

April 2024

IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE

Newsletter of Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai

Principal Director's Message

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Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai is extremely happy to bring out the April 2024 issue of the in-house newsletter 'In search of Excellence'.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

At Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai, our mission transcends conventional learning. Our commitment to excellence remains unwavering. Through innovative approaches to knowledge sharing, cutting-edge curriculum, and a dedicated team, we strive to create an environment where minds are nurtured, talents are honed, and objectives are realized. Each day, we witness the remarkable journey of our officers, from the first step of curiosity to the triumphant strides of achievement.

But our journey doesn't end here. Together, let's embrace the spirit of collaboration and exploration. Let's seize every opportunity to learn, grow, and inspire one another.

During 2023-24, we have outperformed our initial targets and we could also add substantially to the repository of training materials in our knowledge centre topics.

We are happy to present a brief of our achievements and innovations in this issue.

Please feel free to send your suggestions and comments on the newsletter.

This Issue:

Principal Director's message

Page 1

Achievements

Page 2

RAC Meeting

PAGE 3

All India Workshops

PAGE 4

Induction Training Programme

PAGE 5

Orientation Training

Page 5

Mid-Career Trg Programmes

Page 6

Introduction of Yoga

PAGE 6

Knowledge Centre Activities

PAGE 7

Organizing Book Fair

PAGE 7

Looking Beyond

PAGE 9

Achievements

During the year 2023-24, Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai conducted all the scheduled courses as per the Calendar of Training Programmes (CoTP). We also conducted additional courses and have outperformed the initial targets fixed for the year 2023-24, in terms of number of courses held as well as participants trained. A synopsis is given below:

	Target-Genl (CoTP)	Actual-Genl	Target-IS (CoTP)	Actual-IS
Courses	44	51	25	25
Officials trained	832	1157	375	375
Training Days	274	409	123	123

IS: Information Systems



Besides the above training courses, we prepared Training Resource material, as detailed below:

Training Resource Material

SI No.	Particulars of Training Resource Material
1	Self-Learning Module on Evidence Gathering Techniques
2	Training Module on maintenance of absolute integrity, devotion to duty, ethical standards and honesty in public life by employees of IA&AD

The above training resource material have been uploaded in the SAI Capacity Building Portal.

Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

The Annual Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting held on February 22, 2024, chaired by Shri D K Sekar, Principal Accountant General (A&E), Tamil Nadu, marked a significant event in finalizing the Calendar of Training Programmes for 2024-25. During the meeting, PD, RCBKI, Chennai, presented an overview of the Institute's activities from April 2023 to January 2024, along with the proposed Training Programme Calendar for the upcoming year.

Several valuable suggestions were made by RAC members during the meeting, aiming to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of the training programmes. These suggestions include:

- (a) **Inclusion of training programmes based on Audit Plans:** To ensure that training sessions align closely with the needs and priorities of user offices, it was recommended to incorporate training programmes based on the Audit Plans of the respective user offices. This approach would make the training sessions more tailored and directly meet the challenges and objectives faced by the user offices.
- (b) **Inclusion of 'Blue Economy' topic in the Training Programme on Environment Audit:** Recognizing the growing significance of environmental concerns, particularly pertaining to the ocean and marine resources, the suggestion was made to include a topic on 'Blue Economy' in the training programme related to Environment Audit. This addition would enrich the

training content by addressing contemporary environmental issues comprehensively. Taking a cue from the suggestion and responding immediately, a session of 'Blue Economy' was included in the training programme on Audit of Environment conducted during March 2024. An experienced Professor from the Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai, was invited to share insights on the topic. This addition undoubtedly enhanced the understanding of participants for promoting sustainable use of ocean resources alongside economic growth and social inclusion.

- (c) **District-centric approach in the Training Programme on Local Bodies' Audit:** Acknowledging the importance of local governance and the unique challenges faced at the district level, it was proposed to conduct the training programme on Local Bodies' Audit from a District-centric perspective. This approach would enable auditors to gain a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in auditing local bodies, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of audit processes and outcomes.

All India Workshops/ Training Programmes

During 2023-24, RCBKI, Chennai organized two All India Workshops on (1) Audit of Goods and Services Tax and (2) Audit of State Government Accounts. Group Officers from various offices across India participated in the workshops. These workshops provided a platform for Officers from various audit offices to come together, share their experiences, and learn from each other's experiences.



The group discussions and deliberations during these workshops played a crucial role in disseminating knowledge and sharing lessons learnt from different audit experiences. Such interactions not only enhance the participants' understanding of the subject matter but also foster collaboration and cooperation among different offices working on similar topics. They also reflect a proactive

approach towards professional development and knowledge sharing within the auditing community.

Induction Training Programme for Direct Recruit AAOs

During 2023-24, RCBKI Chennai conducted Induction Training Programme (SAS preparatory training & Induction Training) for the Direct Recruit Assistant Audit Officers of CGLE 2019, 2020 and 2021 batches consisting of 65 training days each.

The course consisted of technical skills of audit (including IT environment), human resources skills for coordination roles and conceptual skills for taking up leadership roles.

Besides classroom coaching, sessions were devoted to cultural activities, sports, and field trips during this training programme. These activities played a vital role in a comprehensive training schedule. While participating in cultural activities exposed individuals to different customs, traditions, and perspectives, regular participation in sports contributed to physical fitness, improved health, and enhanced overall well-being. Field trips offered real-world experiences that reinforce theoretical concepts learned in training. They provided opportunities for hands-on learning and helped individuals bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Orientation Training Programme for AAOs and Supervisors

The Orientation Training Programme for AAOs and Supervisors consisting of 30 training days, held for the first time from January to March 2024 as per Headquarters' directives, was divided into two batches due to large number of eligible participants (Total 92 participants). The initial batch catered specifically to officers from Audit Offices, while the subsequent batch was tailored for officers from A&E Offices. This segmentation allowed for a more targeted training approach, tailored to the distinct needs of each group. The feedback



from participants indicates that the course was highly regarded and provided significant value in enhancing their skills and knowledge.

Mid-Career Training Programmes

The Mid-Career Training Programme for Level 2 and Level 3 Officers, was conducted quarterly, for officers with seven and 12 years of service, respectively. This comprehensive course encompassed technical skill and soft skills trainings for professional and personal



development. Additionally, it incorporated a field visit to foster team building activities and enhanced collaboration among participants.

Introduction of Yoga Sessions for participants

In alignment with fostering a comprehensive approach to learning and development, RCBKI, Chennai has integrated yoga sessions into various training programs, particularly those of longer duration and mid-career



training sessions. These yoga sessions aim to nurture the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of participants. The inclusion of yoga aligns with the organization's commitment to holistic development and has garnered positive feedback from participants. By offering these sessions, RCBKI acknowledges the importance of promoting overall wellness alongside professional skill development, contributing to a more enriching and impactful training experience for all involved.

Knowledge Centre Activities

In October 2023, Headquarters Office revised the Knowledge Centre topics of RCBKI, Chennai to include (1) International Auditing Standards, (2) Audit Quality Management Framework, and (3) Compliance Audit. To support these initiatives, RCBKI, Chennai is collaborating with Deputy CAG (Defence & Legal), who has been designated as the Mentor for the knowledge centre activities.

Proposals have been submitted to the Mentor to enlist the assistance of a Young Professional in crafting Research Papers and Compendiums on the designated topics. Moreover, efforts are underway to develop Structured Training Modules and Case Studies to further enhance the dissemination and application of knowledge in these topics. This concerted effort reflects RCBKI, Chennai's commitment in advancing expertise and fostering continuous learning and development within its domain.

Additionally, three All India Workshops on Knowledge Centre Topics have been scheduled during 2024-25.

Organizing a Book Fair

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. World Book Day is celebrated in over 100 countries around the globe to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading, and highlight the importance of publishing and copyrights.

In commemoration of the World Book Day, a three-day book fair was organized by Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai in the office complex during 24-26 April 2024. Stalls were setup and twelve leading publishers took part in the fair. The fair was open not only to the officers and staff members of this department, but to the general public as well to create awareness on the benefits of reading books, in a world which is moving towards digitalization and screen-based education. The fair aimed to emphasize the unique and irreplaceable experience



that reading books provides, fostering imagination, critical thinking, and personal growth.

By inviting the general public, the event sought to reach a wider audience and showcase the diverse range of books available, encouraging individuals to explore different genres, authors, and perspectives.



The fair was inaugurated by Principal Accountant General (A&E), TN and attended by IAAS officers in the station and all staff members of the department. The welcome address was delivered by Director General, Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai.

Around 500 books were sold during the three-day fair.



Apart from the book stalls, functions were organized on each day of the fair, and eminent personalities were invited as Chief Guests to speak about the importance of reading books. The list of eminent personalities included Shri Baskaran Krishnamurty, writer, Shri K Amarnath Ramakrishna, Superintending Archaeologist, Keeladi Excavations and Thiru Indran, Poet.

The speeches delivered by these eminent personalities highlighted the unique ability of books to ignite imagination, broaden perspectives, and ignite a thirst for knowledge, that transcends time and connects us with the wisdom and experiences of those who came before us.

In today's era of rapidly advancing technology, where information is available at our fingertips, it is easy to overlook the profound impact that books continue to have on our lives. However, this book fair reminded everyone that books have withstood the test of time, carrying with them the wisdom and dreams of countless generations. They are not mere objects but vessels of human imagination, creativity, and knowledge.

Looking Beyond

(a) International Institute of Public Sector Accounting and Auditing (IIPSAA)

The mission of SAI India is to promote accountability, transparency and good governance through high quality auditing and accounting and provide independent and timely assurance to the Legislature, the Public and the Executive, that public funds are being collected and used effectively and efficiently. As a step further in this regard, and in order to promote good governance holistically and to work in tandem with the government organizations, RCBKI, Chennai has sent a proposal to Headquarters Office (May 2023) to establish one “International Institute on Public Sector Accounting and Auditing (IIPSAA)”, catering to the training and capacity building needs of Government sectors, Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies, Local Bodies, Local Fund Auditors, etc. The Institute is proposed to be a Centre of Excellence specializing in capacity building of officers and staff of the government organizations. The Institute will provide technical skills of management, human resources skills for coordination roles and conceptual skills for taking up leadership roles in public policy planning and execution for promoting international standards of professional competence and practice. The Institute will also play a pivotal role in good governance and administrative reforms by providing a platform for interaction and exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices among officers from different governments organizations, domain experts and auditors.

(b) Construction of new building for RCBKI, Chennai

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, while inaugurating the 5th Conclave of Heads of RTIs/RTCs in March 2023, advised the Heads of RTI/RTCs to identify the requirements for infrastructure upgradation of RTIs/RTCs to meet international standards.

The possibility of expanding the existing building further to cater to the revised/upgraded requirement of RCBKI, Chennai, to meet international standards is remote. Accordingly, a proposal for construction of a separate new building for Regional Capacity Building & Knowledge Institute, Chennai, with state of art infrastructure and smart classrooms with wide range of high quality facilities was proposed and forwarded to Headquarters Office in May 2023.