

PRESS RELEASE

(ASOSAI)

(15TH Assembly of ASOSAI on ASOSAI Journal Award and Host of 16th Assembly)

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

7TH SEPTEMBER 2021

The 56th Governing Board elected the Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG), as the host of the 16th Assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) in 2024 and the Chairman of ASOSAI from 2024-2027. The 15th Assembly of ASOSAI approved the election on 7 September 2021. C&AG, as the Chairman, will be the Chief Executive of ASOSAI and represent ASOSAI in its dealings with national and international organizations.

The ASOSAI is one of the Regional Groups of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) which aims to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of public audit.

Established in 1979 with 11 members. The Membership of the ASOSAI consists of Charter Members, Members and Associate Members. The membership has since grown to 47 SAIs. The Assembly consists of all members of the Organization and meets once in three years.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu thanked all the members for entrusting SAI India with the honour of becoming the host of the next Assembly and Chairman for the period 2024-27. In his address, he highlighted that the world is going through momentous change; with new challenges and vulnerabilities hitherto hidden, brought to the fore by the COVID-19 pandemic. The governments world over and Asia are reorienting themselves to adapt to this new paradigm. As SAIs

in Asia, we have an added responsibility to be constructive entities to facilitate this process.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu recalled the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the member countries of the United Nations, in the year 2000, which was a global agreement aimed at meeting eight measurable goals. These goals ranged from halving extreme poverty and hunger, to promoting gender equality, and reducing child mortality, by the target date of 2015.

Though the Millennium Development Goals were pragmatic and substantial progress were made on many of the indicators, the significant one being halving the extreme poverty by 2015. However, for remaining goals much was left wanted.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu further emphasized that gaining on the momentum generated from the MDGs and taking into cognizance the need for people-centric development, the global consultations amongst civil society, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, and various stakeholders resulted in the 2030 Agenda. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets, adopted in the 2015, provide a framework for addressing global development challenges and their interconnections in a coherent and holistic manner. 21 of these targets should have been met by the year 2020 and the rest of them scheduled to be met by the years 2025 and 2030. Being home to almost 60 percent of the world's population, the global achievement of these ambitious SDGs will depend on the success of the Asian region. The recent "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report" by the UN Economic & Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific, highlights the risk and possible impact and has expressed concerns which need to be factored in while defining our audit process.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu informed the members that India is a signatory to the Environmental Accounting efforts of the UN. SAI India actively promotes Natural Resource Accounting as an important environmental assessment tool to estimate the trade-off between value of natural resource usage, environmental impact and economic activities and released a concept paper on Natural Resource Accounting in 2020 involving physical accounting, monetary valuation, and economic accounting. The paper envisages short, medium and long-term goals converging with the SDGs set by the UN General Assembly. We believe this would also complement the efforts taken by the ASOSAI Working Group on Environment on topics of climate change and carbon emissions.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu assured the members that during SAI India's three-year term as Chair of the ASOSAI, SAI India will focus on the areas of environment audit and leveraging emerging technologies for audit. First, we would work towards developing a comprehensive framework with environment audit specific definitions and parameters for natural resource accounting dovetailing with overall framework of sustainable development. Secondly, SAI India will seek active participation of members to create process and structures within ASOSAI to address the challenges faced by SAIs in our region in dealing with Big Data with an aim to leverage on artificial intelligence, machine learning and collaborative remote access data audits. In fact these emerging technologies, will also help in augment existing audit competence as well as accelerate capacity building for performance audit, apart from regular financial certification audit. SAI India believes that the use of IT and other advanced emerging technologies are the foundation pillars of achieving the SDGs; it becomes imperative for SAIs to integrate these tools in their auditing practices.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu went on to inform the members about the state of the art training facilities, IT infrastructure and tools established by SAI India to make our auditors future ready. This vast network of training facilities includes the International Centre for Information Systems & Audit (iCISA), Centre for Data Management & Analytics (CDMA), the International Centre for Environmental Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED), the National Academy of Audit & Accounts, and the 12 Regional Training Centres. Till now, SAI India has trained 6183 auditors across the world and have been handholding many SAIs within and outside ASOSAI in emerging areas of audit.

C&AG Shri G.C Murmu informed the members that SAI India will be happy to share our learning experience, experts and facilities for capacity building among the member SAIs of ASOSAI with a special focus areas of environment, emerging technologies and natural resource accounting.