OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

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Success of Governments to be measured by their agility in swift development of efficient and effective IT systems: CAG

As the Chair of the INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit (WGITA), the Comptroller and Auditor General of India today inaugurated the 30th annual meeting of INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit, which was held virtually. In his opening address, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu said that the success of every government and organisation in the coming days will be measured by their ability to move quickly and easily in the swift deployment of efficient and effective IT systems and solutions.

The CAG said that secure and reliable IT system has also entailed massive and rapid investments by governments and organizations to procure and implement IT hardware and systems. This would result in enhanced responsibilities for SAIs to identify emerging IT risks, make constructive recommendations to their respective governments and ensure public trust in governmental IT spending.

The CAG informed that taking cognizance of these challenges and opportunities, SAI India has already embarked on its enterprise-wide audit process automation and knowledge management system and is increasingly embedding data analysis using advanced tools and techniques into its audit domain. As an organisation we need to converge all previous accomplishments in data analytics, IT-related initiatives, Information System audits, related skills and competency building to bring in synergy and efficiency in our efforts in leveraging IT and towards achieving digital transformation in SAI India, he added.

Shri Murmu informed that India's Centre for Data Management and Analytics plays an advisory and facilitating role to our field audit offices in the use of Data Analytics and audit of IT systems and fostering a data-driven culture in our institution, while the International Centre for Information Systems and Audit promotes capacity building on technology related areas within our SAI as well as internationally.

Shri Murmu highlighted that over the period, this Working group has been successful in assisting the establishment of an effective IT audit function in the SAI community. WGITA of INTOSAI is an agile and resilient INTOSAI organ building a rich body of IT Audit professionals to serve nations and global society.

INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit has been instrumental in placing high-level guidance documents on Information Systems Audits and Information security Audits in the INTOSAI Framework of Professional Pronouncements. Apart from this, WGITA has also brought out many other guidance materials on topics like IT Governance, Data Mining, Cloud computing, Data Analytics Guideline, and capacity building requirements for IT Audits. Moreover, as per its triennial Work plan for the period 2020-22, INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit took up seven projects on various IT related topics, namely, Cyber Security and Data Protection Challenges, IT governance, Performance Evaluation of IT Systems, review of existing products developed by INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit, webinars, creation and maintenance of a Global IT Audit Database and Global Curriculum for IT Audits, with the purpose of knowledge development, knowledge sharing and capacity development.

International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Working Group on IT Audit is a Working Group under the Knowledge Services and Knowledge Sharing Committee of the INTOSAI. This Working Group was set up in 1989 to support member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in developing their knowledge and skills in the use and audit of Information Technology (IT). The Working Group, with its vast membership of about 60 SAIs worldwide, is mandated to support SAIs in developing their knowledge and skills in the use of information technology-related audits by setting standards and guidance on the subject matter and providing facilities for exchange of experiences, sharing best practices, and encouraging bilateral and regional cooperation among Supreme Audit Institutions.

The activities of INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit stand as testimony to the resilience and agility of the global auditing community towards ensuring continuous sharing of knowledge and experience and building a rich body of IT audit professionals to serve nations and global society.

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