

International Centre for Audit of Local Governance



2024



SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTION OF INDIA
लोकहितार्थं सत्यनिष्ठा
Dedicated to Truth in Public Interest

Comptroller and Auditor General of India





International Center for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL)



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The Centre

- ❖ Introducing the International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL), established by SAI India.
- ❖ Located in the vibrant State of Gujarat, Rajkot holds a rich heritage, notably as a city where Mahatma Gandhi spent his formative years.
- ❖ At iCAL, we envision a collaborative platform uniting policymakers, administrators and auditors linked with Local Governments.
- ❖ The Centre aims to build the capacity of:
 - Elected representatives and executive officials of Local Governments across India and the globe,
 - Local Government auditors from SAIs and subordinate audit formations.

The Inauguration

Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India inaugurated the iCAL on 18 July 2024, in the presence of senior officers from the Central Government, State Government and Local Administration. Addressing the gathering, Shri Murmu emphasized that as the role of Local Governments in providing citizen-centric services has increased, the need for their accountability also gained importance, making capacity building of Local Governments and their auditors critical.



“Today is a historical day, the day of inauguration of iCAL at Rajkot. Pray to God that this centre must become a centre of excellence and premier institute of capacity building, a beacon light. My best wishes and congratulations to all those who toiled relentlessly and made it a reality.”

Shri G C Murmu, entry in Visitors' Book



A Panel Discussion on “*Local Governments at 30 Years: Achievements and Way Forward*” was also held to share achievements in local governance over the last 30 years since enactment of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts 1992.



A presentation on “*iCAL: A Vision for the Future*”, highlighted the context and objectives of iCAL, opportunities of setting standards, experience sharing and capacity building at iCAL.



Representatives of selected Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) from across the country made presentations showcasing their exceptional achievements in local governance.



A two-day orientation course on “*New Approach to the Audit of Local Governments*” was held on 19 and 20 July 2024 at iCAL, attended by officers from SAI India and participants from State Governments.

Shri Murmu addressed the trainees and emphasised that training programmes should be more interactive.

Context

- ❖ Strengthening Local Governments is pivotal in realizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering grassroots engagement and nurturing citizen ownership and accountability.
- ❖ Recognizing Local Governments as key allies in global development efforts is imperative for crafting and executing policies effectively.
- ❖ Local Governments, operating at the grassroots level, must adeptly navigate between promoting economic growth and addressing pressing global issues like climate change and the preservation of the blue economy.





Global SAI Community: Fostering Collaboration and Connection

- ❖ As a member of INTOSAI, the global community of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), we are dedicated to strengthening the foundational level of governance –Local Governments.
- ❖ Taking a lead from INTOSAI's overarching mission, vision and values, iCAL strives to foster an environment for its members to share invaluable experiences, expertise and best practices in auditing local governments.
- ❖ Local government audits will benefit from diverse perspectives, fostering innovation in audit methods.
- ❖ This collaborative setting would promote exploration of new approaches to address emerging challenges and improve transparency, accountability and efficiency in governance.



Opportunities

Setting Standards

- ❖ Establishing and advancing global standards in the field of Local Government audit is planned.
- ❖ iCAL would collaborate with experts, practitioners and stakeholders from around the world to develop comprehensive standards that define best practices, methodologies and principles for conducting audits at the local level.
- ❖ The standards would serve as a benchmark for quality and integrity, ensuring consistency and excellence in audit processes.

Experience Sharing

- ❖ Experience sharing enhances learning, innovation and collaboration among auditors and executives in local governance.
- ❖ iCAL would bring together interactive workshops, knowledge-sharing sessions and peer exchanges to offer valuable perception, enabling participants to learn from diverse experiences, insights and challenges across regions and contexts.
- ❖ iCAL aims to enrich the collective expertise of auditors and executives, promote cross-cultural understanding and enhance the effectiveness of governance practices at the local level.





Capacity Building

- ❖ iCAL's primary aim is to empower auditors, executives and elected representatives of Local Governments to effectively fulfill their roles through training and leadership development initiatives.
- ❖ Participants undergo wide-ranging programs to acquire the essential knowledge, skills and tools required to navigate the complexities of local governance and public administration.
- ❖ The training activities focus on addressing emerging challenges, improving analytical abilities and fostering ethical decision-making to promote good governance, inclusive development and sustainable outcomes in communities.

Upcoming Programmes

- ❖ Global **Climate Change** and its impact on Urban Agglomerates: Role of ULBs in its mitigation;
- ❖ **Conservation of Water** in the world: Behavioural changes & innovations;
- ❖ Waste/ **Solid Waste** Management in cities;
- ❖ Rejuvenating **Water bodies** across the globe;
- ❖ **Town Planning**: Problems facing rapidly expanding Urban Areas in the world;
- ❖ Impact of **Social Welfare schemes** at the grass-roots;
- ❖ **How to augment Own Resources**: Innovative solutions from across the Globe;
- ❖ Service Delivery Audit: How Local Governments are **delivering basic services** to the populace;
- ❖ **Social Audit**: Process & follow-up and how to benefit from Social Audit;
- ❖ **Gender Sensitisation** and LG Audit;
- ❖ Leveraging **information technology** for effective LG audits; and
- ❖ Audit of **blue economy** related activities at local level.





SAI India's Global Training Institutes

- ❖ SAI India has experience of over two decades of running international programs for participants from SAIs.
- ❖ International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA), established in the year 2002 for capacity building of auditors from across the globe primarily in the areas related to IS audit and Data Analytics.
- ❖ International Centre for Environmental Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED) set up in the year 2013 for Capacity Building and knowledge sharing in the area of environment audit and sustainable development.
- ❖ SAI India is also an active player in the standard setting, capacity building and knowledge-sharing activities of INTOSAI through KSC, INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit (WGITA) and INTOSAI Compliance Audit Subcommittee (CAS) as well as participation in the activities of the other organs including the INTOSAI Development Initiative and the INTOSAI Governing Board.





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