

**PRESS RELEASE**

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

**NEW DELHI  
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**Address by the CAG at the inauguration of Chadwick House Museum**

**Esteemed members of the Audit Advisory Board, senior officers of the State government, my dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,**

As we mark this red letter day celebrating the inauguration of the museum of the Supreme Audit Institution of India, I am filled with immense satisfaction and pride. This museum 'Chadwick House – Navigating Audit Heritage' is not merely a repository of artifacts and documents, a collection of exhibits. It is a testament to our rich history, our achievements, and the values that have guided us through the past 164 years.

From a core thought of preserving the Institution's physical heritage, our idea gradually germinated to a museum that is a living, breathing entity, one that will continue to grow and evolve along with our institution. A place where we can reflect on the milestones we have achieved, the challenges we have overcome, and the road that lies ahead.

It should serve as a bridge between generations, a place where the lessons of history are brought alive and accessible to all – not just the audit fraternity but most importantly our ultimate stakeholder – the common citizen. I believe that the history of our Institution will live through the eyes of Chadwick's beholder.

Chadwick House is not just a building, never has been. Constructed in the 1880s, in 1904, Chadwick House was bought by the Maharaja of Kapurthala, Raja Sardar Charanjit Singh. During the freedom struggle, Chadwick House was a favoured residence of Mahatma Gandhi while in Shimla. In 1946, during his visit to Shimla for the Cabinet Mission discussions, once again the Father of the Nation stayed at Chadwick. The balcony that you can see is the location of his addresses to the public. Chadwick House has witnessed history being made and henceforth, it should serve as a testament of our unwavering dedication to public service.

I take this opportunity to express gratitude and honour the role played by Shri Narahari Rao, the first CAG of independent India. It was his foresight that not only led to the establishment of the IA&AS Training School at Chadwick House, Shimla in 1950, but built a robust, knowledge intensive Supreme Audit Institution. Today, as we stand on the very grounds where capacity building and the pursuit of professional excellence started its journey, we pay homage to his transformative leadership, vision and dedication in nation-building efforts.

As CAG, I can confidently assert that this independent audit institution is a crucial pillar of democracy, an enabler to a vibrant nation. Our commitment to an ethos of integrity, transparency, accountability and good governance, leads to an optimal utilisation of public resources for a sustainable future. I hope this museum ignites a curiosity about the role and significance of the CAG for a strong nation. Public outreach and citizen engagement are integral for a compelling fulfilment of our mandate. The true purpose of the museum will be realized when, beyond the cursory visits, it serves as an engaging connect sparking curiosity among all our stakeholders.

The museum comprising 10 galleries weaves the history of the Institution in a rhythmic flow. From the history of Chadwick House to the evolution of

accounting and bookkeeping practices from ancient civilizations to the present day, to the constitutional Assembly debates that shaped the role and responsibilities of the CAG, highlighting the consistent efforts of the CAG to establish effective governance in a young country, the museum celebrates our most valuable resource – our people. The story of the CAG is incomplete without referring to the Institution’s global connect and the stellar role it plays among the international SAI community. The journey through the museum concludes in the Discovery Room that epitomises the philosophy – ‘catch ’em young’. May this museum stand as a beacon of enlightenment, a source of pride, a reminder of the journey that has brought us to where we are today, illuminating the path for future generations.

As I cut the ribbon and we enter into the very soul of our past, I ask all officers of the Supreme Audit Institution of India to commit to be custodians of these treasures, not just physical but of thought and spirit, keeping the flame of our history burning bright.

In conclusion, as we witness the culmination of our efforts and the realization of a dream, I am filled with pride and gratitude. I thank and congratulate all those involved from an embryonic stage to fruition, for this remarkable achievement. It is your passion, pride and zeal have given us this cause of celebration.

Let us embark on this time travel – back and forth to an even more glorious future.

Thank you.

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