



Uttarakhand's Afforestation Body Mismanaged Funds

Why in News?

After [the Comptroller and Auditor General's \(CAG\) report](#) on [Uttarakhand's Compulsory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority \(CAMPA\)](#) was released, the body's Chief Executive Officer stated that they are addressing the flagged issues.

- The report, covering 2019-20 to 2021-22, found improper spending from Rs 753.89 crore in 43 forest divisions.

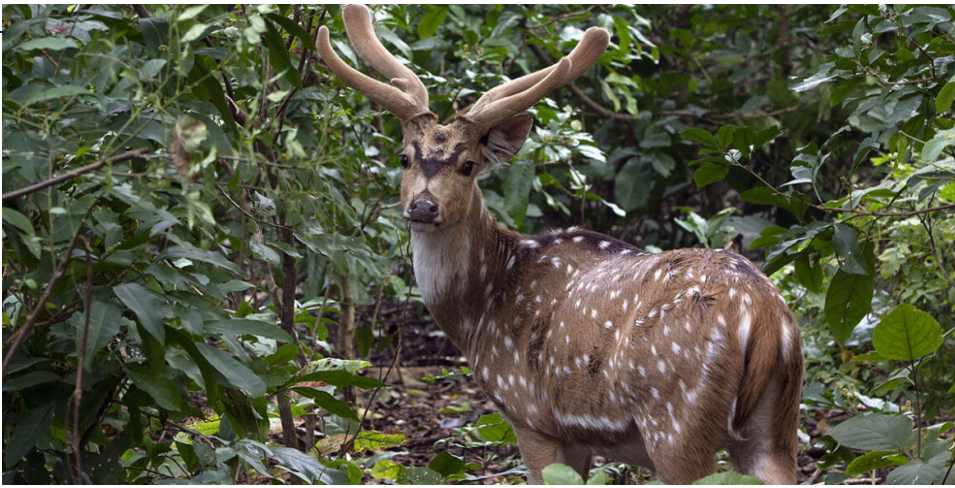
Key Points

- **CAG Flags CAMPA Expenditure:**
 - The **CAG flagged Rs 13.86 crore of the total allocated funds** for CAMPA.
 - The Chief Executive Officer stated that **the audit needs verification** to determine if the expenditure was approved by the administration.
- **Disputed Purchases:**
 - It was noted that only two mobile phones were purchased and that CAMPA rules do not prohibit such purchases.
 - **CAMPA rules allow spending on communication and IT equipment** for forest and wildlife protection.
- **Major Fund Diversions Identified:**
 - The Haridwar, Tons, Nainital, and Narendranagar forest divisions spent Rs 3.6 crore on building renovations, Harela, and fencing, which the CAG flagged as "major diversions."
 - [The Kalagarh Tiger Reserve](#) (Lansdowne division) diverted Rs 1.71 crore for:
 - Motor road construction for a [tiger safari](#)
 - [Elephant](#) protection wall
 - Forest Rest House repairs
 - Solar fencing and lantana removal
 - The CAG stated that the scheme was included in **the Annual Plan of Operations (APO)** without proper ground-level analysis.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- The CAG of India, as per **Article 148 of the Constitution**, heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD)**.
- He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.
- The CAG upholds the **Constitution and parliamentary laws** in financial administration and is considered one of the key pillars of India's democratic system, alongside the [Supreme Court](#), [Election Commission](#), and [Union Public Service Commission](#).
- CAG of India is governed by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.

Kalagarh Tiger Reserve (KTR)



▀ **About:**

- It is situated in the **Nainital district of Uttarakhand.**
- It was **formed in 1974** when the northern region of **Jim Corbett Park** was renamed **Kalagarh Tiger Reserve.**
- **Named after the Kalagarh Dam**, built on **the Ramganga River.**
- Covers 301.18 sq. km, including Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary and Jim Corbett Park.

▀ **Terrain:**

- Located in the foothills of **the Himalayas.**
- Features a diverse landscape of forests, grasslands, and hills.

▀ **Flora:**

- Home to trees like **sal, sheesham, semal, bakli, haladu, tun, sain, fig, and bamboo.**
- Rich in medicinal plants.

▀ **Fauna:**

- Hosts a high density of **tigers, leopards, elephants, and other wild cats.**
- Inhabited by various **deer species, including chital, barking deer, goral, sambar, and hog deer.**
- Home to more than 580 bird species, such as **kingfishers, wagtails, forketails, pheasants, and hornbills.**