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Q5

**"The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS II · 10 marks · Constitutional Bodies

Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

**Core demand of the question**

- "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise
- Use [Articles 148-151](#) and the CAG's (DPC) Act, 1971, to show independence and audit reach

**Revision summary**

[Article 148](#) makes the CAG a presidential appointee removable only like a Supreme Court judge.

The 1971 Act sets a six-year or age-65 term, charged salary, and a bar on further government office.

[Articles 149-151](#) and the 1971 Act give audit of Union and State funds, a role in the form of accounts, and public reports.

The PAC converts those reports into legislative accountability.

Independence of appointment process and PPP audit remain the unfinished parts of that vital role.

**Flow diagram**

President appoints Art 148 -> CAG independent term independent term  
CAG independent term -> Audit Union and State funds  
CAG independent term -> Form of accounts Art 150  
Audit Union and State funds -> Reports Art 151  
Reports Art 151 -> PAC and legislature and legislature

**Conclusion**

- A transparent appointment panel, stronger audit of public-private partnerships and GST settlement, and time-bound PAC discussion would match the independence already written in [Articles 148-151](#).

The CAG's vital role is visible in Presidential appointment, Supreme Court-like removal, a fixed non-renewable-style term, and a salary that Parliament cannot chip after appointment.

The same role is visible in **Articles 149-151** and the 1971 Act, which take audit from Union funds to State books, public bodies and the floor of the House through the PAC.

## Facts & figures

### Article 148

Appointment, oath, and removal of the CAG on the model of a Supreme Court judge; conditions of service protected after appointment.

### CAG's (DPC) Act, 1971

Statutory map of duties, powers, six-year/65-year tenure, and audit of government bodies and companies.

### Article 150

Form of Union and State accounts prescribed by the President on the advice of the CAG.

### Article 151

Audit reports submitted to the President or Governor and laid before the concerned legislature.

### Public Accounts Committee

Parliamentary committee that examines CAG reports; the working link between audit and the House.

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