

**PRESS RELEASE**

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

**NEW DELHI**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2025**

**CAG ADDRESSES CIVIL SERVICES OFFICER TRAINEES AT LBSNAA**

**SHRI MURTHY OUTLINES THREE PILLARS FOR YOUNG CIVIL  
SERVANTS FOR HELPING INDIA BECOME VIKSIT BHARAT**

The Comptroller & Auditor General of India delivered Viksit Bharat talks at the 100th Common Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie last evening. Shri K Sanjay Murthy began his address by highlighting the vital role young civil servants will play in shaping governance across sectors. He outlined three key pillars - expanding access, promoting data-driven governance, and strengthening institutional maturity in financial management. To make these ideas relatable, he drew practical examples from the education sector and national-level collaborative initiatives.

The CAG then elaborated on the concept of access through the significant reform of providing free access to premium academic journals for institutions across India. While individual departments earlier negotiated independently under one nation one subscription, resulting in high costs and limited reach, a consolidated national negotiation led by the Ministry of Education now enables over 13,000 journals to be accessed by more than 5,000 institutions, generating nearly one crore downloads every month viz 1 Cr download per year earlier. This, he stressed, demonstrates how unified efforts greatly expand opportunities, especially for under-resourced state colleges, and urged young officers to adopt collaborative approaches in their administrative roles. He also drew parallels with the UJALA LED bulb initiative to emphasize the transformative power of scale and collective procurement.

Turning to the second theme, Shri K Sanjay Murthy explained how data-driven governance enhances institutional accountability and improvement. He noted that although many Indian institutions initially hesitated to participate in global rankings such as QS and Times Higher Education, their eventual engagement revealed crucial insights into research quality, employability outcomes, gender representation, and SDG-linked performance. He cited examples where systematic data collection, improved employer outreach, and better documentation enabled universities to rise significantly in global rankings. Such datasets—whether generated by national bodies, ministries, or global institutions—serve as essential tools for administrators to diagnose gaps, design interventions, and monitor progress across sectors.

Addressing the third pillar, the CAG emphasized the need for strong institutional financial discipline and investment-readiness. India's education and health sectors, he noted, require substantial capital, and while mechanisms such as viability-gap funding and capital-raising windows exist, many institutions fail to

benefit due to weak accounting practices, poorly maintained asset registers, and outdated financial systems. He encouraged young officers to strengthen financial transparency, ensure proper maintenance of accounts, and build resilient institutional structures to leverage funding opportunities.

In his concluding remarks, Shri K Sanjay Murthy urged 660 participating Officer Trainees to appreciate the transformative impact of small, sincere administrative actions—whether in sustainability, service delivery, or regulatory reforms. He highlighted that national SDG-linked interventions have contributed to a measurable 23% reduction in cumulative emissions between 2015 -2070 compare to no policy scenario, illustrating how consistent collective effort leads to tangible national outcomes. He advised young officers to remain humble, accessible to citizens, receptive to the wisdom of experienced colleagues, and committed to eliminating avoidable administrative bottlenecks that hinder transparency and public trust. He reminded them that their integrity, competence, and willingness to learn will ultimately determine the quality of governance they provide.

Following his formal address, the CAG engaged in an interactive question–answer session with the Officer Trainees. He took time to respond to queries with clarity and patience, and emphasized on the Government of India’s sustained efforts to expand the country’s higher education and research ecosystem by establishing new IITs, NITs, and IIMs across diverse regions. These institutions, he noted, are intended not only to meet the growing demand for quality education but also to strengthen research capacity in emerging and multidisciplinary areas and foster deeper integration between academic institutions and industry. Such expansion, he remarked, aligns with the broader vision of creating innovation-driven, globally competitive institutions capable of supporting India’s development priorities.

Shri K Sanjay Murthy also inaugurated the Khel Mahotsav (Sports Meet) of the 100<sup>th</sup> Common Foundation Course. During inauguration, he reflected on the spirit of the Khel Mahotsav, emphasizing that it is not merely a sporting event but a celebration of unity, discipline, and collective energy among Officer Trainees. He underscored that participation in sports nurtures fair play, integrity, camaraderie, and mutual respect—values essential for every civil servant. He added that sports cultivate mental discipline, focus, and determination, qualities fundamental to leadership in public service. Appreciating the diverse participation, he noted that the Khel Mahotsav offers a meaningful platform for inter-house collaboration, healthy competition, and the identification and celebration of sporting talent within the participants.



*Shri K Sanjay Murthy, CAG of India addressing Civil Services OTs at LBSNAA, Mussoorie*



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*CAG of India, Shri K Sanjay Murthy receiving a memento from Ms Sowjanya, Joint Director LBSNAA*  
BSC/SS/TT/86-25