Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity & Governance*

Why in News?

CAG highlights flaws in Bihar's Ayushman Bharat and PMAY, from weak beneficiary checks to poor fund utilisation.

- **CAG –** CAG is a constitutional authority under *Articles 148–151* of the Constitution, audits the financial accounts of the Government of India and its state governments.
- CAG is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- He/She is the *guardian of the public purse* and controls the entire financial system of the country at the Centre and the State level.
- **Colonial Foundations** – The roots of the IA&AD trace back to the British colonial administration, where financial accountability was introduced to monitor revenue and expenditure.
- Early structures focused on civil accounts and revenue audits, laying the groundwork for modern practices.
- **Constitutional provision** – Article 148 provides for an independent office of the CAG.
- **Appointment by** – The President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Governed by** – The Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.
- **Tenure** – 6 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier
- **Resignation** – CAG can resign at any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the President of India.
- **Removal** – Same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court of India.
    - Can be removed by the President based on a resolution passed to that effect by both Houses of Parliament with a *special majority*.
- **Reason for removal** – Proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- **Reappointment** – *Not eligible* for further office, either under the Government of India or of any State.
- **Salary & service conditions** – Service conditions are determined by the Parliament; salary is equal to judge of the Supreme Court.
- **Administrative expenses** – Charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).

> *CAG, Supreme Court, Election Commission and Union Public Service Commission were referred to as the* ***bulwarks of the democratic system of government****.*

References

1. Indian Express | CAG flags issues in Ayushman Bharat and PMAY in Bihar
2. CAG of India | CAG