

## **Welcome Address**

### **CAG**

**Honourable Rashtrapati Ji,  
Honourable Speaker Lok Sabha,  
Honourable Chairman Public Accounts Committee,  
Distinguished Guests  
Senior Officers from the Government,  
Members of the Audit & Accounts fraternity,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a matter of great honor for me to welcome you to this inaugural function of the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Accountants General.

2. We are very grateful to the Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji for having agreed to inaugurate this conference. Sir, we have been always indebted for your continuous guidance and support to our department. Your presence here instills a sense of confidence and pride as we endeavor to further hone our skills and galvanize our efforts to fulfill our mandate and the expectations from our department.

3. We are fortunate to have with us Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Madam, we look forward

to your valuable advice, encouragement and support in fulfilling our Constitutional mandate.

4. We are also privileged with the presence of Prof. K.V. Thomas, Hon'ble Chairman Public Accounts Committee. Sir, you have been a constant source of confidence and we look forward to you for words of encouragement and guidance for our Organization.

5. With the duties which are mandated under the Constitution and the independence ensured therein, the institution of the CAG plays an important role in strengthening governance, while ensuring the executive's accountability to the Parliament. While doing so, we focus on remaining constructive. This is borne out by the fact that a number of our recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the governments, both at the Union and state levels. During 2014-15, due to Audit interventions the Union Government and state governments accepted recoveries amounting to over Rs.39,000 crores. During the year itself, actual recoveries effected were to the tune of Rs.4500 crores.

6. Today, the world is a global city. While on one hand, the governments are pitching in for digital governance, private participation in delivery of public services as well as inclusive growth, on the other hand the stakeholders are seeking assurance on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of

governance. In this context, our Organization understands the role which it is expected to play in view of high expectations of all stakeholders. We therefore strive to ensure, that we are in sync with the dynamic working of the governance; and our processes, tools and methodologies conform to the highest international standards and best practices. By doing so, we keep ourselves prepared to meet the challenges of changing times.

7. To attain our objectives and to effectively respond to the changes taking place in our environment, this conference of the Accountants General is organized every two years to brainstorm on the possible strategies we should adopt, to address the emerging challenges facing us. This year we would be discussing four topics in the Conference. These are Auditing the programs related to Sustainable Development Goals; Challenges for the Department post- Integrated Financial Management Systems (IFMS) in the States, Perspectives and concerns on Local Bodies Audit and Meeting challenges in Revenue Audit. These topics represent the wide range of issues our Department has to contend with, impacting both the receipts and expenditure aspects of governance.

8. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by the United Nations as universal agenda for the post 2015 period and encompass some of the most burning

issues facing the mankind today like hunger, poverty, illiteracy etc. Audit has to devise credible methodology to provide assurance on the economy, effectiveness and efficiency with which governments would be implementing the goals and targets under the SDGs. In this context, we are not only preparing ourselves to meet the requirements of national audit, but also playing a leadership role in auditing the preparedness of UN for meeting this challenge. As member of UN Board of Auditors our organization is fully geared up to shoulder all our international responsibilities.

9. Sir, the implementation of the IFMS in the states will bring in significant changes in the accounting and financial management, and as key stakeholders in the accounting systems of the states, we would be discussing our preparedness to meet the challenges of the IFMS.

10. Our contribution in augmenting the revenues of the governments is well established. This Conference will also examine ways to further enhance our contribution to the revenues of the governments and thereby their fiscal sustainability.

11. Lastly, the Conference will also deliberate on the audit strategy for the third tier of the governance, that is, the urban and rural local bodies, which have witnessed an increasing trend of administrative and financial devolution and therefore

must be tested on the touchstone of accountability applicable to other tiers of governance.

12. I am hopeful that the deliberations in this Conference would lead to strengthening the functioning of our Institution, which in turn will impact the overall governance and accountability mechanism in the country.

13. I once again extend a very warm welcome to Hon'ble Rashtrapathi Ji, for having spared his valuable time to be with us. I again extend a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha, and the Hon'ble Chairman Public Accounts Committee, for gracing this occasion. I welcome all our distinguished guests and members of the media, on behalf of the Indian Audit & Accounts Department, and on my own behalf.

**Jai Hind**