

**Address of Thiru. M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the inaugural function on completion of 150 years of the Institution of the C&AG of India**

**His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala;**

**Hon'ble Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Avudaiappan;**

**Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu Thirumathi Malathi, I.A.S.;**

**Principal Accountant Generals Thiru. Rangarajan; Thirumathi Subhashini Srinivasan; and Thirumathi Revathi Bedi;**

**Home Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru. K. Gnanadesikan, I.A.S.,**

**Tmt. Yasodha, M.L.A., Thiru. Sivaraj, M.L.A.**

**Officers and staff of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and**

**Friends;**

I am happy to have privilege of reading the speech of Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this august gathering.

It gives me great pleasure to take part in the 150 years celebrations of one of the great institutions of India – the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

Ayyan Thiruvalluvar has said;

**“நாடொறும் நாடி முறைசெய்யா மன்னவன்  
நாடொறும் நாடு கெடும்.”**

This means that any ruler should search for errors on a continuous basis to ensure good governance and make improvements constantly.

For the successful functioning of our democracy, we need a system to check non-compliance on a continuous basis and a system to ensure that such errors do not recur. This is the basis of modern audit, which is constitutionally guaranteed and practised by C and AG.

I am delighted to note that the mission of C and AG finds a great resonance in the sayings of Ayyan Thiruvalluvar.

In Tamil Nadu, our Government is committed to the welfare of the poor and downtrodden. We are implementing various welfare schemes like,

**“Kalaingar Kappittu Thittam,” “108 Emergency Ambulance Service”, “Housing Scheme for the poor” etc., to ensure that every citizen is able to have a smile on his face. As our great leader Arignar Anna said, “We see god; in the smile of the poor” (“ஏழையின் சிரிப்பில் இறைவனைக் காண்போம்”).**

**To ensure that the benefits of various Government schemes reach the intended public, a vigilant and unrelenting critic is also necessary - a role being played by your department. However, the criticism needs to be always fair and unbiased. It should be based only on meticulous groundwork.**

**The Audit Department is rarely heard in public. This anonymity coupled with its professional approach adds to the credibility of the institution.**

**Today is the occasion for the celebration of a rich heritage of this august institution on completion of 150 years of public services. Its history spans across generations. It has sailed through various times. It has faced several challenges. It has made significant contributions to the glorious democratic tradition, that our country has built for itself.**

**The AG’s Office in Tamil Nadu has mirrored this growth. It has been a torch bearer of this tradition. I am informed that it is one of the oldest offices in the Audit Department.**

**I am happy to note that AG’s office did not confine itself to its function of audit alone. It has also provided accounting and entitlement services to the Government of Tamil Nadu and its employees. It has established very close links with each and every employee in the State. I am sure that they would also join me in congratulating this institution. It is indeed a great achievement that AG’s office has been offering these services for over a century to the State Government effectively.**

**Today, we live in an information and communication age. The awareness of the public and their expectation on good governance, transparency and accountability are very high.**

**In order to meet the needs of all sections of the society, the Governments have to continuously draw up innovative schemes and raise enough resources to implement them.**

**As the resources are raised from the public, they have a right to demand the most effective deployment of such resources. C and AG’s Department**

plays a vital role in ensuring that the money is accounted for and spent in proper manner. The implementation of the schemes is monitored and their effectiveness is also measured.

You have this valuable gift of power to criticize and such unfettered power comes with equally big responsibility. It is your bounden duty to ensure that this task is carried out in the best possible manner and in public interest alone.

Audit would be more useful, if they are able to make the necessary progress to evaluate not only the inputs and process; but also the outputs and even outcomes.

I am very happy to note that you have carried out your role with great rectitude. You have a historic tradition of probity, as employees of AG's office. You can be justly proud of your glorious history and tradition and take pride in your past accomplishments.

The State Government has been having a smooth, cordial and useful relationship with the institution of the C and AG. I am confident that our good relationship will continue in the same manner in the years to come.

I once again thank the institutions of C and AG on this momentous occasion, and I wish you all the very best in your public service, which has proved to be a great strength to our democracy.

நன்றி. வணக்கம்.

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Issued By: DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9.