

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CURTAIN-RAISER**

**OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA**

**NEW DELHI**

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**CAG to Address Conference of State Finance Secretaries**

**Shri K Sanjay Murthy to unveil State Finances Report**

The following is the text of briefing by Deputy CAG Shri Jayant Sinha here today.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India occupies a unique position in the country's Public Finance architecture, serving as a common link between the Union and the State Governments. The CAG's mandate is to promote accountability, transparency, and good governance through high-quality audits of the Union and State Governments, as well as by discharging his role with respect to rendering Accounts for the State Governments.

In 2024, the CAG of India launched an important initiative of an annual gathering of State Finance Secretaries to discuss pertinent matters in public financial management, and to disseminate the good practices observed in the States, as well as drawing upon from the good practices of the Union Government. The outcomes of this Conference resulted in implementation of several improved financial management practices by the State Governments.

Continuing this initiative, the Annual Conference of State Finance Secretaries for the year 2025 will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025, which will focus on key issues of strengthening the reporting framework with respect to Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Dissemination of good practices on public finances, Leveraging IT systems and digital platforms for better governance and Strengthening Accounting and Auditing of State Public Sector Entities and Autonomous Bodies. Technical session during the Conference will provide opportunities to the State Finance Secretaries to showcase the good practices and

innovations of their respective State governments in improving financial practices and delivery of public services.

Senior officials from the Union Finance Ministry, Finance Secretaries of State Governments, the Reserve Bank of India, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), and the heads of the accounting services of Railways, Telecommunications, and Defence, along with the Accountants General representing the CAG's audit and accounts offices in the States, are expected to participate in this high-level Conference, under the aegis of CAG of India. Approximately two hundred delegates from across the country will attend this Conference.

In a first of its kind initiative, the CAG will unveil the Publication on State Finances for Financial Year 2022-23. Unlike the Accounts of the State Government and the State Financial Audit Report which are prepared for each financial year and placed in the State Legislature and the Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts prepared annually, the Publication captures inter-temporal and inter-state fiscal information over a ten year period. This includes a comparative position at both the macro level and at a granular level, with large swathes of fiscal and accounting information. The Publication will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers and other stakeholders dealing with public finances of the country. Further, to make available this information in a user-friendly way, the CAG has come up with interactive data dashboard which will be made available to the public on CAG's website.

The Conference of State Finance Secretaries under the aegis of the CAG of India is now an annual event in the fiscal calendar of the country. This forum, with the participation of multiple stakeholders from the State and Union Governments, will serve as a platform for strengthening public financial management in the country.