

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

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**New Delhi**

**PRESIDENT INAUGURATES CAG's THIRD AUDIT DIWAS TODAY**

**C&AG TEAM TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAKING INDIA THE THIRD  
LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD: DROUPADI MURMU**

**AUDITORS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS FACILITATORS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE,  
NOT CRITICS: PRESIDENT**

**183 AUDIT REPORTS PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES  
DURING 2022-23: CAG**

**WATER NEXT PRIORITY FOR CAG'S ASSET ACCOUNTS, SAYS MURMU**

**CAG TO SET UP INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT &  
CAPACITY BUILDING, ANNOUNCES G C MURMU**

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Audit Diwas celebrations here today.

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 praised C&AG has 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 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.

India's leading position in the world community is also visible in the field of audit, said the President. 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.

Speaking at the function CAG Shri Girish Chandra Murmu stressed that CAG's commitment to the nation and welfare of its citizens remains steadfast in its objective. "Our institution is the cornerstone of public financial accountability. The CAG institution has made significant progress on multiple fronts. Reflecting on the institution's achievement, he said "The audit report catalyses good governance and assists Parliament and state legislatures in ensuring accountability, transparency and efficient functioning of the executive," he said. "The concerted efforts of the organisation resulted in 183 audit reports presented in Parliament and state legislatures during 2022-23, covering the entire gamut of government activities."

Shri Murmu said that access to financial data has 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 stressed, adding that the move will help to produce more informed audits and result in greater public financial management outcomes.

As India celebrates its 75th year of independence, CAG has remained focused on building local governance and strengthening grassroots democracy, said Shri Murmu. "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 (ICAI) to conduct a certification course. "This skill development initiative will go a long way to help local governments prepare their accounts on time and avail of the applicable performance grant, subject to fulfilling other criteria of the Finance Commission."

On sustainable development, Shri Murmu 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."

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