Comptroller & Auditor General team, as a facilitator of good governance, would play an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world.

After inaugurating the 3rd Audit Diwas celebrations, Ms. Murmu said under the leadership of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, the government’s audit community had made significant contributions to strengthening integrity, governance and system building.

The President said the auditing body had taken several 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 future requirements. She said the auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics.

Stating that India’s leading position in the world community was also visible in the field of audit, she said the emphasis on the issues of Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence during India’s presidency of Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI 20) was a good effort to prepare a roadmap for the future.

Speaking on the occasion, the CAG said the institution had made significant progress on multiple fronts. “The audit report catalyses good governance and assists Parliament and State legislatures in ensuring accountability, transparency and efficient functioning

of the executive,” he said, adding that 183 audit reports were presented in Parliament and State legislatures during 2022-23.

He said access to financial data had significantly improved with the integration of SAI accounting offices with State governments’ financial systems. “We will continue to strengthen the linkages between Accounts and Audit by developing data analytics capacities for financial analysis,” he said, adding that the move would help produce more informed audits and result in greater public financial management outcomes.

He said “We are setting up an International Centre for Local Government Audit & Capacity Building. This first-of-its-kind institute will be dedicated exclusively for fulfilling a global need for capacity building in respect of local governance audits.”

To address the problem of shortage of qualified accountants in municipalities and panchayats, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the CAG and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to conduct a certification course.

On sustainable development, he said: “Our commitment to sustainability is evidenced by the successful preparation of Asset Accounts on Mineral and Energy Resources of States/UTs under the guidance of the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB) and the offices of SAI India. Water Resources is the next priority area. GASAB has already developed tentative tables of Water Accounts and circulated them to all States and UTs and other stakeholders.”

As part of the 3rd Audit Day celebrations, the CAG has organised a three-day event from November 15 to 17. The two-day 31st Accountants General conference commenced on Thursday. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cag-to-play-a-key-role-in-making-india-the-third-largest-economy-murmu/article67541102.ece>

7. “We have also taken advantage of technology”: CAG of India on use of drones, GPS and remote sensing (*thenewsmill.com*) Nov 16, 2023

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, during his speech on the occasion of the third audit day said that more than 43000 people across the country are now connected to CAG offices through webcasts.

“I consider myself extremely privileged to welcome the Honorable President of India on the third Audit Day. At present, more than 43,000 people are connected through webcasts from our offices across the country,” said Girish Chandra.

Audit Day commemorates the momentous occasion of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India and the establishment of the institution of CAG on 16 November 1860.

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“Recognizing the importance of this historic day, from the year 2021 onwards, we will observe November 16 as Audit Day,” said Girish Chandra.

The CAG of India further said that if the recent past is looked upon, there is a sense of satisfaction at the significant progress made by the Supreme Audit Institution of India on many fronts.

“This has been a time where we have played a greater leadership role among the global Supreme Audit Institutions (SAOs) community while fulfilling our constitutional obligation,” he said.

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.

“As we all know, there have been significant developments and changes in the field of digital governance across the country. Keeping this paradigm shift in mind, we have also taken advantage of technology. And this year we have achieved a remarkable achievement,” he added.

Girish Chandra, during his speech, also said that from April 2023, there has been a 100 per cent digital transition in audit processes, using a unique enterprise-wide audit process and knowledge management system (One IAAD One System – OIOS), which will now be the single source of truth for the audit processes.

Further speaking on Data analysis, Girish Chandra said, “Data analysis is a permanent feature of our audit processes and the regular use of advanced tools such as Drones, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Remote Sensing has enabled us to gain nuanced observations that would not have been possible previously.”

“The integration of our accounting offices with state government financial systems has given us access to financial information flows and large datasets. We will strive to further strengthen the relationship between Accounts and Audit by developing data analytics capabilities in the accounting function, especially for financial information analysis,” said the CAG of India.

He expressed a belief that this will lead to better-informed audits and help in enhancing Public Financial Management outcomes. <https://thenewsmill.com/2023/11/we-have-also-taken-advantage-of-technology-cag-of-india-on-use-of-drones-gps-and-remote-sensing/>

8. Financial propriety of G20 to benefit global economy: President Murmu (*business-standard.com*) Nov 16, 2023

Strengthening financial propriety in the Group of 20 (G20) countries will immensely benefit the global economy, as they constitute nearly 85 per cent of the world economy, President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday while addressing the 3rd Audit Diwas celebrations.

“The conduct of the G20 meeting in India was hailed across the globe. The G20 countries constitute around 85 per cent of the global economy. That's why strengthening financial propriety and governance in these countries will greatly benefit the world

economy. I also congratulate the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India for chairing the Supreme Audit Institutions during India's presidency,” the President said.

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 the blue economy and responsible artificial intelligence during India's presidency of the Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI 20) is a good effort to prepare a roadmap for the future,” the President said.

Besides, the President also said that the entire team of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is expected to contribute as a controller and an examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country's developmental journey, as the CAG will have an important role in making India the third-largest economy in the world.

Further, she emphasised that auditors should be considered facilitators of good governance, not critics, and that they should be considered guides whose scrutiny teaches us to follow the right path.

She also congratulated the CAG on taking 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 CAG has also acted as an external auditor for the institutions affiliated with the United Nations. https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/strengthening-financial-propiety-in-g20-nations-will-benefit-economy-prez-123111601035_1.html

9. “We have also taken advantage of technology”: CAG of India on use of drones, GPS and remote sensing (*takeonedigitalnetwork.com*)
Nov 16, 2023

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, during his speech on the occasion of the third audit day said that more than 43000 people across the country are now connected to CAG offices through webcasts.

“I consider myself extremely privileged to welcome the Honorable President of India on the third Audit Day. At present, more than 43,000 people are connected through webcasts from our offices across the country,” said Girish Chandra.

Audit Day commemorates the momentous occasion of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India and the establishment of the institution of CAG on 16 November 1860.

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

“Recognizing the importance of this historic day, from the year 2021 onwards, we will observe November 16 as Audit Day,” said Girish Chandra.

The CAG of India further said that if the recent past is looked upon, there is a sense of satisfaction at the significant progress made by the Supreme Audit Institution of India on many fronts.

“This has been a time where we have played a greater leadership role among the global Supreme Audit Institutions (SAOs) community while fulfilling our constitutional obligation,” he said.

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.

“As we all know, there have been significant developments and changes in the field of digital governance across the country. Keeping this paradigm shift in mind, we have also taken advantage of technology. And this year we have achieved a remarkable achievement,” he added.

Girish Chandra, during his speech, also said that from April 2023, there has been a 100 per cent digital transition in audit processes, using a unique enterprise-wide audit process and knowledge management system (One IAAD One System – OIOS), which will now be the single source of truth for the audit processes.

Further speaking on Data analysis, Girish Chandra said, “Data analysis is a permanent feature of our audit processes and the regular use of advanced tools such as Drones, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Remote Sensing has enabled us to gain nuanced observations that would not have been possible previously.”

“The integration of our accounting offices with state government financial systems has given us access to financial information flows and large datasets. We will strive to further strengthen the relationship between Accounts and Audit by developing data analytics capabilities in the accounting function, especially for financial information analysis,” said the CAG of India.

He expressed a belief that this will lead to better-informed audits and help in enhancing Public Financial Management outcomes. <https://www.takeonedigitalnetwork.com/we-have-also-taken-advantage-of-technology-cag-of-india-on-use-of-drones-gps-and-remote-sensing/>

10. Audit community has made significant contributions in strengthening integrity and system building: President Murmu (*theindianawaaz.com*) Updated: 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. <http://theindianawaz.com/audit-community-has-made-significant-contributions-in-strengthening-integrity-and-system-building-president-murmu/>

11. 'Contribute towards making India a developed nation' (*thehansindia.com*) Updated: Nov 17, 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.

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/national/new-delhi-contribute-towards-making-india-a-developed-nation-838321>

12. "The auditor should be a facilitator of good governance": President Droupadi Murmu (*malaysiasun.com*) Updated: Nov 16, 2023

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu addressed the third Audit Diwas celebrations in New Delhi today.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said, "Under the leadership of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the government's audit community has made significant contributions in strengthening integrity, governance, and system building," "Removing obstacles to 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 CAG," the President added.

President Droupadi Murmu said that the auditor should not be considered a critic but a facilitator of good governance. He should be considered a guide whose scrutiny teaches us to follow the right path.

"Today, the entire team of CAG is expected to contribute as a controller and examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country's development journey. In the near future, you all will play a special role in making India the third-largest economy in the world," said President Murmu.

The President said that the people of India want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by the year 2047.

"All important institutions and communities in the country, including CAG, have to contribute to achieving this goal. She was happy to note that CAG 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," added Murmu.

The President said that the entire team of CAG 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 the CAG team will have an important role in making India the third-largest economy in the world.

"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 CAG," said the President of India.

"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 the 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 CAG is also playing a leading role in other international forums," the President

concluded. <https://www.malaysiasun.com/news/274035193/the-auditor-should-be-a-facilitator-of-good-governance-president-droupadi-murmu>

13. "We have also taken advantage of technology": CAG of India on use of drones, GPS and remote sensing (*htsyndication.com*) November 16, 2023

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, during his speech on the occasion of the third audit day said that more than 43000 people across the country are now connected to CAG offices through webcasts.

"I consider myself extremely privileged to welcome the Honorable President of India on the third Audit Day. At present, more than 43,000 people are connected through webcasts from our offices across the country," said Girish Chandra.

Audit Day commemorates the momentous occasion of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India (/topic/india) and the establishment of the institution of CAG on 16 November 1860.

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

"Recognizing the importance of this historic day, from the year 2021 onwards, we will observe November 16 as Audit Day," said Girish Chandra.

The CAG of India further said that if the recent past is looked upon, there is a sense of satisfaction at the significant progress made by the Supreme Audit Institution of India on many fronts.

"This has been a time where we have played a greater leadership role among the global Supreme Audit Institutions (SAOs) community while fulfilling our constitutional obligation," he said.

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.

"As we all know, there have been significant developments and changes in the field of digital governance across the country. Keeping this paradigm shift in mind, we have also taken advantage of technology. And this year we have achieved a remarkable achievement," he added.

Girish Chandra, during his speech, also said that from April 2023, there has been a 100 per cent digital transition in audit processes, using a unique enterprise-wide audit process and knowledge management system (One IAAD One System - OIOS), which will now be the single source of truth for the audit processes.

Further speaking on Data analysis, Girish Chandra said, "Data analysis is a permanent feature of our audit processes and the regular use of advanced tools such as Drones, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Remote Sensing has enabled us to gain nuanced observations that would not have been possible previously."

"The integration of our accounting offices with state government financial systems has given us access to financial information flows and large datasets. We will strive to further strengthen the relationship between Accounts and Audit by developing data analytics capabilities in the accounting function, especially for financial information analysis," said the CAG of India.

He expressed a belief that this will lead to better-informed audits and help in enhancing Public Financial Management outcomes. <https://www.htsyndication.com/asian-news-international/article/-we-have-also-taken-advantage-of-technology-%3A-cag-of-india-on-use-of-drones%2C-gps-and-remote-sensing/76990462>

14. People want to move rapidly to make India developed nation by 2047: Prez (*business-standard.com*) Updated: Nov 16, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said people of the nation want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by 2047 and called upon important organisations, including Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), to contribute towards the goal.

Addressing a gathering at the 3rd Audit Diwas Celebrations organised by CAG, the President noted that CAG 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.

"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.

The President said that the entire team of CAG 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 the CAG team will have an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world.

She further said that the impact of today's market system characterised 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 CAG, the President added.

She also emphasised that the auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics.

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.

He further said CAG is a forward-looking institution that does not believe in resting on its laurels.

Murmu also highlighted the issue related to non-availability of qualified and trained accountants in adequate numbers willing to work across various tiers of local self government, municipalities and panchayats, particularly in lower tiers and remote localities.

One of the primary reasons is the shortage of Chartered Accountants. They are not readily available for such assignments due to low remuneration and remoteness of locations, he noted.

To address this problem, CAG and ICAI have entered into an MoU under which a certification course will be available to generate a skilled talent pool of accountants, Murmu said, and added the local self government in states will have the choice and discretion to hire them to prepare their accounts on payment of requisite remuneration.

This skill development initiative will go a long way in not only timely preparation of accounts and audit of local self government but will also help in availing of the applicable performance grant, subject to fulfilling of other criterion of the Finance Commission, he added. https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/people-want-to-move-rapidly-to-make-india-developed-nation-by-2047-prez-123111600682_1.html

**15. "The auditor should be a facilitator of good governance":
President Droupadi Murmu (*bignewsnetwork.com*) Updated: Nov 17, 2023**

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu addressed the third Audit Diwas celebrations in New Delhi today.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said, "Under the leadership of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the government's audit community has made significant contributions in strengthening integrity, governance, and system building," "Removing obstacles to 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 CAG," the President added.

President Droupadi Murmu said that the auditor should not be considered a critic but a facilitator of good governance. He should be considered a guide whose scrutiny teaches us to follow the right path.

"Today, the entire team of CAG is expected to contribute as a controller and examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country's development journey. In the near future, you all will play a special role in making India the third-largest economy in the world," said President Murmu.

The President said that the people of India want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by the year 2047.

"All important institutions and communities in the country, including CAG, have to contribute to achieving this goal. She was happy to note that CAG 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," added Murmu.

The President said that the entire team of CAG 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 the CAG team will have an important role in making India the third-largest economy in the world.

"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 CAG," said the President of India.

"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 the 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 CAG is also playing a leading role in other international forums," the President

concluded. <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/274035193/the-auditor-should-be-a-facilitator-of-good-governance-president-droupadi-murmu>

16. President asks CAG, others to contribute to make India developed nation by 2047 (*bizzbuzz.news*) Updated: Nov 17, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said people of the nation want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by 2047 and called upon important organisations, including Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), to contribute towards the goal. Addressing a gathering at the 3rd Audit Diwas Celebrations organised by CAG, the President noted that CAG 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.

“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. The President said that the entire team of CAG 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 the CAG team will have an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world. She further said that the impact of today’s market system characterised 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 CAG, the President added. She also emphasised that the auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics. 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.

<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/national/president-asks-cag-others-to-contribute-to-make-india-developed-nation-by-2047-1265326>

17. President Murmu President Murmu asked CAG and other institutions to contribute to making India developed by 2047 (*geotvnews.com*) Updated: Nov 16, 2023

President Draupadi Murmu on Thursday called on the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and other important institutions to contribute towards making India a developed

country by 2047. Addressing the ‘Audit Day’ organized by the CAG, the President also lauded the Comptroller and Auditor General for taking various steps.

This includes establishing a data management and analysis center in which digital technology and other modern methods are adopted. He said this awareness of the future would be useful.

“today, our citizens want to move quickly towards creating a developed India by 2047. All important institutions and communities of the country, including the CAG, will have to contribute to achieving this goal,” Murmu said.

‘Audit Day’ is celebrated every year from 2021 onwards, underscoring the importance of the appointment of the first Auditor General and the formation of the CAG in the country on November 16, 1860. CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said that in view of the radical changes in administration in the context of digital technology, the Comptroller has adopted Finance and Auditor General technology as well. <https://geotvnews.com/president-murmu-president-murmu-asked-cag-and-other-institutions-to-contribute-to-making-india-developed-by-2047-geotv-news/>

18. President Droupadi Murmu asks CAG, others to contribute towards making India developed nation by 2047 (*orissapost.com*)

Updated: Nov 16, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu 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 November 16, 1860 and creation of the CAG organisation.

Recognising the significance of the day in the annals of 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, and 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.orissapost.com/president-droupadi-murmu-asks-cag-others-to-contribute-towards-making-india-developed-nation-by-2047/>

19. 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने में योगदान दें, कैग समेत इन संस्थानों से राष्ट्रपति का आह्वान (*punjabkesari.in*) Updated: 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://www.punjabkesari.in/national/news/contribute-making-developed-india-2047-president-institutions-cag-1904115>

20. राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने कैग, अन्य संस्थाओं से 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने में योगदान देने के लिये कहा (prabhasakshi.com) Updated: Nov 16, 2023

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि भारत के लोग देश को 2047 तक विकसित बनाने की दिशा में तेजी से बढ़ना चाहते हैं और नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) एवं अन्य महत्वपूर्ण संस्थानों को इस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति में योगदान देना चाहिए। कैग द्वारा आयोजित तृतीय 'ऑडिट दिवस' समारोह 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। 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। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि कैग की पूरी टीम से एक नियंत्रक और एक परीक्षक के रूप में योगदान की अपेक्षा की जाती है। उन्होंने कहा कि कैग की टीम भारत को दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि आज की वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा वाली बाजार प्रणाली का प्रभाव सभी संस्थानों और उद्यमों के लिए प्रासंगिक है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश के सभी उद्यमों और गतिविधियों में नैतिकता के आधार पर प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की क्षमता लगातार बढ़नी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि वित्तीय औचित्य और वैधता सुनिश्चित करते हुए त्वरित वृद्धि और विकास के राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में बाधाओं को दूर करना कैग सहित सुशासन के लिए जिम्मेदार प्रत्येक संस्थान और व्यक्ति के प्रभावी योगदान की कसौटी है।

उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि लेखा परीक्षकों को सुशासन के सूत्रधार के रूप में माना जाना चाहिए, न कि आलोचकों के रूप में। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें मार्गदर्शक माना जाना चाहिए जिनकी जांच-पड़ताल हमें सही रास्ते पर चलना सिखाती 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://www.prabhasakshi.com/national/president-murmu-asked-cag-other-institutions-to-contribute-in-making-a-developed-india-by-2047>

21. राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने कैग, अन्य संस्थाओं से 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने में योगदान देने को कहा (ibc24.in) Updated: Nov 17, 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://www.ibc24.in/country/president-murmu-asks-cag-other-bodies-to-contribute-towards-building-a-developed-india-by-2047-1835710.html>

22. CAG celebrates 3rd Audit Diwas across J&K (*tribuneindia.com*) Updated: Nov 17, 2023

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 3rd Audit Diwas today, a momentous occasion commemorating the historic journey of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). The event holds special significance this year as it marks the 163rd anniversary of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India, Edmund Drummond, on November 16, 1860.

The event, symbolising a steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance, was web telecasted to all CAG offices, including the AG offices in Srinagar and Jammu. This year's theme, 'Collaboration for Good Governance', underscores the importance of collective efforts in achieving excellence in governance.

The celebration extends beyond the inauguration, encompassing a week-long series of activities scheduled from November 19 to November 25. The programme kicks off with an audit marathon-cum-cleanliness drive on November 19, promoting both fitness and civic responsibility, spanning from Dal Gate to Centaur Hotel.

Throughout the week, various engaging activities are planned, including a blood donation camp, rangoli competition, an inter-university/college event hosted at SKUAST-K, and a panel discussion with Panchayati Raj institutions. The panel discussion will provide a platform for dialogue on grassroots governance, fostering collaboration and understanding.

The festivities will culminate at Centaur Hotel/SKICC on November 25 with a concluding ceremony featuring a cultural evening, celebrating the spirit of collaboration

for good governance. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/j-k/cag-celebrates-3rd-audit-diwacross-jk-562973>

23. AG office Srinagar observes 3rd Audit Diwas (*brighterkashmir.com*) 17 Nov 2023

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 3rd Audit Diwas today, commemorating the historic journey of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). The event holds special significance this year as it marks the 163rd anniversary of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India, "Edmund Drummond," on November 16, 1860.

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The festivities will culminate at Centaur Hotel/SKICC on November 25 with a concluding ceremony featuring a cultural evening, celebrating the spirit of collaboration for good governance.

The 3rd Audit Diwas serves as a powerful affirmation of the CAG's dedication to advancing the values of transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance in India. <http://brighterkashmir.com/ag-office-srinagar-observes-3rd-audit-diwacross-jk-562973>

24. 3rd Audit Diwas celebrated across J&K (*thekashmirimages.com*) 16 Nov 2023

Srinagar: President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 3rd Audit Diwas today, a momentous occasion commemorating the historic journey of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

The event holds special significance this year as it marks the 163rd anniversary of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India, "Edmund Drummond," on November 16, 1860.

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The 3rd Audit Diwas serves as a powerful affirmation of the CAG's dedication to advancing the values of transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance in India. <https://thekashmirimages.com/2023/11/16/3rd-audit-diwas-celebrated-across-jk/>

25. सीएजी स्थापना दिवस पर रंगोली प्रतियोगिता में अभिलाषा बर्नी विजेता (*hindusthansamachar.in*) 16 Nov 2023

सीएजी की स्थापना दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में भारतीय लेखापरीक्षा एवं लेखा विभाग 16 से 23 नवम्बर तक ऑडिट सप्ताह मना रहा है। इसी के अंतर्गत गुरुवार को रंगोली प्रतियोगिता में अभिलाषा जायसवाल प्रथम स्थान पाकर विजेता बर्नी।

कार्यालय के मीडिया प्रभारी राजेश कुमार तिवारी ने बताया कि सीएजी की स्थापना दिवस के अंतर्गत प्रयागराज स्थित सीएजी के अधीनस्थ कार्यालयों के कर्मचारियों व अधिकारियों तथा उनके परिवारों के लिए रंगोली प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन गुरुवार को प्रधान महालेखाकार कार्यालय (लेखापरीक्षा-प्रथम) के सरस्वती सभागार में किया गया। इसमें अभिलाषा जायसवाल प्रथम, आयुषी यु जायसवाल, साक्षी मिश्र व पायल द्वितीय एवं योएका तृतीय स्थान पर रहीं। निर्णायक मंडल में शिवशरण रस्तोगी, रतनदीप राय और विनीता श्रीवास्तव शामिल रहीं। इसी कड़ी में 17 नवम्बर को अंतर अं कार्यालयी क्विज प्रतियोगिता आयोजित होगी। <https://www.hindusthansamachar.in/Encyc/2023/11/16/Abhilasha-wins-Rangoli-on-CAG-Foundation-Day.php>

OTHER NEWS ITEMS ON CAG

26. Freebies, a surefire recipe for disaster (*dailypioneer.com*) 17 November 2023

Due to political reasons, the Govt is less likely to be interested in curbing freebies, so other organs of the state like the judiciary should come forward to oppose it

Election is the time for political parties to inform voters about their policies and proposed programs, through their election manifestos. In the past, all political parties have been wooing voters with their promises in the form of programs, but the nature of election promises has changed in the last decade and a half. In these promises, instead of policies and programmes, the announcement of cash transfers and free schemes has taken precedence over policies and programs. Announcement of various freebies, including cash transfers to women, farmers, students and sometimes minorities and weaker sections, free electricity, free water, free travel to the entire women etc., has now become a common phenomenon.

In Madhya Pradesh, apart from waiving off the loans of farmers, the Congress party has also announced many other free schemes like free electricity, gas cylinder subsidy, Rs 1500 per month to women, unemployment allowance of Rs 3000 to youth etc. Similar announcements have been made by different political parties in Madhya Pradesh and other states going into elections. Every possible effort is being made to woo the voters. In such a situation, it is a matter of concern, whether this is a healthy trend for our democracy. Will our governments be able to fund these free schemes? Will the debt burden on state governments increase

Increasing debt in states

This trend of freebies is now spreading in many states of India. In the elections to be held this month, political parties have made a series of announcements of freebie schemes. We are hearing daily about free electricity, free transport, transfer of money to women, unemployment allowance to youth, etc. along with free vehicles and many other freebie schemes. Some time ago, the Reserve Bank of India and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) published data in their respective reports about the increasing debt of the states due to freebies and have expressed concern over these freebie schemes and rising debt burden of the states.

According to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the target debt-GSDP (gross state domestic product) Ratio, in any state, should not exceed 20 percent. But as per CAG, in most of the states of the country, this ratio is much more than the targeted one. It reached 48.98 per cent in Punjab, 42.37 per cent in Rajasthan, 37.39 per cent in West Bengal, 36.73 per cent in Bihar, 35.30 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 31.53 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 27.80 per cent in Telangana, 27.27 per cent in Tamil Nadu and 26.47 per cent in Chhattisgarh. If the debt on state government enterprises and the guarantees given by the state government are also added, then by 2020-21 the debt to GSDP ratio in Rajasthan would be 54.94 per cent and in Punjab, it would be 58.21 per cent. In Andhra Pradesh also it has been estimated at 53.77 per cent, it is 47.89 per cent in Telangana and 47.13 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. In West Bengal and Bihar, it's 40.35 per cent and 40.51 per cent respectively, and in Tamil Nadu, it is 39.94 per cent. CAG also reported that the debt of the states is continuously increasing compared to the target ratio. Regarding Andhra Pradesh, the Reserve Bank says that after Punjab, Andhra Pradesh is the second state in the country with the highest spending on free schemes. It is noteworthy that in Punjab, 45.5 per cent of the total tax revenue is being spent on free schemes and in Andhra Pradesh expenditure on freebies is 30.3 per cent of total tax revenue. Talking about the state's GDP, in Punjab 2.7 percent of the state GDP is spent on free schemes annually and in Andhra Pradesh it is 2.1 percent. Apart from this, in Madhya Pradesh, 28.8 per cent of the tax revenue is spent on subsidies, and in Jharkhand, it is 26.7 per cent.

Impact on essential expenditure

When a province spends such a large proportion of its tax revenue on free schemes, not only capital expenditure on infrastructure would go down, due to increasing debt of the state governments, but social services like education and health as well as transport and other essential services will also be impacted. For the development of any state, it is imperative to increase investment in infrastructure. Lack of infrastructure affects investment and hence the development of the state. Therefore, it is necessary to speed up the development of the country by curbing the free schemes offered by the states.

Impact on ratings Due to increasing debt the economic rating of the country is being impacted. If this continues, our country will not only have difficulty in getting new investments but our companies and government will also have to pay higher rates of interest on borrowing from foreign countries. That is, increasing debt is not only creating fiscal imbalance but is also affecting the ability of state governments to run welfare schemes and is also blocking the path for the development of the country and industry in particular. <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/columnists/freebies--a-surefire-recipe-for-disaster.html>

27. Do it via UIDAI: States shouldn't create separate biometric databases. Multiple datasets increase security risk (*timesofindia.indiatimes.com*) November 17, 2023

Biometric collection to establish identity is now commonplace across different levels of government. Bengal now has a law that mandates biometric collection as part of the process of recording marriages. Submission of biometrics is mandatory for both the couple and accompanying witnesses. Governments may have good reasons to increase the stringency level to establish identity. Bengal's aim to prevent trafficking is an example. But this can be done without collecting biometrics at all levels.

Aadhaar is based on biometrics. As on September 29, 138 crore unique Aadhaar numbers had been generated, which covers almost the entire population. Bengal, for instance, had recorded an Aadhaar saturation level of over 90% by March 2021. Securing its Aadhaar database is a core function of UIDAI, the body entrusted with managing the ecosystem. Its functioning is subject to CAG performance audits. However, if biometric collection is carried out at different levels, it undermines the safety of the entire database because safety protocols vary. Breaching of one database will compromise all of them with the same data.

In the case of Bengal, officials have said that the data is encrypted to ensure safety. It's a good practice but global experience shows that encryption raises the level of difficulty for hackers but doesn't eliminate it. No database is entirely safe and securing it is a constant challenge for legitimate custodians of data. FATF, the inter-government agency combating money laundering, has warned that biometric characteristics can be stolen in bulk from central databases. In 2015 more than 5 million fingerprint records were stolen from the US government's networks. Therefore, in the interest of safety, collection of biometrics should be limited to UIDAI as it reduces potential targets.

Governments can continue to impose the level of stringency needed to verify identities for their purposes by tapping into the UIDAI database. As financial intermediaries do,

state governments can authenticate identities in real time by utilising UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository. It's in everyone's interest to narrowly restrict biometric collection and do so without compromising its usage for valid reasons. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/do-it-via-uidai/>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

28. Just-in-time release of central funds to cut borrowings (*financialexpress.com*) November 17, 2023

Under new mechanism, CSS funds to be in RBI custody, rather than in state treasuries.

The Centre is planning to roll out a new mechanism that would remove the floating of funds for centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) with the state treasuries and various state-level nodal agencies. This would let the Centre cut interest costs by ensuring that borrowings are undertaken just in time to meet the actual requirement of fund release.

Currently, interest payments by the Centre are nearly half of its net tax revenue. And at any given point of time, as much as Rs 1.5-2 trillion of central funds lie with state treasuries/agencies.

According to the plan, the Centre will require each state agency to open an account with the Reserve Bank of India, which will be authorised by the Centre and the states concerned to release the funds after instruction from the Centre.

India's GDP to grow 6-7.1 per cent during 2024-2026, growth prospects remain strong: S&P

Currently, the Centre transfers funds for CSS to state treasuries, and states in turn transfer these along with their own shares, typically 40%, to the implementing agencies. However, many states delay the transfer of central funds as well as their shares to the agency accounts, causing the funds to lie idle.

The Centre has already rolled out a pilot scheme for Jal Jeevan Mission to reduce such floating of funds with three states — Rajasthan, Karnataka and Odisha, a senior official said.

Under the new mechanism, the state implementing agency will maintain an account with the RBI for each scheme. Instead of releasing any money to the agency, the Centre will issue an authorization as per the sharing pattern to the RBI for the scheme, and the state concerned will also give a similar authorisation to the central bank.

When actual payment need arises, the state will move the payment file to the Centre, which will pass it on to the RBI. The RBI, which already has the authorisation, would release the amount to the agency from the Consolidated Fund of India first and then from the State Consolidated Fund.

The advantage of the arrangement is since the funds don't need to be parked either with the state treasuries or the bank accounts of agencies, they won't lie idle in these accounts, while having already flown out of the CFI.

“After learning from the pilot, the mechanism will be rolled out scheme by scheme gradually,” another official said.

Besides cutting floats to zero, it would also make things easier for the states as the Centre has clamped down on many states for the delay in the release of funds to implementing agencies and has imposed costs on them.

With some states using the central funds to finance their fiscal deficit, the Centre has also set the penal interest rate at 7%/annum from April 1 on the number of days of delay beyond 30 days in the transfer of Central share to the SNA account.

Of the Rs 1.3 trillion interest-free capex loans to states in aggregate in FY24, the Centre has mandated that the first instalment of 66.6% would be released to each state government as per their share on meeting three fiduciary conditions including proof of deposit of the Centre’s share of the interest earned in SNA account for each scheme.

This approach to account for each rupee transferred to states has brought a fair sense of realism into the budget-making process, the second official said.

Since the Centre’s borrowing is actually linked to spending requirements, idle funds in CSS were leading to unnecessary interest costs for the Centre. Interest costs account for Rs 10.8 trillion or 24% of the budget in FY24.

The penal interest on treasuries and interest from SNA accounts fetched the Centre around Rs 4,000 crore in FY23, enough to run a few new schemes. In FY24, the interest from unutilised central funds could fetch the Centre over Rs 5,000 crore, sources said.

The CSS spending stood at Rs 4.12 trillion in FY23 as against the BE of Rs 4.52 trillion. Even then, there were Rs 1.8 trillion central funds unspent from the releases of FY23. So, the Centre sought these funds first to be exhausted before fresh releases were initiated from FY24 budget outlays. Given the pace so far, indications are that the Centre would save substantially from the current year’s allocation of Rs 4.76 trillion, which it would use to fund new schemes or existing schemes where more funds are needed. <https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-just-in-time-release-of-central-funds-to-cut-borrowings-3309107/>

29. Nutrition gap: Don't reduce India's food security law to a grain handout scheme (*livemint.com*) Nov 17, 2023

Earlier this year, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) completed a decade, a period over which it has successfully expanded coverage of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to almost two-thirds of India’s population. It proved to be a lifeline during the covid pandemic, with the government raising its entitlement from the mandated 5kg per person to 10kg, free of cost. While the quantity hike was rolled down after the pandemic ended, it continues as a free-ration scheme, as against the earlier subsidized price of ₹2 per kg for wheat and ₹3 per kg for rice.

The scheme’s expansion also came with its renaming as the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). As part of his election campaign, earlier this month,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an extension of the scheme for another five years. While the PMGKAY's renewed lease in a new avatar may be justified, given spiralling food prices, particularly cereals, the extension and renaming are not just in name, but also in spirit.

The PDS has existed in India for more than five decades and the history of food rations goes back even further, before independence. While it was universal to begin with, it was changed to a targeted scheme after the economic reforms of 1991, with items distributed under the PDS restricted to rice, wheat, kerosene and sugar. However, given problems with targeting, state governments took the lead in PDS reforms, with most states turning the scheme universal again (or quasi-universal). At the same time, competition among political parties led to gradual reduction in the issue price of subsidized foodgrain. So most states on the eve of the NFSA enactment 10 years ago had prices of rice and wheat at ₹1 per kg or ₹2 per kg.

The NFSA was not just a central PDS reform that took its cue from states, it came in the backdrop of India's slow performance on the nutritional front, despite rapid economic growth, and thus laid down the framework for a comprehensive food-security system aimed at improving nutrition and access to food. The PDS was an important part of it but not the only tool. However, the last decade has seen a gradual erosion in the food security architecture as envisioned in the Act of law. It has been reduced to a rice and wheat PDS scheme and renamed the PMGKAY with no effort on several other aspects of the Act vital for a comprehensive food-security paradigm.

While the covid volume doubling was necessary, given the programme's reach and success, it soon became a political instrument (example: its latest extension). A narrow approach which has reduced the NFSA to PMGKAY-led PDS has come at the cost of dilution of several provisions in the original law. Despite a larger population, beneficiary coverage remains fixed at estimates derived from the 2011 census, excluding more than 100 million beneficiaries. As against a provision of maternity benefits for all pregnant women, the scheme has been restricted to only one child birth. The amount has remained frozen at ₹6,000 per delivery, with no increase in the last decade. Similarly, while rice and wheat distribution under the PDS has seen outlays increase, we've seen insignificant hikes for the Integrated Child Development Scheme and the Mid-Day-Meal scheme. Both are critical for arresting child malnutrition.

The excessive focus on rice and wheat has also had its consequences. While cereals are important, the solitary focus on these two grains goes against the stated objective of the Act, which mandates the government to expand the food basket to include pulses, edible oil and other nutritious food. It has contributed to a skewed production structure, whereby India is a large importer of pulses and edible oil, though self-sufficient in rice and wheat. Unlike the Act's provision for the decentralization and expansion of public procurement, it remains largely concentrated, with north-western states like Punjab and Haryana playing disproportionate roles. The environmental consequences of paddy cultivation in those states are not just visible in declining water tables, but also the practice of stubble burning, which transforms India's capital into an annual spectacle of pollution.

The *raison d'être* of the NFSA was to move beyond the limited nature of the PDS and provide a framework for improving nutrition and food security. Reducing the Act to a

free PDS scheme may help the majority of our population access free food, yielding political dividends, but it need not be at the cost of key provisions of the Act that are in dire need of budget support for the sake of India's nutrition and food security. <https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/nutrition-gap-dont-reduce-indias-food-security-law-to-a-grain-handout-scheme-11700146226541.html>

30. Indian economy still not out of woods, says RBI (*financialexpress.com*) November 17, 2023

Retail inflation has moderated due to monetary policy action and supply side interventions but the Indian economy is still 'not out of the woods yet and have miles to go', said the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monthly bulletin on Thursday.

"We are not out of the woods yet and have miles to go, but (inflation) readings of around 5% and 4.9% in September and October, respectively, are a welcome relief from the average of 6.7% in 2022-23 and 7.1% in July-August 2023," the RBI said in its 'State of the Economy' article in the bulletin.

Retail inflation came down to 4.9% in October from the average of 6.7% in 2022-23 and 7.1% in July-August 2023 but remained above the RBI's 4% target. The central bank expects inflation to average 5.4% in 2023-24.

India to emerge as third largest global economy by 2027: FM Sitharaman

The bulletin noted that tightening financial conditions is a significant risk to the global outlook going forward. "In India, the momentum of the change in GDP is sequentially expected to be higher in Q3, 2023-24, with festival demand remaining ebullient," the article authored by a team lead by RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra said.

The demand appears to be resilient with the government's infrastructure spending, an uptick in private capex, automation, digitalisation and indigenisation providing a boost. The RBI also said the calibrated normalisation of surplus liquidity and robust credit growth strengthened transmission during the current tightening phase, although the transmission is still not complete.

The transmission of rates to term deposits has been robust, while savings deposit rates have exhibited rigidity the central bank said. The article further said India's external sector has remained viable, with a modest Current Account Deficit (CAD) financed by resilient capital flows, one of the least volatile currencies in the world and a healthy level of foreign exchange reserves.

The momentum of growth has picked up, taking GDP well above pre-pandemic levels to becoming the fifth-largest economy in the world at market exchange rates, it added. "Steadfast policy initiatives are showing results, with the financial sector exhibiting soundness and supporting the credit needs of a resurgent economy," it said. <https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-indian-economy-still-not-out-of-woods-says-rbi-3309154/>