

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

**NEW DELHI  
20<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2024**

**Speech of CAG at the Signing of MoU with IIT-Delhi**

It is with great pleasure that we gather here today for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi), a Premier educational institute of the country.

This MoU marks a significant milestone in the journey towards leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies for the advancement of audit practices, and beyond.

It is noteworthy to mention that Government of India has made huge strides in adopting AI for Governance and is on track to become the Global Hub for AI Innovation as the chair of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in 2024.

The tussle to assume leadership in the field of AI has seen many countries implementing orders and laws to promote adoption of responsible AI. Notable among these are the US government Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence brought out last year and recently implemented Law on Artificial Intelligence by European Union.

Government of India had unveiled the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in 2018 which aims at fostering innovation, skilling the workforce, and promoting responsible AI adoption, to position India as a global leader in AI research, development, and deployment.

India AI Mission, a landmark initiative aimed at accelerating AI research, development, and adoption across various sectors was recently approved by Cabinet. This mission marks a significant step towards bolstering India's AI ecosystem and underscores the government's commitment to harnessing the transformative potential of AI to address societal challenges, drive economic growth, and foster innovation.

As signatories to this MoU, we are well-positioned to contribute to the objectives of the India AI Mission, leveraging our collective expertise and resources to

advance the frontiers of AI research, education, and application in the domain of audit.

Today, we embark on a collaborative endeavour that recognizes the transformative potential of these technologies and the importance of partnership in harnessing their full capabilities.

### **The Role of AI in Shaping the Future of Audit**

As we stand on the threshold of a technological revolution, the landscape of audit is undergoing a profound transformation. With the rapid advancement of AI, machine learning, and data analytics, traditional methodologies are being redefined, offering unprecedented opportunities for innovation and efficiency.

AI has emerged as a catalyst for change in the field of audit, offering a plethora of opportunities to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and insight.

By harnessing AI-driven algorithms and predictive analytics, auditors can analyze vast volumes of data with unparalleled speed and precision, enabling them to uncover patterns, anomalies, and potential risks with greater accuracy.

Moreover, AI-powered tools have the potential to automate routine tasks, liberating auditors to focus on strategic analysis and value-added activities, thereby elevating the quality and relevance of audit outcomes.

Furthermore, as organizations grapple with the complexities of a rapidly evolving risk landscape, AI offers a powerful arsenal of capabilities to navigate these challenges with agility and foresight.

Whether it be detecting fraudulent activities, or optimizing compliance processes, AI-driven solutions empower auditors to adapt to an ever-changing environment and deliver actionable insights that drive informed decision-making.

### **Growing Importance of Collaboration between Government and Academia:**

In an era defined by collaboration and convergence, partnerships between government institutions and academia have emerged as a cornerstone for progress and innovation.

By bridging the gap between theory and practice, such collaborations facilitate the co-creation of knowledge, nurture talent, and drive thought leadership in emerging domains.

Today, as we unite with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi), we reaffirm our shared commitment to harnessing the synergies between research, education, and practice to shape the future of audit.

IIT-Delhi has been at the forefront of AI research and innovation, spearheading numerous initiatives aimed at advancing the state-of-the-art in AI and its applications.

The Institute is also home to the Yardi School of AI, a pioneering center of excellence dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary research, education, and entrepreneurship in AI.

### **MoU with IIT-Delhi**

This MoU represents a landmark initiative that embodies the spirit of collaboration and mutual enrichment. Through this partnership, we will embark on a multifaceted journey of exploration and discovery.

The MoU presents promising opportunities for both our department and IIT-Delhi.

We will get access to cutting-edge AI expertise, capacity building for our workforce, and development of bespoke AI solutions tailored to specific audit needs.

While IIT-Delhi will get the opportunity to apply research in a real-world setting and access to **valuable data sets...**

### **Conclusion**

As we embark on this collaborative journey, let us embrace the possibilities of the future with optimism, curiosity, and determination.

Together, we have the opportunity to shape a future where AI serves as a catalyst for positive change, empowering auditors, and organizations to unlock new insights, drive informed decision-making, and create value for the nation.

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