

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

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***i*CAL signs MoUs with NIRDPR and CEPT University for Capacity Building and Strengthening Local Governance**

The International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (*i*CAL), Rajkot has entered into two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad and Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University, Ahmedabad.

The signing ceremony was held on 29 August 2025 in the esteemed presence of Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The ceremony was attended by Dr. G Narendra Kumar, Director General, NIRDPR, Hyderabad, Professor Pranavant, Dean, Faculty of Management, CEPT University, Ahmedabad and senior representatives from the respective institutions.

Key highlights of MoUs:

***i*CAL and CEPT University:** Both institutes will collaborate to promote academic exchange and enhance capacity building among public servants focusing on best practices in the area of urban governance and planning.

***i*CAL and NIRDPR:** The partnership will aim to strengthen the audit capabilities of the Primary Auditors which will strengthen the accountability mechanism of local self-governments and help deepen the democracy at grassroot level.

Shri K. Sanjay Murthy while welcoming the MoUs stated that expertise of CEPT University will help in improvement of urban governance and planning and the partnership with NIRDPR will help strengthen transparency, accountability, and oversight in rural local bodies. He further stated that with the local self-governments receiving increasing allocations from the Government of India, these MoUs are timely and critical and that the partnerships will help build stronger accountability mechanisms, foster more efficient use of public resources, and deepen democratic governance at the grassroots level.