

Dated 01/01/2016

Dear Colleague

Let me at the outset wish all the members of the ICAS and their families a very Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that 2016 brings in joy, happiness and success in your professional and personal lives.

Even as we welcome the New Year, let us note that 2015 is ending with good news of a landmark and historic achievement by the ICAS. I am sure that members of the Service would have known by now that the Union Government's Appropriation and Finance Accounts for 2014-15 were finalized well in time and presented by the C&AG with the Audit Report to Parliament in the recently concluded Winter Session, 2015. This feat has been achieved only once earlier since Independence. I take this opportunity to thank all our field offices for their invaluable support extended to the concerned officers and staff of the O/o CGA in the timely finalization of the Union Financial Statements. This success has been recognized and appreciated not just by the C&AG of India, but also by the Finance Secretary.

Earlier in November, the Office of CGA conducted a successful Seminar aimed at strengthening the Internal Audit function in the Government of India, including both Civil and non Civil Ministries. It was for the first time ever that the Heads of all Accounts and Finance Services of the Union Government came together under one platform and drew the attention of the Ministry of Finance of the need to strengthen this vital function. The Finance Secretary in his concluding remarks at the Seminar was most supportive to several recommendations put forward by the different Accounting Services to galvanize the Internal Audit function within the line Ministries. The onus is now on us to act on the recommendations of the Seminar, with the support of the Ministry of Finance.

In the past months we have strived to make our personnel policies and procedures more transparent. The new transfer policy for Group 'B' officials and rotation of staff and officers holding sensitive posts are significant steps in promoting preventive vigilance.

The ICAS will face more challenges in the New Year. The Service will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016, for which the O/o CGA has taken the initiative to organize the "Civil Accounts Day" on March 1. We are indeed privileged that the Hon'ble President of India has consented to be the Chief Guest on the occasion. Details of the program are being worked out and will be shared with members of the ICAS after its finalization. During the course of 2016, we plan to hold similar events in different cities of the country, so as to associate all officers and staff of the Service in the year long celebrations. I solicit your support in making these celebrations a success.

For a long time the office of CGA has had the limitation of not having a contiguous area for workplace. I am happy to share with you that CPWD has started the interior furnishing work in Block E (GPOA), INA, New Delhi. It should be possible to move to the New Office Building sometime in April, 2016.

Several other initiatives are on the anvil during 2016, details of which will be shared. These initiatives are aimed at further strengthening the professional base of the ICAS, and its contribution towards strengthening Public Financial Management in the Union Government. I am confident the Service will rise to the occasion and gain the professional respect of our stakeholders, both internal and external to the Government.

Let me end by once again wishing each of you a great year ahead.

Best regards