

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

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INDIA TO SPEARHEAD CREATION OF IT & DATA ANALYTICS WORKING GROUP IN ASOSAI

On the strength of its experience in IT Auditing and Data analytics, CAG of India moved a proposal for establishment of a Working group on IT Audit and Data Analytics in the ASOSAI. Shri Girish Chandra Murmu moved this proposal in the 58th Governing Board meeting held virtually here today. The Governing Board approved the motion to establish a Special Committee on the feasibility study of establishing this Group to be headed by CAG of India. The meeting was attended by all the 12 Governing Board Members of the ASOSAI.

The Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) is the Asian Chapter of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) which aims to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of public audit.

Furthering the proposal for the Working Group on IT Audit, Sh. Murmu pointed out that e-governance and m-governance is the new normal. All areas of the public sector—financial management and accounting; delivery of public services; social security; targeted social sector developmental programmes; health management and health services delivery; tax and non-tax revenues etc.— are increasingly performed through IT.

With the increasing breadth and variety of electronic data sources in the public sector, data analytics in SAI auditing has gained considerable importance. SAIs across the world now have access to big data, in terms of volume, velocity and variety. The use and mainstreaming of data analytics within SAI, Sh. Murmu said, can help in making audits more efficient, effective and meaningful audit findings. The possibility of using AI and Machine Learning techniques over time to improve audit efficiency, in selection of high risk and fraud prone entities and transactions, is also immense.

C&AG apprised the members about the mission of this Working Group being distinctly envisaged to conduct IT audits effectively; develop knowledge and skills in the use of IT Audit and data analytics within the ASOSAI. He also expressed willingness to lead the ASOSAI Special Committee and subsequently be the Chair of the ASOSAI Working Group on IT Audit and Data Analytics.

The mission of this working group is to:

(i) Frame IT Audit initiatives to create an enabling environment to conduct IT Audits effectively and developing knowledge and skills in the use of information technology related audits; (ii) Encourage bilateral and regional cooperation among member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) by instituting processes and facilities for knowledge and experience sharing; (iii) Raise the level of competence of the staff and officers of the member SAI through trainings, seminars, webinars, etc. to enable them to undertake audits in a computerized environment in a most professional manner; (iv) Adopt and evolve such standards and guidelines for auditing in a computerized environment. (v) Create and share best practices and methods in Information Technology (IT) related audits, and to facilitate the exchange of information & experience and encourage bilateral and regional cooperation; and (vi) Promote partnerships among SAIs, and also between SAIs and academic/research institutions and international organizations with a view to enhancing professional capacities in IT Audit.

CAG of India is also Chair of the Board of Editors of ASOSAI. In this capacity, Sh. Murmu presented the report on Asian Journal of Government Audit. The Journal, he noted, got a fresh lease of life with a revamped version of its website last year as also the social media presence which has given the journal a visibility beyond the ASOSAI community to the wider global platform. While appreciating the range of topics covered in the last two issues of ASOSAI Journal, the CAG thanked all the contributors. He also informed the Governing Board members of the theme of April 2022 issue of ASOSAI Journal "Auditing Climate Change: Carbon Emission and Carbon finance" echoing the global sentiment to accelerate the transition towards cleaner energy and climate responsive finance.