

## PRESS RELEASE

### COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

New Delhi  
07 March, 2022

#### India and Maldives to Strengthen Professional Capabilities in Audit Fields CAG of India & Auditor General of Maldives hold bilateral meeting today



CAG of India Shri Girish Chandra Murmu & Auditor General of Maldives Mr. Hussain Niyazy, held a meeting here today and discussed concrete steps for furthering the cooperation between the two Supreme Audit Institutions by operationalizing the MoU to strengthen the profession capacities and improve audit methodology.

On the invitation of the Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Auditor General (AG) of Maldives, Mr. Hussain Niyazy is on official visit to India, from 28th February to 10th March 2022 along with his delegation comprising of Ms. Nishwa Firaq, Director, Mr. Ali Naseer, Director, Mr. Ahmed Ashfaq, Manager, Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Jaleel, Manager and Ms. Hawwa Saiga, Manager.

Mr. Murmu reiterated his commitment to share knowledge and capacity development, under the aegis of the MoU, by offering to host members from SAI Maldives for customized training programmes at the training institutions - the National Academy of Audit and Accounts (NAAA), Shimla, International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA), NOIDA, and the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy also expressed his sincere gratitude towards CAG of India for inviting and hosting him and his delegation. He and his delegation felt honoured and privileged to visit India and thanked the CAG for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made to receive them.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy recalled signing of the MoU, in October 2021, to further strengthen the cooperation between our SAIs in the areas public audit, to enhance our ability to achieve the objective of holding our respective governments to account for stewardship of public resources.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy further emphasized that the signing of the MoU was a testament to the long-standing friendship and brotherhood between our two countries. He was pleased to note that both SAIs are making commendable progress in terms of taking the necessary steps towards achieving the objectives of the MoU and developing the necessary capacities of our staff.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy also mentioned that they have been a recipient of many capacity development opportunities offered to their country by the Government of India and the esteemed institution of SAI India has always graciously provided the necessary technical expertise and support in training their staff in the training facilities of SAI India.

Mr. Murmu emphasized the role of technology, in today's rapidly changing world, which constantly create fresh avenues for audit and make audits more efficient. He was confident that the exchange of knowledge and capacity development initiatives would equip both the SAIs in use of emerging technologies for auditing.

Mr. Murmu also mentioned of the Public Accounting System of the Maldives, which was rolled out in 2009, being a centralized and automated accounting system that uses System Application Product (SAP) and the interest shown by the Auditor General in collaborating with SAI India to develop capacity in their SAI for auditing internal revenue management through SAP.

CAG offered customized training programs on IT Audit/SAP for participants of SAI Maldives either at iCISA, Noida or at SAI Maldives depending on mutual convenience.

While revisiting his discussions held with the CAG in Maldives, Mr. Niyazy reiterated that they are in great need of enhancing their existing performance audit and information systems audit capacities. Furthermore, as SAI Maldives has recently established an environmental audit unit, their capacity to conduct high quality environmental audits needs strengthening; these areas of audit are among their key priorities.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy expressed happiness for being associated with a renowned and well-established institution like SAI India. He was also appreciative of the fact the SAI India, with its proud history and long-standing tradition of being at the forefront of embracing technology, has contributed immensely to the development of the practice of public sector auditing. Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy was gracious in commending SAI India for the heights it continues to reach.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy viewed that they have signed the MOU at the most opportune time given their strategic shift towards future relevance which requires them to cater to the demands of the knowledge economy and sustainable development.

Auditor General, Mr. Niyazy mentioned that they had the honour of touring the National Academy of Audit and Accounts in Shimla which was an enriching experience for them. He and his team was impressed by the quality of training facilities and programs conducted by the Academy. Auditor General express desire to explore the possibility of their officers being enrolled in the international engagement programs as such an opportunity would enable their staff to develop new skills and acquire new knowledge relevant to their areas of responsibility.

Mr. Murmu offered to explore participation of one or two officers of SAI Maldives in Orientation Training Programmes (OTPs) along with our IA&AS officers at NAAA, Shimla. This is currently being done for Officers of SAI Bhutan under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and training two officer trainees from SAI Maldives under the TCS Colombo Plan of ITEC, with SAI India's IA&AS Officer Trainees for 54 weeks at the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, Shimla.

Mr. Murmu also appreciated the Auditor General for his interest in development of soft skills like Secretarial skills, communication skills, organizational skills, work ethics (interpersonal skills), etc. of his staff in SAI Maldives and offered the Regional Training Institutes (RTIs) of SAI India for such trainings.

CAG was delighted to welcome the Auditor General to join WGITA as a member. Since its inception in 1989, the WGITA has been providing support to member SAIs in developing knowledge and skills in the audit of Information Technology. This includes a high-level guidance document in the INTOSAI Framework on Information Systems Audits. Besides other guidance materials on IT Governance, Data Mining, Cloud computing, Data Analytics Guideline. WGITA, presently consists of 56 members and six observers SAIs/organizations.

Mr. Murmu expressed hope that through such collaboration at multiple levels, the bilateral relations between SAI India and SAI Maldives would enter a transformative phase.

BSC/GS/1/22