

## **Speech of CAG of India**

### **For the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Compliance Audit Subcommittee**

**October 28, 2021**

- ❖ Distinguished delegates representing audit institutions from various parts of the globe and different time zones.
- ❖ Good morning, Good afternoon, and Good evening!
- ❖ I hope you, everyone in your families, and respective audit institutions are safe and healthy.
- ❖ I extend a very warm welcome to all the participants of today's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Compliance Audit Sub-Committee and congratulate everyone for contributing their best ideas and efforts. I am sure that this Annual Meeting will set another benchmark for a comprehensive assessment of past achievements and brainstorming for a better tomorrow.
- ❖ The impact of compliance audits extends beyond plugging leakages in government expenditure and programmes and saving public funds. They improve public accountability and transparency through deterrence and oversight of public sector entities. Compliance to rules and regulations is a necessary prerequisite for strong and stable institutions, efficient and effective implementation of policies and programmes and overall governance. Thus compliance does not mean only to ensure propriety and legality but it provides assurance, effectiveness and accountability.

- ❖ In the past year, numerous SAIs have conducted compliance audits of Covid-19 related initiatives by their respective governments. These have helped governments in streamlining and improving their pandemic management strategies. The audit conclusions relating to transparency and inclusiveness while implementing COVID management strategies have helped the Governments in making midterm adjustments. On the other hand, the SAIs have reassessed their strategies and methodologies in conducting audits in changed circumstances.
- ❖ Audit planning, sample selection, evidence gathering at the time of such disasters, use of virtual platforms, consultations with stakeholders through virtual means and use of technology – all have undergone a major transformation. In some ways, the procedures of conducting audit have changed for better.
- ❖ I must appreciate the resilience of SAIs and their officers in handling the changed environment and supporting the Governments by adapting to the new work environment. I would also like to appreciate the efforts made by IDI and other INTOSAI committees who came forward to provide guidance and resources to support the auditing community. The spirit of the INTOSAI has not been so strongly felt as it was in the last year.
- ❖ This brings me to the role being played by this subcommittee in providing the guidance in this important field. The approval of GUID 4900 by INTOSAI Governing Board has been a major achievement. We were able to lend our support to IDI in their 'Global Cooperative Compliance Audits of the Transparency, Accountability and Inclusiveness of the use of Emergency Funding for Covid-19' initiative.

- ❖ Despite the significance of compliance audits for good governance, capacity building remains a challenge for many SAIs. However, I am confident that efforts made by all of you as partners in this sub-committee would go a long way in overcoming this challenge. The 3 I approach – *Innovating, Institutionalizing, and Integrating* can be a useful strategy in present times. Adoption of new technologies and digital innovations to facilitate SAIs in conducting compliance audits is the first step. For instance, innovations in online learning could be pivotal in expanding technical expertise within SAIs as these could enable mass training of auditing staff. Second, we need to ensure that guidelines and frameworks drafted collectively by the committee become institutionalized and adopted locally in our respective countries. Finally, we should constantly explore synergies and pathways for integrating compliance audits within the broader auditing processes undertaken by SAIs.
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen, this annual meeting is an opportunity for us to reaffirm our collective resolve of ensuring due compliance with rules and regulations by public sector entities. We will discover new directions and solutions as we collectively brainstorm on improving compliance audits and augmenting the capacity and technical expertise of SAIs.
- ❖ I thank you all for your continued cooperation and immense contribution to various activities of CAS. I am hopeful that our global engagement will effectively improve governance and public regulation in our respective countries.
- ❖ Our efforts at CAS remind me of a quote by Jonas Salk, inventor of the first safe polio vaccine whose birth anniversary falls today, that “The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more”.

❖ With this, I wish everyone an exciting and productive meeting and the year ahead.

❖ **Thank you.**