

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (AUDIT-II), UTTAR PRADESH, LUCKNOW

CAG and ICSSR Organise Colloquium on State Finances and Public Health Governance in Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow, 25 May 2026

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), organised a Colloquium on 25 May 2026 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Malviya Sabhagar, University of Lucknow, Lucknow. The event was hosted by the Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit-II), Uttar Pradesh, as the State Nodal Office, under the ongoing national CAG–ICSSR Colloquium Series.



The Colloquium deliberated on two themes of significant public relevance: "**State of Finances of Uttar Pradesh**" and "**Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services**". The first theme explored the State's fiscal position, including revenue trends, expenditure patterns, deficit management, and the quality of public spending as reflected in CAG's audit reports. The second theme drew on audit findings relating to the adequacy of public health infrastructure and the effectiveness of health service delivery in Uttar Pradesh, with focus on systemic gaps, governance challenges, and the policy imperatives they present.

The Colloquium commenced with a welcome address by **Prof. Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi**, who underscored the importance of bridging the knowledge generated by the Supreme Audit Institution with academic inquiry and public discourse. **Shri Rajiv Kumar Pandey, IA&AS, Principal Accountant General (Audit-II), Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow**, addressed the gathering, and the opening remarks were delivered by **Dr. Surendra Kumar, IA&AS, Accountant General (Accounts & Entitlements), Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj**.

Under Theme I, **Dr. Nagendra Kumar Maurya, University of Lucknow**, provided an academic perspective on the State's fiscal management and its broader developmental implications, followed by a presentation by **Shri Rajiv Kumar Pandey, IA&AS, Principal Accountant General (Audit-II), Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow**, on the State of Finances of Uttar Pradesh. Under Theme II, **Dr. Lokesh Choudhary, IA&AS, Deputy Accountant General, Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit-I), Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj** presented on audit findings relating to public health infrastructure and health service delivery, followed by an address by **Dr. Nomita P. Kumar, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow**, who contextualised the audit findings within the framework of public health policy and governance. The thematic sessions were followed by an interactive Q&A session that facilitated substantive engagement between the speakers and the audience.

Shri Pankaj Verma, IA&AS, Senior Deputy Accountant General, Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit-II) Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, informed the audience about the **CAG–ICSSR Research Article Competition**, an initiative aimed at encouraging students, researchers, and young scholars to engage analytically with CAG's audit reports, in alignment with the National Education Policy. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by **Prof. Harsh Sharma, Director, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow**.

The Colloquium was attended by over 200 participants, including faculty members, research scholars, doctoral fellows, and students from the University of Lucknow, the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Maharishi University of Information Technology, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, Integral University, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Isabella Thoburn College, and Babu Banarasi Das University, among others.

The Lucknow Colloquium forms part of the ongoing **CAG–ICSSR Colloquium Series**, a year-long national initiative covering 28 States and 3 Union Territories between November 2025 and November 2026. Each Colloquium is organised by the respective State PAG/AG Office in coordination with ICSSR, focusing on State-specific audit findings and themes of local policy relevance.

The CAG–ICSSR Colloquium Series represents a significant step towards greater transparency, accountability, and informed public discourse on matters of fiscal governance and public service delivery. By bringing together auditors, academics, and policy practitioners on a common platform, the initiative seeks to ensure that insights from public audit contribute to evidence-based research, constructive policy dialogue, and a more engaged and aware citizenry.

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