

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

12th November, 2025

CAG–ICSSR Launch Colloquium Series Focusing on Public Understanding of Audit Findings, Fiscal Governance and Accountability.

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in partnership with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) launched here yesterday, the 'CAG-ICSSR Colloquium Series', a year-long national initiative aimed at enhancing public understanding of audit findings, fiscal governance, and accountability.

The event brought together senior officials from the CAG and ICSSR, eminent academicians, policy experts, and research scholars to deliberate on the critical themes of 'State Finances' and the 'Audit of the Health Sector' in Delhi.

In his welcome address, Prof. Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, ICSSR, highlighted the immense value in the CAG's audit reports. He emphasized that this collaborative series aims to unlock that value by making it accessible to the academic community, thereby creating a robust evidence base for social science research and informed public discourse.

The discussions began with a presentation on State Finances of Delhi by Shri Rahul Kumar, Director, O/o CAG of India. The data democratisation initiatives of the supreme audit institution was also presented. The session was further enriched by a special address from Prof. Ram Singh, Director of the Delhi School of Economics and Council Member, ICSSR. Prof. Singh contextualized the public finances within the broader macroeconomic framework, discussing the implications of state-level fiscal health on developmental outcomes. The ensuing discussion explored pathways for strengthening fiscal discipline, improving the quality of expenditure, and leveraging technology for greater transparency in public financial management.

Ms. Swati Pandey, Principal Director, O/o CAG of India, presented on the audit findings from recent audits of the health sector in Delhi. She shed light on systemic issues in public health infrastructure, efficiency gaps in service delivery, and challenges in the management of healthcare schemes. Prof. Indrani R. Chaudhary of Jawaharlal Nehru University offered an economic analysis of public health expenditure, examining its impact and effectiveness. Prof. A.K. Shiva Kumar, a Development Economist from Ashoka University, brought a socio-economic perspective, linking audit findings on health infrastructure to real-world impacts on community well-being and equity.

This colloquium marks the beginning of a comprehensive series of 31 such events planned across 28 States and 3 Union Territories between November 2025 and November 2026. Each event will be jointly coordinated by the respective State Accountant General's Office and ICSSR, focusing on state-specific audit reports and themes of local relevance.



As part of this collaborative effort, a National Research Article Competition has been also envisaged. The competition aims to engage students, researchers, and young scholars in analysing CAG's audit reports, thereby promoting research-oriented learning, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP). The best articles would be awarded and a compendium of the best articles from across the country will be published as a consolidated knowledge product.

The CAG-ICSSR partnership represents a significant step towards building a sustained platform for knowledge sharing, fostering a culture of accountability, and ensuring that insights from public audit contribute directly to informed policymaking and a more engaged academia and citizenry.

BSC/SS/IK/75-25