

**PRESS RELEASE**

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

**New Delhi**

**18th December, 2025**

**CAG AUDIT REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT**

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2023, Union Government, Scientific and Environmental Ministries/Department (Compliance Audit) Report no. 29 of 2025 was presented in Parliament here today. This Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India relates to matters arising from compliance audit of the transactions of seven<sup>1</sup> Scientific and Environmental Ministries/Departments of the Government of India as well as of autonomous bodies and Central Public Sector Enterprises under them. The Report contains nine paras, three SSCAs<sup>2</sup> and one IT Audit. An overview of the main audit findings included in this Report is given below.

**Subject Specific Compliance Audit of National Biopharma Mission**

The National Biopharma Mission aimed at preparing India's capabilities in the biopharmaceutical sector to make it globally competitive over the next 10-15 years and to transform the health standards of India's population through affordable product development. Sustained shortage of capacity within the Programme Management Unit from the outset of the Mission hindered its operations and oversight, contributing to delays, limited competition in project selection and insufficient coordination with other sectors. High-level policy advice provided by Apex Committee of the Mission and the recommendations made by other Advisory Groups were not followed up, missing opportunities to strengthen the Mission's impact. Monitoring and evaluation processes did not function effectively. Grants amounting to ₹5.46 crore were released without complying with milestone for release of payments as stated in the Grants-in-Aid Agreements.

**Blockage of funds to the tune of ₹1.43 crore**

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<sup>1</sup> 1. Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), 2. Ministry of Science and Technology having Department of Biotechnology (DBT), 3. Department of Science and Technology (DST), 4. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), 5. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) including India Meteorological Department, 6. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and 7. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

<sup>2</sup> Subject Specific Compliance Audit.

Lack of timely punitive measures on supplier by the Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research on supplier resulted in non-achievement of intended objectives and blocking of ₹1.43 crore for more than five years.

#### **Unproductive expenditure to the tune of ₹0.78 crore**

Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, procured one demonstrable prototype of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle up to sea operating depth of 1000 meters. The prototype was lying idle since its installation and was never demonstrated, which resulted in unproductive expenditure to the tune of ₹0.78 crore.

#### **Non-installation of Rainwater Harvesting System and Wastewater Recycling Facility**

Due to non-installation of Rainwater Harvesting System and Wastewater Recycling Facility at CSIR National Physical Laboratory, 15 *per cent* rebate of water charges admissible on such installation could not be availed. This led to avoidable payment of water charges of ₹1.14 crore.

#### **Unfruitful Expenditure of ₹1.58 crore incurred as Penalty**

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services constructed and occupied buildings without taking Building Permission and Occupancy Certificate. This resulted in payment of penalty of ₹1.58 crore for the period 2014-15 to 2021-22.

#### **Non-realisation of ₹7.28 crore towards meteorological charges/statutory levies**

Non-execution of Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Agreement resulted in nonrealisation of ₹7.28 crore towards meteorological charges/statutory levies from Nanded Airport Private Limited/IRB Sindhudurg Airport Private Limited.

#### **Avoidable payment of ₹0.73 crore due to inaccurate contract demand assessment**

Inaccurate assessment of contract demand by Climate Research and Services, India Meteorological Department, Pune led to excess/avoidable payment of ₹0.73 crore.

#### **Subject Specific Compliance Audit of activities of Zoological Survey of India**

The Strategic Plan of Zoological Survey of India from 2001 focused on conservation of biodiversity but was poorly executed, with delays of 1-16 years in surveys and research findings. Despite providing assurance against an earlier CAG report, ZSI did not develop a Survey Manual even after seven years, impacting the objectives of biodiversity conservation and taxonomic knowledge. Monitoring of faunal diversity lacked baseline data and ZSI made no effort to control invasive alien fauna. Due to recruitment inadequacies, 77 *per cent* of specimens from the last five years remained unidentified. Infrastructure to protect specimens was absent, disposal procedures were missing and slow digitisation hindered preservation.

Non-upgradation of instruments and non-establishment of a Geographical Information System slowed progress.

#### **Non-utilisation of Clean Room constructed at a cost of ₹0.66 crore**

Due to improper planning a Clean Room facility created at a cost of ₹0.66 crore for scientific research purposes by Bose Institute remained unutilised for more than five years.

#### **Irregular grant of additional increments by various units of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited/Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited**

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited/Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited granted additional increment to its employees irregularly from November 2013 to June 2017. This practice was discontinued from June 2017 (date of issue of instructions by the Department of Atomic Energy) instead of November 2013 which resulted in irregular payment amounting to ₹8.92 crore.

#### **Non-settlement of Insurance claim for damaged equipment**

Madras Regional Purchase Unit, Chennai, did not maintain sufficient balance of premium with the Insurance Company, which resulted in repudiation of an Insurance claim of ₹0.56 crore on equipment that was damaged during transit.

#### **Information Technology Audit of functioning of Integrated Information System implemented in the Heavy Water Board, Department of Atomic Energy**

The Group B modules of the Integrated Information System (IIS), covering core functions like plant status reporting and maintenance management, were not utilised by Heavy Water Board and Heavy Water Plants as of September 2023, over two years after the Go-live Date. Thus, the main objectives of IIS were unmet, with reliance on the older IIS and manual processes risking errors. Group A modules, like HR and payroll, were partially implemented but had significant deficiencies. Governance Committees failed to review Group A and B modules' progress, gaps in User Requirement Specification, application controls and information security. Without full module utilisation, Heavy Water Board was unable to achieve IIS benefits like operational efficiency and data integrity, delaying a fully automated system.

#### **Subject Specific Compliance Audit of activities of the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology**

The Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) was unable to properly monitor and implement nine projects during 2003-04 to 2022-23 that led to both time and cost overruns.

Poor monitoring of the projects led to their slow execution, resulting in many deliverables of the projects becoming obsolete and abandoned. Further, BRIT failed to recover outstanding dues for its products from its customers, resulting in outstanding dues amounting to ₹152.47 crore as of September 2024. BRIT did not comply with the regulations of tax authorities in time, which led to tax liabilities amounting to ₹62.04 crore. Proforma accounts of BRIT were not prepared since inception till 2015-16, without which the Board's true financial status could not be determined. BRIT also incurred irregular expenditure of ₹1.34 crore on development of e-portal. The mobile application BRIT Bandhu also could not become functional since its inception, leading to an ineffective sales and management system. BRIT was issuing test certificates of radioactive isotopes of Cs-134, I-131, Ru-103 and Ru-106 without following any approved procedures.

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