

PRESS RELEASE

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

**NEW DELHI
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‘In preserving our history, we honour our past, understand our present and inspire our future’.

**Hon’ble Comptroller and Auditor General of India, distinguished guests,
members of the Supreme Audit Institution of India, ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my proud privilege to welcome you to the inauguration of a unique, first of its kind museum – ‘The Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage’ – a museum on the Supreme Audit Institution of India. This momentous occasion celebrates the rich history, significant contributions, and enduring legacy of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Long years ago, in 1951, 17 young gentlemen entered the portals of Chadwick House. They were the 1951 batch of Indian Audit and Accounts Service probationers. The first to be trained at the IA&AS Training School established at Chadwick House, as envisioned by Sri Narahari Rao, independent India’s first CAG.

A lot has changed since then, probationers are now Officer Trainees, the Training school has given way to the National Academy of Audit and Accounts, shifted from Chadwick to the sprawling campus at Yarrows.

But some things haven't changed –our commitment to good governance, our belief that our people are truly our asset, our pursuit of knowledge and recognition that we are a knowledge intensive Institution. Underlying this is our steadfast belief that the Supreme Audit Institution of India has been a cornerstone of our nation's governance, ensuring transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management of public funds. For 164 years, our institution has safeguarded the interests of citizens, reinforcing the principles of good governance and ethical public service.

Coming back to Chadwick House, it changed hands, and gradually fell into disrepair, facing a real threat of demolition – a razing of our legacy. It was then that the CAG of India stepped in, signed an MOU with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the owner, to save our heritage, and took possession of Chadwick House. Thereafter, commenced a labour of love and dedication, restoring it to its pristine glory and transforming it to capture our legacy for posterity.

We decided to establish a museum that enriches understanding of the Supreme Audit Institution of India and fosters public engagement. A museum that preserves our heritage, promotes appreciation, and inspires future generations. And in the process, we realized that our legacy is the legacy of democracy. The two are inextricably linked.

We started scouring for our historic antique objects, curating them, and before we knew it we had embarked on a joyous voyage of discovery, pride, introspection, growth. We transcended from just the physical to a more mental, ideational plane. An appreciation of our Institution's philosophy, role and contribution.

Today, as Chadwick House stands in all its restored glory, ready to be inaugurated, we celebrate its journey of resilience and ability to rise to every challenge. In fact, Chadwick represents in stone the ‘triple R’ ethos of SAI India – Resilience, Resolution, Reinvention.

Within these walls, lies a treasure trove of historical documents, landmark audits, and inspiring stories of individuals who have dedicated their lives to upholding the values of accountability and transparency.

Before we journey into the rich heritage of the Supreme Audit Institution of India, the pivotal role it plays and its tremendous contribution to a robust democracy, I must recognize with gratitude the unwavering support and commitment of our chief guest, and everyone who has contributed to making the vision a reality. Sir, your leadership and passion for preserving our heritage have been truly inspiring. To the curators, historians, archivists, and all the supporters who have worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life, your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated. Let this museum remind us of our collective responsibility to uphold the highest standards of public service and integrity.

I now request the CAG to address this august gathering.

Thank you for joining us on this historic occasion.

BSC/SS/TT/16-24