

SAMBHAV

Whatever it takes
Making it possible for civil services aspirants



LIBRARY

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

NEW DELHI

Trusted Contents

Compiled and curated by IIPA library

Sr.No	Subject	Page No.
1	Polity and Governance	3-15
2	Economic and Social Development	16-16
3	Science and Technology	17-23
4	Environment and Climate	24-29
5	Current Events	30-44

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,SEP4,2023

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches 3-year partnership with Meta, Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs

‘Education to Entrepreneurship’ to take Digital Skilling to grassroots, seamlessly connect students, youth, workforce & micro-entrepreneurs, with futuristic technologies – Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

India’s democracy, demography, and diversity to be connected with technology to make technology equalizer for entire society – Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

3 LoIs exchanged between NISEBUD, AICTE, CBSE and Meta

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 3-year partnership “Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs” between Ministry of Education, Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Meta in New Delhi today. 3 Letters of Intent (LoI) were exchanged between Meta and NIESBUD, AICTE and CBSE. Minister of State for Education Smt. Annpurna Devi and Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar also graced the occasion. Speaking at the event, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said that the initiative launched today is in furtherance to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of making India a skill capital of the world and empowering our Amrit Peedhi.

He further said that ‘Education to Entrepreneurship’ partnership is a game-changer, which will take Digital Skilling to the grassroots. This will build capacities of our talent pool, seamlessly connect students, youth, workforce & micro-entrepreneurs, with futuristic technologies and transform our Amrit Peedhi into new-age problem solvers and entrepreneurs.

He stated that India's democracy, demography, and diversity are to be connected with technology conversion so that technology becomes the equalizer for the entire society. Guided by the tenets of NEP, META's partnerships with NIESBUD, CBSE & AICTE will catalyse infinite possibilities for equipping our population with critical digital skills and empowering micro entrepreneurs and small businesses, he added.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, in his address, highlighted the Government's focus on preparing our youth and workforce in these rapidly transforming times, to be equipped with the skills to succeed and play important roles in the evolving landscape of technology and the global economy. Digital skills, while representing skilling and entrepreneurship in the innovation ecosystem, more importantly represents a bridge between lakhs of small rural, micro and self-employed entrepreneurs, enabling them to expand, grow and succeed, he added. In a video message Meta President, Global Affairs, Sir Nick Clegg, thanked Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for his support in bringing the partnership together between the two most important sectors of the workforce, education and skilling. India's talent base and rapid digital adoption make it the perfect place for us to invest in emerging technologies, he added. He looked forward to Meta's contribution in empowering India's students, young people and entrepreneurs, with significant focus on skill development for Indian startups and businesses, having worked closely with India during its G20 Presidency in areas such as education, job creation, skill development and user safety.

Under the partnership with NIESBUD, 5 lakh entrepreneurs will get access to digital marketing skills by Meta over the next 3 years. Budding and existing entrepreneurs will be trained in digital marketing skills using Meta platforms in 7 regional languages to begin with. Three short films were also showcased highlighting the details about the partnerships.

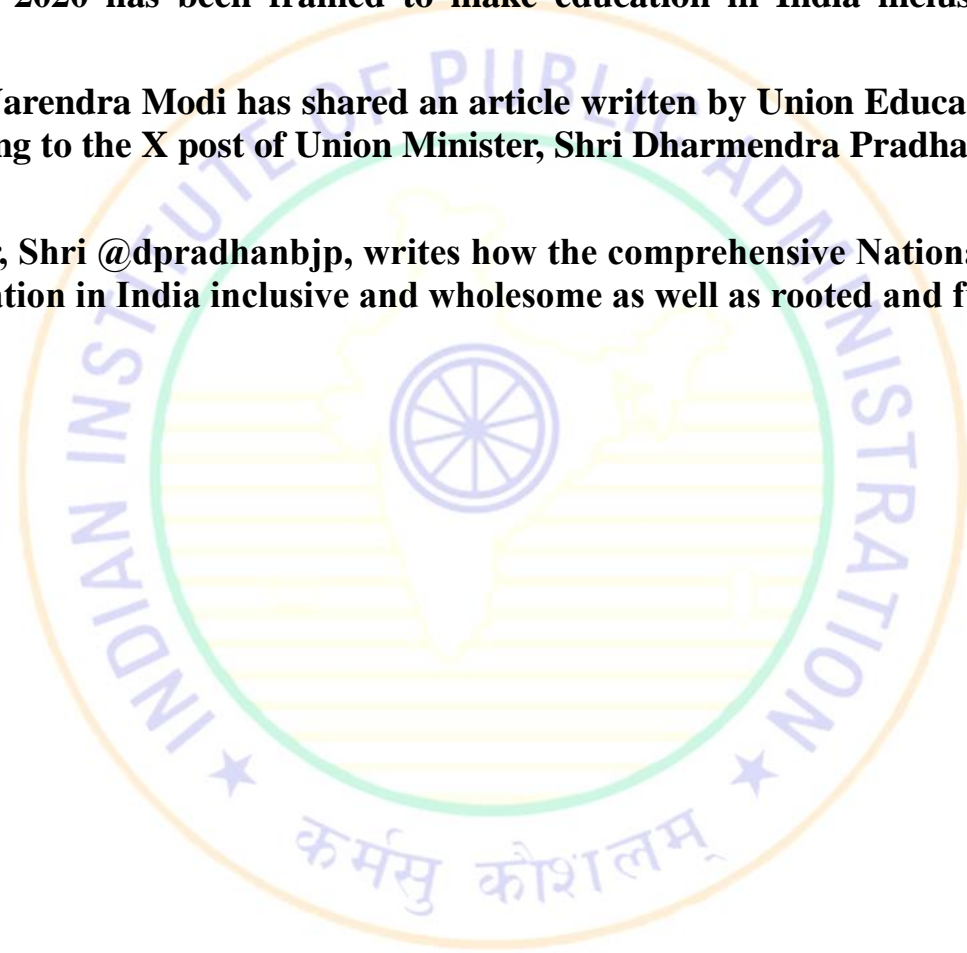
Secretary, Higher Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy; Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, MSDE Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T.G. Sitharam; Chairman, National Educational Technology Forum NBA NAAC, Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe; President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Shri Subhrakant Panda and senior officials of the Ministries, AICTE, CBSE, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD); Shri Shivnath Thukral, Director, Public Policy, India and South Asia, Meta and Sandhya Devanathan as the Vice President of Meta India were also present.

PIB,SEP5,2023

National Education Policy 2020 has been framed to make education in India inclusive, wholesome, rooted and futuristic: PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has shared an article written by Union Education Minister about National Education Policy. Responding to the X post of Union Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, the Prime Minister posted on X;

“Union Education Minister, Shri @dpradhanbjp, writes how the comprehensive National Education Policy 2020 has been framed to make education in India inclusive and wholesome as well as rooted and futuristic... Do read!”



'India's Talent Pool A Force For National, Global Good'

Union minister of education, writing in the context of G20, argues GOI's focus is on internationalising higher education, enabling research and recognising skills

Dharmendra Pradhan



As a knowledge civilisation, India carries a dominant pool of talent in its DNA. Throughout its history, India has made significant contributions to various fields, including mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy and literature. India continues to influence contemporary educational, scientific and cultural landscapes as a significant contributor for the greater common good.

Throughout India's G20 presidency - whether in working groups or ministerial assemblies - collective well-being has been the running principle in all discussions. The G20 theme of 'One Earth - One Family - One Future' rooted in our ancient ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* underscores that India's progress and growth is not for itself but for all of humanity.

Twining with mother tongue

Empowering human capital through knowledge and skill is key to realising India's enormous potential. The world has recognised the innate strength and resilience of India's economy. Despite global headwinds, India is among the fastest growing economies in the world. Education as a sector is the 'motherhood' that will drive and sustain the growth impulses of the country.

A comprehensive National Education Policy 2020 has been framed to make education in India inclusive and wholesome as well as rooted and futuristic.

Learning in the mother tongue to ensure strong conceptual understanding and clarity has been given primacy in the National Education Policy. This will not supplant the link languages but supplement them. It

will make educational pathways of students smooth and non-problematic, including for those disadvantaged in one form or the other.

Making the global local

Internationalisation of higher education is of utmost importance under this framework. To make India a top destination for higher studies, National Education Policy



2020 seeks to facilitate faculty/student exchanges and research, teaching partnerships, and signing of mutually beneficial MOUs with foreign nations. IIT Madras and IIT Delhi have signed MOUs to set up their foreign campuses in Tanzania and Abu Dhabi, respectively.

Industry-academia collaboration is another priority area of the National Education Policy to promote research. The National Research Foundation is being set up to seed, grow, and facilitate research in academic institutions. The focus is to make India an R&D hub. The government is making concerted efforts to ensure not only ease-of-doing-business but also ease-of-doing-research.

India has educational partnerships with major

countries, including the US, Australia, Japan and Europe, where India's talent pool is recognised and valued. Under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) and the Quad Fellowship, enhanced collaboration in high-technology areas is being encouraged.

Making disciplines and skills matter

Standardisation helps align Indian education with global education and skills. Under the National Education Policy, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education has been released that benchmarks specific learning standards, content, pedagogy and assessments. Similarly, a National Credit Framework has been put in place to bring practice of diverse academics into the ambit of an academic bank of credit.

India is home to more than 600 million people aged between 18 and 35, with 65% under the age of 35. Harnessing the demographic dividend with multi-disciplinary and multi-skilled, critically thinking, young and future-ready workforce is the overriding priority.

India is witnessing a path-breaking scenario in skilling and entrepreneurship with the third-largest start-up ecosystem and over a 100 unicorns. Not only the metros, India's innovation and startups are being driven by smaller towns as well. Skilling has been integrated in school education from class 6 onwards. It is now integral to the credit framework.

People equipped with education and skill can play a seminal role in today's knowledge economy. They can make substantial and exceptional contributions to nation building by way of breakthrough innovations and scientific discoveries besides expanding the frontiers of knowledge and spurring economic growth.

India is a huge laboratory for the global good. The 21st century being a knowledge century, new technologies will be the harbinger of a new order and India with its vast talent pool is at the forefront of shaping this new order.

PIB,SEP5,2023

Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Milestone of 13 Crore Rural Households Tap Connections

JJM Increases Rural Tap Connection Coverage From 3 Crore To 13 Crore In Just 4 Years

On Average, 87,500 Tap Connections Provided Every Day Since 1st January, 2023

Uttar Pradesh Tops Progress Chart By Installing Over 61 Lakh Functional Household Tap Connection Since January, 2023

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) today achieved another milestone of providing tap water connections to 13 Crore rural households. Working with ‘speed and scale’, the life changing mission has increased the rural tap connection coverage from only 3.23 Crore households at the start of the Mission in August, 2019 to 13 crore in just 4 years. Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August, 2019 as the country celebrated its 73rd Independence Day. As on date, 6 States namely Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh) and 3 UTs - Puducherry, D&D and D&NH and A&N Islands, have reported 100% coverage. Bihar at 96.39%, followed by Mizoram at 92.12%, are also poised to achieve saturation in the near future. Goa, Haryana, Punjab, A&N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D are ‘Har Ghar Jal certified States/ UTs i.e., in these states/ UTs, the villagers have confirmed through Gram Sabhas that ‘all households and public institutions’ in the village are getting adequate, safe and regular supply of water. As many as 145 districts and 1,86,818 villages in the country have reported 100% coverage.

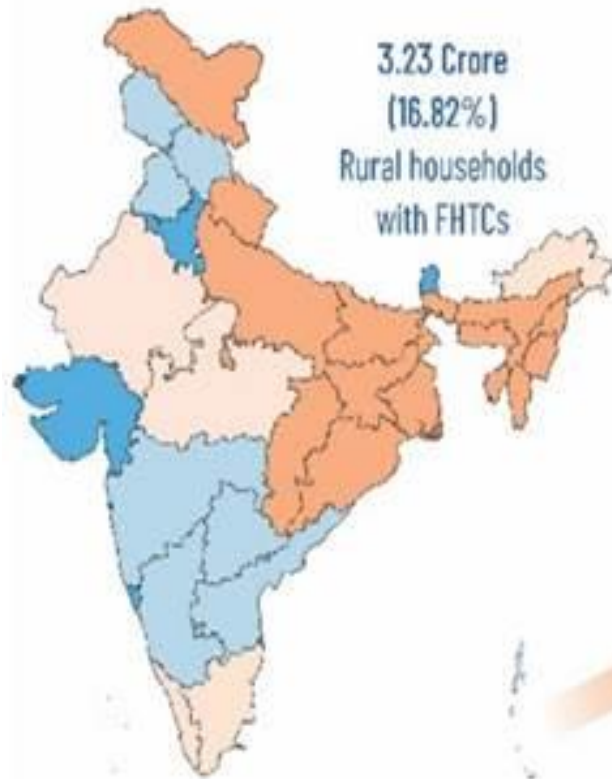
The Mission implements the programme in partnership with States/ UTs and it is the combined efforts of all including development partners that transformational change is seen on ground. Every second, one tap water connection is getting installed thereby changing the rural landscape of the country. Since 1st January 2023, on an average 87,500 tap connections are provided every day. Uttar Pradesh has topped the progress chart in the current FY by installing 61.05 lakh Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) since January 2023.

The relentless efforts of the Union and State governments have also resulted in ensuring the provision of tap water supply in 9.15 lakh (88.73%) schools and 9.52 lakh (84.69%) anganwadi centres in the country. In the 112 aspirational districts of our country, at the time of the launch of the Mission, only 21.41 lakh (7.86%) households had access to tap water which has now increased to 1.81 Crore (66.48%).

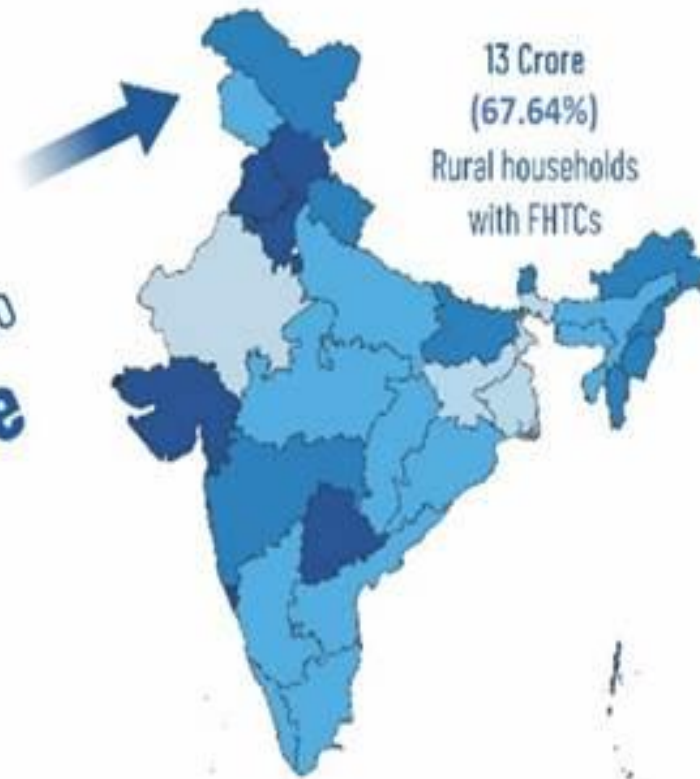
Work under 'Har Ghar Jal' is resulting in significant socio-economic benefits for the rural population. Regular tap water supply relieves people, especially women and young girls, from century old drudgery of carrying heavy bucket loads of water to meet their daily household needs. The time saved can be used for income generation activities, learning new skills and supporting children's education.

In order to achieve long-term sustainability of the schemes, community participation from the very beginning has been at the heart of planning, implementation, operations and maintenance (O&M) of rural piped water supply schemes. More than 5.27 lakh Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSC)/ Pani Samitis have been constituted

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 5th September, 2023



4-year of JJM
From 3 Crore to
13 Crore



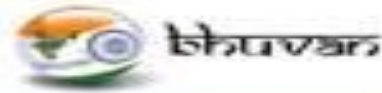
in the country and 5.12 lakh Village Action Plans (VAPs) have been prepared including the plans for drinking water source augmentation, greywater treatment and its reuse, and regular O&M of in-village water supply systems. At the time of launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, 22,016 habitations (Arsenic – 14,020, Fluoride- 7,996), having 1.79 Crore population (Arsenic-1.19 crore, Fluoride-0.59 crore), were affected with Arsenic/ Fluoride contamination in drinking water sources. As reported by States/ UTs, now safe drinking water is available in all the Arsenic/ Fluoride-affected habitations. Jal Jeevan Mission believes in not just providing water but ensuring that quality water is supplied every time. In this regard regular testing of water sample from source and delivery points are collected and checked. Recognizing the work carried out by the Department, this year Silver Award was bestowed by Department of Personnel & Training upon the WQMIS under the category “Application of emerging technologies for promoting citizen centric services”.

Working on the motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas, Jal Jeevan Mission is marching towards achieving the SDG 6, i.e., safe and affordable water to all, through provision of safe water through taps to all households, schools, anganwadis and other public institutions, in rural areas.

PIB,SEP5,2023

Department of Justice launches "Nyaya Vikas Portal" in collaboration with ISRO

The Department of Justice launched " Nyaya Vikas Portal", a web portal & mobile app in collaboration with ISRO, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary to monitor newly created infrastructure under the scheme & its effective implementation.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Nyaya Vikas Portal



www.bhuvan-nyayavikas.nrsc.gov.in

Providing **status of newly created Judicial Infrastructure** in the country under **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary**



भारत सरकार

PIB,SEP5,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviews preparations for the Special campaign 3.0 to be conducted in Government of India from October 2nd – 31st, 2023

The Government will organize Special Campaign 3.0 for improving Swachhata and disposal of pending references from 2nd October - 31st October, 2023

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances will be the nodal Department for coordinating and steering the campaign

Campaign to be conducted in all the Offices/ Organisations of Government of India Ministries/ Departments

Special attention to be given to field/ outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having public interface

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh reviewed the preparations for the Special Campaign 3.0 for improving Swachhata and Disposal of Pending Matters to be conducted in Government of India from October 2nd – October 31st, 2023. The Government will organize Special Campaign 3.0 for improving Swachhata and disposal of pending references from 2nd October – 31st October 2023 on the lines of the Special Campaigns held in 2021 and 2022 on the same theme. The Special Campaign 3.0 will focus on field / outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having public interface.

Cabinet Secretary has written to all Secretaries of Government of India seeking their personal involvement for success of the Campaign. The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) will be the Nodal department for coordinating and steering the campaign across the country and oversee implementation of Special campaign 3.0. The Campaign is a sequel of the Special campaigns conducted in 2021 and 2022 from 2nd October to 31st October. The Special Campaign 2.0 conducted in 2022 covered over one lakh government offices in entire length and breadth of the country. These offices collectively cleared about 89.8 lakh square feet of space and put them into productive usages. A revenue of Rs. 370.83 crores earned from scrap disposal, 64.92 lakh files were reviewed, 4.56 lakh Public Grievances Redressed, 8998 MP's references replied.

Guidelines have been issued by DARPG for conduct of the Special campaign 3.0. The Special Campaign 3.0 will be organized in two phases:

Preparatory Phase (15th September to 30th September, 2023)

During the Preparatory phase Ministries/ Departments will:-

Mobilize the offices/ officers and ground functionaries for the Campaign

Appoint nodal officers in each of their campaign offices

Arrange training for the nodal officers about their role in the Campaign

Identify pending references

Identify campaign sites for cleanliness

Assess the volume of redundant materials to be disposed and finalise the procedures for their disposal.

Implementation Phase (2nd October to 31st October, 2023)

During the Implementation phase Ministries/ Departments will:-

Make efforts to achieve the targets identified in preparatory phase

Utilize the Campaign to improve records management

Document the best practices evolved during the campaign

6. The progress of the campaign will be monitored through the SCDPM portal at <https://scdpm.nic.in>. The Nodal Officers of Ministries/ Departments will access the portal through their login credentials and submit the progress of the campaign in their Ministry on daily basis. Reviews will be conducted by Secretary, DARPG, with the Nodal Officers on a weekly basis during the entire campaign period. A weekly consolidated report will be prepared by DARPG on the progress of the Campaign for submission to the Cabinet Secretariat and PMO.

Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the year on year progress made under Special Campaign 2021 & 2022 leading to the institutionalization of Swacchata and reduction in pendency in the government. The Government decided that the exercise in reducing pendency should be a continuous effort and shall be monitored by senior officials on a regular basis. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that special attention is to be given to field/outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having public interface in the entire length and breadth of the country on a mission mode to further deepen the extent of the campaign. The Special campaign 3.0 is expected to bring in significant innovative practices and systemic reform for a conducive work environment.

STATESMAN, SEP9, 2023

The Damocles' sword of delimitation

The year 2026 is likely to become a critical tipping point in India's democracy. This is because our Constitution provides for a fresh delimitation exercise on the basis of an all-India Census undertaken after that date. Anticipating the likely expansion of the number of Members of Parliament, the Union government has already constructed a big Parliament building in New Delhi. To increase the number of people's representatives while our population has touched 140 crores today is indeed desirable for widening and deepening democracy. However, a fresh exercise in delimitation involves reconstitution of electoral constituencies.

This reconstitution is likely to open a raging controversy that cannot easily be resolved. These controversies are likely to emanate from the way the 'We' in the Preamble of the Constitution is constructed. An obvious and self-evident referent of this 'We' are citizens who as atomised individuals are empowered to vote. But as Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud asserted in an address on Ambedkar Jayanti delivered two years ago, our Constitution prioritises the collective rights of 'persons' who are members of deprived castes and minority communities. So, it can be legitimately argued that delimitation should provide for the representation of these 'persons'. Those sympathetic to the cause of the LGBTQ+ movement, would also like to include lesbians, homosexuals and trans-genders in this category of 'persons', needing proper representation. It cannot be convincingly argued that delimitation of constituencies is at best a geographical exercise that has nothing to do with the rights of 'persons' guaranteed by the Constitution.

Delimitation does more than merely fix geographical boundaries of constituencies within which all resident adults have the franchise to elect the government of their choice. As the famous Sachar Committee had articulated more than a decade ago, Muslims in some parts of India feel cheated by existing constituencies that divide their votes and convert their collective voice into mere minoritized aspirations. Their complaint is that if Muslim-dominated areas of some adjoining constituencies are merged, their voice will be more clearly heard and their needs fulfilled. Several Muslims interlocutors who appeared before the Sachar Committee attributed the ghettoization of Muslims to fragmentation of the Muslim vote.

Dalit activists have a similar complaint; they argue that as the reserved constituencies for the Scheduled Castes invariably have many castes who are not Dalits, the Dalit agenda for dignity and equality get short shrift. As far as the rights of the LGBTQ+ are concerned, the country is only now entertaining the legitimacy of their claims. While same-sex relations and living are legitimised, their claims to the right to inherit property and marital status are likely to get entangled with laws on marriage and family that are governed by religious norms. While the deprived castes and communities raise their demands for just delimitation, the castes that are now dominant will also be concerned. Recall the days of the late Sharad Yadav making caustic remarks on 'par kati' women (literally, clipped feathers referring to urban, upper-class women who cut their hair) and the late Mulayam Singh Yadav saying that women's representation in Parliament would reduce him to banging the charpoy at his home instead of banging the tables as he does in the Parliament. Will this patriarchy accommodate women's representation even through nomination, leave alone the broader gender rights concerns?

Moreover, castes and communities that now dominate electoral bodies would be anxious to retain their hold and might insist on reservation of seats in elected bodies to the OBCs as well. Another problem that the delimitation exercise would confront is likely regional disparity owing to demographic changes. There is the widespread fear among the southern States that the balance of power may shift north because some of the states in north India have been indifferent to development goals and have not reduced their fertility rate to match with the achievements of the southern States. There is a legitimate fear that representation in the Parliament and hence the centre of gravity of India's politics will turn more in favour of the north.

A fresh delimitation exercise in these circumstances is likely to raise a whole host of dormant collective as well as individual cultural grievances that cannot easily be resolved. Moreover, since our political discourse is saturated with caste, community and regional identities, it is not unlikely that the ghosts of separate electorates of the colonial era may once again come to haunt us and shake up the political scene.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PIB,SEP4,2023

The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched during 2020-21. The main objective of the Scheme is to enhance competency level of the target groups to make them employable both in self-employment and wage-employment for their socio-economic development. The target group under this scheme are SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers etc. The age criterion of scheme between 18-45 years and income criteria is no income limit for SCs, SafaiKaramcharis Including wastepicker and DNT. The annual family income should be below Rs.3 lakh for OBCs and the EBCs (Economically Backward Classes) annual family income below Rs.1 lakh.

Types of Trainings, duration and average cost per candidate

Up-skilling/Reskilling (35 to 60 hours/ 5 days to 35 days):-Rs.3000/- to Rs.8000/-

Short Term Training (300 hours/3 months) :-Rs.22,000/-

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (90 hours/15 days):Rs.7000/-

Long Term Training (650 hours/7 months) :- Rs.45,000/-

The cost of training is as per common norms issued by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; Government of India and it varies as per duration of the course. Up-skilling for Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers is for 35 hours/5 days with average cost of Rs.3000/- per candidate. The Cost of the training to trainees is free of cost. The stipend under this scheme of Rs.1,500/- per month to SCs and Safai Karamcharis and Rs.1,000/- per month to OBCs/EBCs/DNTs for non-residential Short Term and Long Term training courses and the Wage compensation Rs.2500/- per candidate is given to SCs/OBCs/EBCs/DNTs candidates for Upskilling/Reskilling programme. Wage compensation Rs.500/- per candidate is given to Safai Karamcharis candidates for Upskilling programme.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,SEP4,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 has sparked global aspirations in Indian students

Startups are centres of novel innovations and essential for the growth of the nation, says Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

After opening up of the Space sector by Prime Minister in June 2020, the number of Space Start-ups sky-rocketed from merely 04 to 150 and most of them being led by science students, researchers and entrepreneurs: Dr Jitendra Singh

Driven by the ideas of the Prime Minister Modi, Startup India, Standup India and Make in India will help transform India to even stronger economic power and contribute towards adding 1 trillion USD to our GDP each year

“G20 Presidency also heralds for India the start of Amritkaal”

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 has sparked global aspirations in Indian students. Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is all the more evident that after the opening up of the Space sector by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in June 2020, the number of Space Startups sky-rocketed from merely 04 to 150 Startups and most of them being led by science students, researchers and entrepreneurs. Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Science 20 (S20) Conference under the aegis of G20 on the topic “Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development”, at Amity University, Noida.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Startups are centres of novel innovations and essential for the growth of the nation and driven by the ideas of the Prime Minister Modi, Startup India, Standup India and Make in India will help transform India to even stronger economic power and contribute towards adding 1 trillion USD to our GDP each year. “They generate jobs leading to a stronger and healthier economy. Start-ups encourage a pragmatic approach at the academic establishments further leading to large scale employment generation. It motivates students or researchers to put their ideas into practice by collaborating with the start-up, which more importantly help to develop means of economic expansion. India now stands 3rd in terms of Startup ecosystem with almost 110 Unicorns,” he said, encouraging the universities to promote students’ tie-ups with the emerging Startups. Dr Jitendra Singh said that there were just around 350 Startups before 2014, but after PM Modi gave the clarion call from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address and rolled out special Startup scheme in 2016, there has been a quantum jump with over 1.25 lakh Startups now and more than 110 Unicorns. Similarly, he added that in the Biotech sector, from 50 odd Startups in 2014, we now have 6,000 Biotech Startups.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, “It is the hard work and determination of scientists, researchers and scholars that India is now ranked amongst top 3 nations in terms of publications and 9th in terms of Patents. India’s Global Innovation index has also seen significant improvement in the past years moving up the ladder from 81st position to 40th position,” he added. “The Government of India has focussed on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in research and innovation to realise the global endeavours of India making the country Aatmanirbhar through Make in India and Make for the World philosophy. The Government is actively working towards deepening the reach of public-private partnerships to create timebound world-class infrastructure and attract private sector and institutional capital in infrastructure,” he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is now the world's fifth-largest economy and is counted among the top countries globally in the field of scientific research and even positioning itself among the top five nations in the field of space exploration. “India has recently created history by becoming the first country to land on the south polar region of the lunar surface. With the launch of Aditya -1 which is the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun, India’s ambitious space exploration programme has left a clear message that we are one of the most scientifically advanced nations in the field of Space Science and Technology,” he said.



Dr Jitendra Singh said that the country has witnessed an exponential growth in Science and Technology during the last decade. He said, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our progressive government is focusing on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Referring to the upcoming G20 Summit in New Delhi later this week, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India's G20 Presidency under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the year 2022-2023 has aimed to be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive. "This G20 Presidency also heralds for India the start of 'Amritkaal,' a 25-year period commencing from the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence leading up to the centenary of its Independence," he said. Stating that science has been the driving force behind economic expansion and human progress, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the objective of S20 is to leverage scientific, technological, and intellectual interactions between nations, regions, and societies in order to address common problems and forge strong international alliances. "With the disruptive changes happening all around the world, innovative science and technology needs to be encouraged to revolutionise lives and livelihoods in a world where 8 billion people are continually striving for a better life," he said. Dr Jitendra Singh lauded that the S20 Conference delves upon another important initiative of PM Modi, which is Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR). "It is creating an enabling environment for the sharing of ideas and resources within the knowledge ecosystem through collaborating with communities by identifying their needs and problems and develop scientific and technological solutions," he said. The S&T Minister said that as a nation committed to democracy and multilateralism, India's presidency has set a significant milestone seeking practical global solutions for the benefit of all.

"The theme of India's G20 Presidency embodies the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' or 'the world is one family,' which is inspired from the Maha Upanishad, an old Sanskrit scripture. The S20 theme has truly and fundamentally highlighted the importance of all life and their interdependence on Earth and across the universe," he said. The S20 Conference covers the topics - Clean Energy for Greener Future, Universal Holistic Health, Science for Society & Culture, and Role of Media in Science and Culture.

PIB,SEP8,2023

India's G20 Presidency coincides with the country's glory in Space, says Dr Jitendra Singh

“G20 Summit is happening in India at a moment when PM Modi has emerged the tallest leader in the world”: Dr Jitendra Singh

Dr Jitendra Singh says India ready to lead the world in more ways than one

“All space faring nations of the world would need to come together, move on collectively, because we are part of the global world”

India’s G20 Presidency coincides with the country’s glory in Space, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy. “G20 Summit is happening in India at a time when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as the tallest leader of the world. The Summit is taking place at a time when India’s flag is flying on the South Pole of Moon, the first time any spacecraft has landed on the farther side of the Moon, and the nation’s achievements in Science & Technology, including the pioneering R&D success story in Covid vaccines, are being hailed across the globe,” the Minister said. True to the spirit of ‘Vasudeva Kutumbakam’, the theme of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the world today acknowledges PM Modi’s mantra of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future.’

In an interview to Doordarshan on the eve of G20 Summit in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India is ready to lead the world in more ways than one. For any future science endeavour, including in the Space sector, all the stakeholder nations of the world would need to come together, he added. “If we have to go beyond this, we have to move on collectively, because we are part of the global world. So any further growth has to happen in a much, much extended integration. The main characteristic of the growth from here onwards would be that it would be largely technology driven,” said Dr Jitendra Singh. Pointing out that India’s Space programme is now at an equal pace with the world’s leading Space agencies, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the NASA might have been the first to land on the moon, but it was India’s Chandrayaan-1 that picked up possible evidence of water molecules on the Moon and now Chandrayaan-3 has for the first time landed on the South Pole of the moon. “Chandrayaan is being looked up by the entire scientific community across the globe because they expect some new inferences being gathered from there, most from Chandrayaan-3 because it’s gone into a virgin area. So obviously, the inputs, inferences that would be forthcoming from there would be of utility to all the other Space agencies as well for their future projects and planning,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that all the agreements signed during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the United States were technology driven, - right from the Artemis Accords to Joint Expedition to the International Space Station and India signing up to the Semiconductor Consortium.



Dr Jitendra Singh said ISRO has launched more than 380 foreign satellites, earning more than 250 Million Euros and more than 170 Million US Dollars by launching European and American satellites respectively. “India’s overall Space economy today stands at about \$8 billion, viz 2% of the global (market share) but the entire world is recognizing increased pace and that’s why the conservative projections are \$40 billion by 2040, but later we had the ADL (Arthur D Little) Report, which has projected India’s Space economy to grow up to \$100 Billion by 2040. So we’ve started moving very fast, we are still conservative in our evaluation of ourselves, but the others’ assessment is much, much more, which means that we have indeed arrived,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said Space Applications is being utilised in almost all sectors such as Smart City project, Railway Tracks & management of unmanned Railway Crossings, Roads & Buildings, Telemedicine, Governance, and most importantly, the ‘Svamtva’ GPS land-mapping. Dr Jitendra Singh said that during PM Modi’s tenure of nine years, India’s disaster capabilities have become world class and we are providing Disaster Forecasts for neighbouring countries as well. “Applications of Space Research in Disaster Forecasting & Management have helped save more than the investments made in the Space Missions,” he said.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,SEP4,2023

"Empowering Green Innovation: Aloe Ecell's Eco-Friendly Primary Batteries Garner Support from TDB"

"Pioneering 'Mission LiFE': TDB-DST Partners with Aloe Ecell for Ecofriendly Primary Battery Innovation"

In consonance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiative, 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment), the Technology Development Board (TDB) is proud to announce its collaboration with M/s Aloe Ecell Pvt. Ltd., an innovative startup rooted in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This strategic alliance shines as a beacon of progress, seamlessly echoing the Prime Minister's call for sustainable practices and indigenous creativity. TDB, unwavering in its commitment to support innovative solutions that resonate with 'Mission LiFE,' extends its assistance to Aloe Ecell's project, "Commercialization of Eco-friendly-1.5V AA size Aloe Vera-based batteries." With a project valuation of Rs. 2.98 crores, TDB's substantial contribution of Rs. 1.91 crores as a soft loan amplifies the project's potential to drive eco-friendly innovation to new heights.

The start-up's ingenious approach entails the creation of an eco-friendly 1.5V AA size battery, which may help in departure from conventional counterparts laden with heavy metals and toxic chemicals. Leveraging the inherent properties of Aloe Vera, Aloe Ecell has formulated an electrolyte that not only matches the performance of established market standards but also champions environmental responsibility. The company will create facilities for commercial production of primary batteries in Bundi, Rajasthan. The core objective of the project harmonizes seamlessly with 'Mission LiFE's' ethos – to introduce lifestyle choices in harmony with ecological well-being. By spearheading the cause of eco-friendly primary batteries, Aloe ECell may contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment while addressing longstanding concerns tied to the toxic composition in conventional batteries. The remarkable journey of Aloe ECell has already earned accolades, including the National Startup Award in the Energy Sector 2020 by Startup India under DPIIT, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, and the Global Winners 2019 award by Schneider Electric.

Sh. Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB, emphasized, "Our collaboration with Aloe ECell Pvt. Ltd. epitomizes TDB's commitment to support sustainable innovation. This partnership signifies our dedication to supporting visionary projects that blend technological advancement with environmental stewardship. As the startup forges ahead bolstered by TDB's steadfast support, it exemplifies the capability of government-industry collaboration in shaping a more sustainable and prosperous future for our nation."

PIB,SEP5,2023

‘Green Hydrogen Pilots in India’ Conference held in the run-up to G20 Summit

Government to come out with pilot for Green Hydrogen for Round-the-Clock Renewable Energy: Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power R. K. Singh

“R&D roadmap for National Green Hydrogen Mission to be released shortly”

In the run-up to the 18th G20 Summit, a day-long conference on "Green Hydrogen Pilots in India" was held in New Delhi, on 5th September, 2023. The conference showcased various Green Hydrogen Pilots being implemented by both public and private sector companies of India. The conference, hosted by NTPC Ltd., also presented pioneering innovative pilots and progress in green hydrogen technology. “India has to seize the moment and do something about its energy import bills”

Delivering the inaugural address, Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh said that we have to take effective measures to reduce our huge energy import bills, and that this is the moment which India has to seize. “For long, we have been huge energy importers. If we don’t do something about this, our import bills will multiply. We have this huge economy which will continue growing at 7% - 8% for next 2 – 3 decades. Our requirements of energy are huge. Our power demand has grown up by 21% in August 2023 as compared to August 2022. On a daily basis, our power demand is about 40 GW – 50 GW more than corresponding day last year, that is how fast we are growing.”

“Pivot towards Green Hydrogen inspired by quest for Self-Reliance and Concern for Environment”

The Union Minister said that India has the potential to be one of the biggest manufacturers of green hydrogen in the world. “We have set up a huge ecosystem for renewable energy. Our pace of capacity addition in renewable energy is one of the fastest in the world. Our cost of making renewable energy and our cost of producing green hydrogen will be one of the lowest in the world.” Shri Singh said that India will emerge as a huge exporter and the world will come to follow our approach on green hydrogen. “When they say clean hydrogen, these countries mean hydrogen made from natural gas, resulting in emission of 11 kgs of hydrogen for every kilogram of hydrogen. They wanted us to stop using the term green hydrogen as well, but we stuck to our line. The world will by and large follow this approach.”

Speaking about the environment, the Minister said that India’s contribution to the global carbon dioxide load is just 4% while our population is 17%. “But we believe in the environment. This is why we have emerged as a leader in energy transition. Our motivation in pivoting towards Green Hydrogen has been to become energy-independent and our concern for the environment.” “India has to emerge as refuelling destination for all Green Ships”

The Minister informed gave an overview of ongoing green hydrogen pilots and steps being taken by India in this direction. “Many green hydrogen pilots are going on in India and across the world. We have pilots for green steel and in heavy duty transportation. Electric mobility is not viable for long distance heavy mobility; hence hydrogen or ammonia is the answer. In shipping, around the world, countries are making some ships ready. World shipping will go green within around 10 years. So, we have to emerge as refuelling destination for all green ships, since we can provide them green hydrogen or green ammonia or whatever fuel they want at the lowest cost. We have to prepare bunkers at shipyards and also have pilots for green shipping on our own. We are in talks with the Ministry of Shipping, to take this forward.” Pilot for Green Hydrogen for Round-the-Clock Renewable Energy on the Way

The Minister said that we will come out with a pilot for green hydrogen or green ammonia for storage for round-the-clock renewable energy. “These pilots are starting points at transforming the sector, moving away from fossil fuels. For example, take steel; we import the bulk of our coking coal requirements. But there is a simpler process – direct reduction using hydrogen. That is the direction to go. We are one of the biggest manufacturers of steel in the world,

we aim to continue to be so, only that we will need to transform our steel industry and we will have to move in this direction.”“Solution is round-the-clock renewable energy using green hydrogen as storage”

Shri Singh opined that most of the methods of running the pilots are already commercially viable. “There are already companies which have developed turbines which can use hydrogen or ammonia for making electricity. These pilots are actually initial bids, and I believe we can replicate them on a larger scale for round-the-clock renewable energy. This will free us at one stroke from the problem of going for large scale imports of lithium batteries till we have our own manufacturing capacity. This will be entirely homegrown and we can start off from the word go. This is absolutely necessary, since we have demand growing and we need capacities at a rapid pace. Given the pace at which we are growing, this is the solution: round-the-clock renewable energy using green hydrogen as storage.”The Minister said that the pilot for long-distance heavy mobility can be structured in a way so that we provide refuelling points and we say that these routes are earmarked for heavy mobility using hydrogen. He added that if we give Viability Gap Funding in first or second rounds, we would not need it for third year or beyond. “If we have to make it successful, we have to make it commercially viable. Commercial structuring is key to making it a success.”

The Minister said that the world is changing, and the difference this time is that we are at the vanguard of this change. “We are leading this change, we are leading the world.”

Pilot Projects: The Real Stars of National Green Hydrogen Mission

In his keynote address, Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla said that the real stars of the National Green Hydrogen Mission are the pilot projects, which have been allocated Rs. 1,466 crores. “The pilot projects hold the key to innovation and experimentation. We have a large budget for these projects, which are strategically designed to tackle sectors which have been traditionally reliant on fossil fuels, such as steel production, long-range heavy-duty mobility, energy storage, shipping and using hydrogen for round-the-clock renewable power. What sets apart these pilot projects is that they are innovation labs, which allow us to test cutting-edge technologies, evaluate regulatory frameworks and develop necessary infrastructure.”

The Secretary informed that an amount of Rs. 456 crores is set aside for steel, Rs. 495 crores for transport, Rs. 115 crores for shipping and Rs. 400 crores for other projects. “The pilot projects aim to revolutionize these sectors and promise to set new standards for sustainability and innovation”. Shri Bhalla said that MNRE had already requested the concerned Ministries, namely the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, to send their proposals for pilot projects in respective sectors.”

“R&D roadmap for National Green Hydrogen Mission to be released shortly”

The New & Renewable Energy Secretary also informed that the R&D roadmap for the Mission is almost finalized and will be released shortly (the draft roadmap can be found here). This will detail the various research areas required for development of green hydrogen ecosystem. “We have also worked on necessary regulations, codes and standards. We have sent the first set of recommendations to agencies like BIS, PESO and OISD, to adopt the relevant standards. India has also notified its Green Hydrogen Standard which limits carbon dioxide emissions to less than or equal to 2 kg. per kg. of hydrogen.” CMD, NTPC, Shri Gurdeep Singh said that hydrogen is going to be the fuel for the future and that green hydrogen in particular will play the lead role in our energy transition. He said that not just public sector, but private sector too, is implementing pilot projects in green hydrogen, which will be helpful in formulating the green hydrogen ecosystem, going forward.

CEO, NTPC Green Energy Ltd., Shri Mohit Bhargava also addressed the opening session.

Conference participants got the opportunity to see pilot innovations and gain valuable insights into the future of clean energy. Green hydrogen pilots being showcased include presentations on Green Hydrogen Blending in Petroleum and Natural Gas (NTPC); Green Hydrogen Mobility (NTPC); FCEV and H2ICE Vehicles (Ashok Leyland); Green Shipping Initiatives (Cochin Shipyard); Microgrid and Mobility (NHPC); Mobility, Blending using AEM Electrolysers (Oil India); Green Hydrogen based Microgrid and other initiatives (H2E); Green Ammonia Plant in Bikaner (ACME); Green Methanol, Green Ethanol (NTPC); Making of DRI Steel with Green Hydrogen (Ministry of Steel); Hydrogen based Microgrid Initiatives (THDC); Green Hydrogen for use in Welding Procedures at Hazira (L&T); Green Hydrogen using off-grid solar (Hygenco); and Solar to Direct Hydrogen – (SoHHytec).

The discussions during the event will help in assimilation of information and encourage sharing of achievements and challenges faced by the early movers. In addition, the pilot projects will help address technological challenges, develop local supply chains, and optimise techno-economic feasibility in the future.

PIB,SEP6,2023

Shri Bhupender Yadav reaffirms commitment towards sound management of chemicals and waste and reduce adverse impact on Human Health and Environment

Shri Yadav participates in ‘High Level Dialogue on Human Health and Environment’ convened under the 2nd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability – Just Transition Towards a Pollution-free Planet

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav participated in the virtual ‘High Level Dialogue on Human Health and Environment’ convened under the 2nd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability – Just Transition Towards a Pollution-free Planet on 04th September 2023. The event was convened to build a common understanding on the issue and provide high-level political guidance and momentum on key international issues and priorities regarding sound management of chemicals and waste. It also aimed to garner support and ensure a high level of ambition of the ‘SAICM Beyond 2020’ during the upcoming 5th meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5). Speaking at the event, Shri Yadav highlighted the importance of the chemical manufacturing sector, particularly in India and potential consequences of their adverse impacts due to capacity constraints faced by many countries. He highlighted the contributions made towards the fulfillment of the objectives of Multi-lateral environmental agreements. The Union Minister said India has been ahead of the curve in aligning its domestic regulations such that the Extended Producer Responsibility framework is already implemented as a waste management tool. Shri Yadav mentioned that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, measures have been taken to achieve sustainable and balanced development with the ‘protection of human health and environment’ at its core.

The Union Minister also highlighted that a process is going on to put in place a mechanism for the registration, authorization, hazard classification, and labeling of chemicals, before being put to commercial use to address the growing needs of chemical sector, resolve regulatory challenges and address innovation.

CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,SEP4,2023

PRESIDENT OF INDIA UNVEILS 12 FEET HIGH STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND INAUGURATES GANDHI VATIKA AT GANDHI DARSHAN

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu unveiled the 12 feet high statue of Mahatma Gandhi and inaugurated 'Gandhi Vatika' at Gandhi Darshan, New Delhi today (September 4, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Mahatma Gandhi is a boon for the entire world community. His ideals and values have given a new direction to the whole world. He showed the path of non-violence at a time when the world was suffering from many kinds of hatred and discord during the period of world wars. She added that Gandhiji's experiment with truth and non-violence gave him the status of a great human. She shared that his statues are installed in many countries and people from across the world believe in his ideals. Giving examples of Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Obama, she said that many great leaders considered the path of truth and non-violence shown by Gandhiji as the path of world welfare. She emphasised that by following the path shown by him, the goal of world peace can be achieved.

The President said that Gandhiji laid great emphasis on sanctity in public as well as in personal life. He believed that violence can be faced through non-violence only on the basis of moral strength. She underlined that without self-confidence, one cannot act with persistence in adverse circumstances. She stated that in today's fast-changing and competitive world, there is great need for self-confidence and temperance. The President said that Gandhiji's ideals and values are very relevant for our country and society. She urged all to make efforts so that every citizen, especially the youth and children, read as much as possible about Gandhiji and imbibe his ideals. She said that the role of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and other such institutions becomes very important in this regard. She said that they can contribute significantly in building the India of Gandhiji's dreams by making the youth and children more aware of Gandhiji's life teachings through books, films, seminars, cartoons and other media.

PIB,SEP4,2023

On the eve of Teachers' Day, PM interacts with winners of National Teachers' Award 2023

PM emphasised the need of educating children about the success of grassroots achievers

Celebrate culture and diversity of different parts of the country in schools: PM

PM underscored the importance of encouraging curiosity in students

On the eve of Teachers' Day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with the winners of National Teachers' Award 2023 at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg earlier today. 75 award winners participated in the interaction. Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of teachers in nurturing the young minds of the country. He highlighted the importance of good teachers and the role they can play in shaping the destiny of the country. He emphasised the importance of inspiring children by educating them about the success of the grassroots achievers. Prime Minister talked about taking pride in our local heritage and history and urged the teachers to inspire students to learn about their region's history and culture. Highlighting the strength of diversity in the country, he requested the teachers to celebrate the culture and diversity of different parts of the country in their schools. Discussing the recent success of Chandrayaan-3, Prime Minister underscored the importance of encouraging curiosity in students about science and technology as the 21st century is a technology driven century. He also talked about the importance of skilling the youth and making them future ready.

Talking about Mission LiFE, Prime Minister discussed the importance of recycling as opposed to the use and throw culture. Several teachers also briefed the Prime Minister about the Swachhata programmes being held in their schools. Further, Prime Minister advised teachers to constantly learn and upgrade their skills throughout their career. The purpose of the National Teachers' Award is to celebrate the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country and to honour those teachers who, through their commitment, have not only improved the quality of education but also enriched the lives of their students. This year, the scope of the award has been expanded from earlier including teachers selected by Department of School Education & Literacy to now also including teachers selected by Department of Higher Education and Ministry of Skill Development.

PIB,SEP4,2023

ASI's "Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme" Indian Heritage app and e-Permission portal launched

Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri G Kishan Reddy urged all entities to come forward and help in better upkeep and rejuvenation of India's rich cultural heritage, in line with the vision of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi'

G20 Presidency is an opportunity to showcase the Cultural heritage of our country- Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has 3696 monuments under protection, which are spread, throughout the country. These monuments not only exhibit the rich cultural heritage of India but also play a significant role in fostering the economical growth. In order to sustain the rich cultural legacy, the heritage sites require time to time enhancement of the amenities. To this end and to further enhance the experience of visitors, ASI launched "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" programme on 4th September 2023 at Samvet Auditorium, IGNCA, New Delhi. Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G Kishan Reddy, who attended the launch programme virtually, urged all entities to come forward and help in better upkeep and rejuvenation of India's rich cultural heritage, in line with the vision of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi'.

He further said that 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme seeks to foster collaboration with corporate stakeholders through which they can contribute to preservation of these monuments for the next generations. Under this programme, ASI invites corporate stakeholders to enhance the amenities at the monuments by utilizing their CSR funds. The programme is a revamped version of the earlier scheme launched in 2017 and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per AMASR Act 1958. The stakeholders can apply for adopting a monument or specific amenities at a monument through a dedicated web portal with URL www.indianheritage.gov.in, which contains details of monuments sought for adoption along with gap analysis and financial estimation of amenities. Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakashi Lekhi, Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan and Director General of ASI, K. K. Basa, were present on the occasion.

Minister of state for Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, elaborates the importance of cultural heritage in shaping the identity. She said that G20 Presidency is an opportunity to showcase the Cultural heritage of our country. She said that the process for selection will be carried out after due diligence and discussions with various stakeholders and assessing the economic and developmental opportunities at each monument. The ‘Adopt a Heritage 2.0’ programme seeks to foster collaboration with corporate stakeholders through which they can contribute in preserving these monuments for our upcoming generations”, said the minister. The process for selection will be carried out after due-diligence and discussions with various stakeholders and assessing the economic and developmental opportunities at each monument. The selected stakeholders will develop, provide and maintain amenities in hygiene, accessibility, safety and knowledge categories. In doing so, they will get an opportunity to be recognized as a responsible and heritage-friendly entity. The term of the appointment will be for a period of five years initially, which may be further extended up to five years.

Further, a user-friendly mobile app, named ‘Indian Heritage’ also launched on the same day, which will showcase the heritage monuments of India. The app will feature state-wise details of monuments along with photographs, list of public amenities available, geo-tagged location and feedback mechanism for citizens. The launch will be in a phased manner, with the ticketed monuments launched in Phase I, followed by the remaining monuments. An e-permission portal, with URL www.asipermisionportal.gov.in for obtaining permission for photography, filming and developmental projects on monuments was also launched. The portal will fast-track the process for obtaining various permissions and solve operational and logistical bottlenecks involved.

PIB,SEP4,2023

Ministry of Panchayati Raj begins a two-day National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop today on Panchayati Raj System: Retrospect & Prospects at National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj in Hyderabad to deliberate upon emerging and pressing issues of Panchayats and the roadmap/way ahead for enabling Panchayats as “Change Makers” or “Agents of Change” Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Shri Sunil Kumar inaugurates and presides over the inaugural session on the first day of National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop

Objective of Workshop is to discuss and deliberate on the six identified topics from the list of existing and emerging issues of Panchayats with all the major stakeholders. The People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2023 for the preparation of the Panchayat Development Plans (2024–2025) was launched and a Report on Formulation of Project Driven Block Panchayat and District Panchayat Development Plan was released on this occasion.

Panchayats to be catalysts of change to accelerate pace of progress towards achievement of global goals in nine thematic areas identified for Panchayati Raj Institutions- Shri Sunil Kumar

Our Nation is committed to achieving SDGs by 2030, Baseline Report of the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) will definitely serve as a benchmark for the Ministry/Department in monitoring and evaluation of the progress made in achieving the concerned targets of the SDGs aligned to different flagship schemes/programmes and through Localized SDGs - Shri Sunil Kumar

Ministry of Panchayati Raj began a two-day National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on Panchayati Raj System: Retrospect & Prospects in close collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) at Vikas Auditorium, NIRD&PR in Hyderabad today to deliberate upon emerging and pressing issues of Panchayats and the roadmap / way ahead for enabling Panchayats as “Change Makers” or “Agents of Change”. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Shri Sunil Kumar inaugurated and presided over the inaugural session on the first day of National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop in the presence of Director General, NIRD&PR, Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Shri Vikas Anand and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Smt. Mamta Varma. The renowned stalwarts of Panchayati Raj system of India of olden times also graced the National Workshop with their august presence, prominent among them include former Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Dr. S. S. Meenakshisundaram; former Additional Chief Secretary to Government of West Bengal, Dr. Manabendra Nath Roy and former Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Dr. S. M. Vijayanand. The People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2023 for the preparation of the Panchayat Development Plans (2024–2025) was launched, and a Report on Formulation of Project Driven Block Panchayat and District Panchayat Development Plan prepared by the Committee constituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Training Module of Panchayat Development Index was released on this occasion. A special issue of NIRD&PR's Journal of Rural Development was also released in the context of completion of 30 Years of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. A printed brochure on the School

of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) at NIRD&PR to mark the initiation of foundation of SoEPR was released on this occasion.

While addressing the participants of the National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Shri Sunil Kumar advised them to take personal interest in promoting the cause of Panchayats so that the Panchayati Raj system all over the country is equivalent or even better than that of the pioneering States. The immediate areas where Panchayats should focus are those related to Panchayat Development Plans, Panchayat Development Index, Localization and Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. He called upon Panchayats to be the catalysts of change to accelerate the pace of progress towards the achievement of the global goals in nine thematic areas identified for Panchayati Raj Institutions. Shri Sunil Kumar said that Ministry of Panchayati Raj is taking a leadership role in the process of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) involving Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments, NITI Aayog and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by evolving 9 thematic approaches to attain SDGs in rural areas. Panchayat Development Index (PDI) is a multi-dimensional assessment index which measures the progress of Panchayats towards the attainment of LSDGs, he added.

Shri Sunil Kumar said that as our Nation is committed to achieving SDGs by 2030, Baseline Report of the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) will definitely serve as a benchmark for the Ministry/Department in monitoring and evaluation of the progress made in achieving the concerned targets of the SDGs aligned to different flagship schemes/programmes and through Localized SDGs. Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, Shri Sunil Kumar mentioned that evidence-based planning at all levels and assessment of developmental progress through Panchayat Development Index (PDI) can be attained only through collective and collaborative efforts of the State Line Departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders. Shri Sunil Kumar highlighted the importance of transformation of Rural Local Bodies and Traditional Local Bodies in preparation of holistic and high-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) to address the aspiration of Gram Panchayat. He also emphasized that since the Panchayats are now aware of various grants of Central and State Governments, they should endeavour to plan a concrete GPDP which includes prioritized activities viz. water, health and sanitation, convergence of flagship schemes etc. He also underlined about role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in TB–Mukt Panchayat Abhiyan and highlighted the importance of convergence of Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) with the GPDP and the need of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) working together in tandem with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Shri Sunil Kumar emphasized on emergent need of meaningful and accountable Gram Sabhas, proper utilization of funds, raising own source revenues by Panchayats, use of innovation & technology, bridging the digital divide in rural and remote areas, convergence of all the resources available through all the Flagship Programmes under the ambit of Panchayati Raj Institutions and mainstreaming of Panchayat – Women Self Help Groups convergence for women empowerment and involvement of women in income generating activities. Shri Sunil Kumar said that our Gram Panchayats are the centre points of all activities in the grassroots democracy. There are more than 31.00 lakh elected representatives of Panchayats across the country in which almost 46% are women. And they can bring about tremendous transformational changes in rural areas. Panchayats have a significant role to play in effective and efficient implementation of flagship schemes for transformation of rural India. Keynote address delivered by Shri Kumar covered all the pertinent issues relating to functioning and strengthening of Panchayati Raj system in the country.

Addressing the participants through a presentation on setting up School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), Director General, NIRD&PR, Dr. G. Narendra Kumar said that the establishment of the SoEPR at NIRD&PR will help in strengthening the Panchayati Raj system and to cater to their needs of knowledge on Panchayats and capacity to deliver the services to citizens more effectively. He added that with support from the MoPR, NIRD&PR has established a School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) with nine new Centres in addition to the existing 21 Centres to delve into different domains of the Panchayati Raj system and to create a strong knowledge base for dissemination and application through the Panchayats across India.

Setting the context for the National Workshop, Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar shared that now the aspirations and expectations of the rural people have been increasing and Panchayats are considered as drivers of rural transformation, and added that undoubtedly, Panchayats need to be equipped to emerge as drivers of rural transformation. He underscored that it is imperative to envision Capacity Building with a fresh ‘eco-system’ approach in core areas of Panchayats and emerging needs arising with the changing governance mechanism to attain holistic, inclusive and sustainable development of villages.

Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar said that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organizing this two-day National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop from 4th to 5th September 2023 to deliberate on the way ahead for enabling Panchayats as change makers. The objective of National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop is to discuss and deliberate on the six identified topics from the list of existing and emerging issues of Panchayats with all the major stakeholders.

Shri Vikas Anand made a detailed Presentation on People's Plan Campaign-2023 and Road Ahead stating that Mantra of People's Plan Campaign is Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas and the initiative of Panchayat Development Plan (PDP) envisages formulation of well-thought-out Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) as well as Project-Driven Block Panchayat Development Plan (BPDP) and District Panchayat Development Plan (DPDP) which will pave the way for qualitative transformation and sustainable development in rural areas across the country. Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor, NIRD&PR delivered welcome address at the National Workshop. After the inaugural session, the delegates proceeded to round table discussions on the objectives and deliverables of each of the Thematic Groups. The participants were formed into 6 Groups and 21 Sub-Groups to brainstorm on the 21 issues pertaining to the effective functioning of the Panchayati Raj system.

Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors of Panchayati Raj Departments, Presidents and CEOs of District Panchayats, Presidents and Secretaries of Block Panchayat, Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats and Officials of State Institutes of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj from almost all States and Union Territories across the country are participating in the Workshop.

Representatives of majority of States/UTs from State/ UT Departments of Panchayati Raj, faculty–members of NIRD&PR, SIRD&PRs, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Panchayati Raj Training Institutes, UN agencies, CBOs, NGOs are participating in the National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop. Elected representatives & functionaries of Panchayats from across the country, key stakeholders, domain experts and agencies doing commendable work in Panchayati Raj sector at grassroots level are participating in this National Workshop. Shri Ramit Maurya, Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and three Officers as Assistant Secretaries in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj Shri Om Prakash Gupta, Ms. Pallavi Verma and Shri Subhankar Bala are also attending the two-day National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop. Assistant Secretaries will bring the new and novel ideas on the table.

The six main topics of the brainstorming workshop are (i) Panchayat Election, (ii) Gram Sabha & Standing Committees and their Empowerment, (iii) Functioning of Panchayats, (iv) Panchayat Finances and Own Source of Revenue, (v) Leadership Role for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs), and (vi) Evidence–based Planning. The Workshop is expected to witness enriched discussions and deliberations on innovative approaches towards better planning, coordination and synergy among various stakeholders at Central, State/ UT, District, Block and Gram Panchayat levels for Empowered Panchayats, Sustainable Development. The first day of the National Workshop witnessed an active and enthusiastic participation of the Panchayat representatives. The National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop will conclude tomorrow with Group Presentations on each of the identified themes and an open-house session for inviting ideas and suggestions for enhancing capabilities and efficiencies of Panchayats and carving a way forward towards achieving the stated goals in defined timeframe. The National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop is a unique opportunity for reevaluating and prioritizing the commitments and goals in a thoughtful manner and taking the preparedness for implementation of SDGs in rural areas to the next level. This Stakeholder Consultative Workshop is the first-of-its-kind endeavour to have focused discussion on identified emerging Panchayat issues.

Participants opined that the National Workshop will show a right path for deepening democracy in Gram Panchayat areas, and appreciated the initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and NIRD&PR stating that this National Workshop will help in preparing a roadmap for development through Panchayats in India. In the course of comprehensive deliberations during the Consultative Workshop, Panchayats were advised to develop and strengthen accountability mechanisms, and also involve SHGs/VOs and other institutions working with Panchayats in different Schemes to take forward the mandate of LSDGs in thematic areas with the active participation of all stakeholders. Here, intensive training and capacity building are also equally required, so that the measures coming out of such workshops can be institutionalized.

PIB,SEP8,2023

New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in the human-centric and inclusive development: PM

India's G20 Presidency has been inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented

Important to emulate Gandhi Ji's mission of serving the underprivileged, the very last person in the queue

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed confidence that the New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in the human-centric and inclusive development. He emphasized that India's G20 Presidency has been inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented where the developmental concerns of the Global South have been actively voiced. Highlighting the importance of emulating Gandhi Ji's mission of serving the underprivileged, the Prime Minister underlined that India places great emphasis on a human-centric way of furthering progress. The Prime Minister informed that he will be chairing Sessions on 'One Earth', 'One Family' and 'One Future', covering a range of issues of prime concern to the world community including furthering strong, sustainable, inclusive and balanced growth. He also mentioned holding bilateral meetings with several leaders and Heads of Delegation to further deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation.

The Prime Minister further added that Hon'ble President will host a dinner for the leaders on 9th September 2023. The leaders will pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on the 10th of September 2023. At the Closing Ceremony, on the same day, G20 Leaders will share their collective vision for a sustainable and equitable 'One Future', together like 'One Family', for a healthier 'One Earth'.

Sharing a thread on X, the Prime Minister said:

“India is delighted to host the 18th G20 Summit on 09-10 September 2023 at New Delhi’s iconic Bharat Mandapam. This is the first ever G20 Summit being hosted by India. I look forward to productive discussions with world leaders over the next two days. It is my firm belief that the New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in the human-centric and inclusive development.”

INDIAN EXPRESS,SEP9,2023

G20 Summit starts today amid worries over pandemic fallout, Ukraine war

Welcoming the leaders as India seeks a greater say for the developing world at the G20 table, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “It is my firm belief that the New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in human-centric and inclusive development.”

World leaders including US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reached New Delhi Friday for the G20 Summit starting Saturday amid divisions in the grouping over the Russia-Ukraine war and China’s ambitions in the Indo-Pacific and the South China Sea.

Welcoming the leaders as India seeks a greater say for the developing world at the G20 table, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “It is my firm belief that the New Delhi G20 Summit will chart a new path in human-centric and inclusive development.” He held bilateral meetings with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina before hosting a dinner for President Biden.

India’s G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said the New Delhi Declaration will be a voice of the Global South and the developing countries. Addressing a press conference on the eve of the two-day Summit, Kant said, “The New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration, which many of you will see post the Summit, you will see it as a voice of the Global South and the developing countries. No document in the world would have such a strong voice for the Global South and the developing countries as the New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration.”“We started our Presidency... with a meeting of the voice of the Global South. We got

the perspective of 125 leaders and then we remain focused on the perspective of the Global South and the requirements of the developing countries,” he said.

“I can assure you that our presidency has been inclusive, decisive and action-oriented. Our New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration is almost ready. I would not like to delve into it because the declaration will be recommended to the leaders and the leaders will then accept it, and only after it has been accepted by the leaders, we will be able to talk about the actual achievements of this declaration,” Kant said. He said Prime Minister Modi’s vision of India’s G20 Presidency is “inclusive Presidency”.

“There has been a huge scale and reach of India’s Presidency. There have been 19 G20 countries and the EU... 29 special invited countries, there have been three regional organisations, there have been 11 international organisations, who have participated in all the 220 meetings that took place in India,” he said. Kant said India assumed the G20 Presidency in the midst of a scenario of slowing growth and productivity worldwide. “There was a huge impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which had led to vast segments of the global population going below the poverty line. Vast number of people lost their jobs... There has been a reversal on the sustainable development goals. There was a challenge of climate crisis and climate action. At that point, India felt that we should start our Presidency with the theme of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam i.e. the world is one family,” he said. Responding to a query on the Summit declaration, Kant said, “On the journey of the joint declaration, I would prefer to speak after the Summit is over because the journey has just started. It has not ended.” Along with Kant, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Chief Coordinator (G20) Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth also addressed the press conference.

Kwatra said, “The Summit official conference programme is structured around two sessions. First, One Earth starting tomorrow morning. One Family, tomorrow afternoon; and One Future on the morning of the 10th. Besides the three sessions of the conference, there will also be a couple of sideline events which are currently being structured involving India and other Heads of State who are visiting us.”

He said President Droupadi Murmu will host a dinner Saturday for the Summit leaders. There will be a visit to Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi and a programme for the spouses. He said Prime Minister Modi will be hosting several sideline, bilateral meetings during the course of the Summit with the visiting Heads of State and governments and the other leaders. Shringla said that hosting of G20 meetings across states and Union Territories is the finest example of cooperative federalism. “In keeping with the Prime Minister’s vision of a pan-Indian G20. We have hosted one G20 meeting in at least

every state and union territory of India. To my mind, that is the finest example of cooperative federalism that we can see,” he said. “In this process, it has been a whole of government approach and a whole of nation approach. Every single Indian citizen has been involved in that effort and it’s very important to note that about 15 million of our citizens have been directly involved in the participation of some G20 event or the other across our country.”

TRIBUNE, SEP9, 2023

G20 presidency has seen India rising to the occasion

It is imperative that India leverages the outcomes to catalyse a global and domestic renaissance.

Vikramjit Sahney

Rajya Sabha MP and Member, B20 Task Force on Future of Work, Skilling & Mobility

INDIA’S G20 presidency has been identified as the curtain-raiser to the expansion of the country’s global footprint. India is well acknowledged as the voice of the Global South. The unique flavour of G20 comes from the fact that it is an informal grouping with no charter or secretariat. It relies on consensus among its members to get things done. This, in itself, is an ambitious feat that the G20 has outlined for itself, given the diverse political inclinations, varying viewpoints and complex alliances among its member countries. Yet, they are striving to discuss inclusive economic cooperation among themselves. These 20 countries account for 85 per cent of the global GDP and 75 per cent of the global trade. After the Covid pandemic, it has been globally realised that a human-centric approach is the key to a sustainable future with clear and coordinated efforts and assistance to the vulnerable. This has been emphasised by the cascading effect of the Russia-Ukraine war. It was only natural for India to subtly be the voice of the world, given the fact that we are culturally conditioned by the principle of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ and are also a steadily growing economy.

Earlier, India was part of the problem; now, it is being recognised as part of the solution, owing to reasons much beyond economics. The concern for human lives, the environment and food security is woven into the intrinsic cultural fabric of India, given its vast demography with immense diversity. The year-long G20 meets in India are indicative of a representative and inclusive order where every nation plays a vital role. The G20 works at various levels to ensure that its objectives are achieved. In the trade sector, G20 has brought emphasis on immediate post-crisis recovery, while addressing financial

regulation and macroeconomic stability. Attention has since shifted to the need to revitalise the global economy, laying stress on strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Providing an environment conducive for engaging in profitable free trade, global value chain integration, improving infrastructure and job opportunities with a strong emphasis on enhancing MSME participation can boost economic growth.

With consensus, it has been decided that the main focus is to be on striking a balance between the interests of producers and consumers. The G20 accounts for half of the global inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and two-thirds of the global outward FDI. Actions taken by the G20 also have an impact on developing countries outside the group's ambit, with around 70 per cent of non-G20 developing countries' imports coming from G20 nations, and around 80 per cent of those countries' exports directed to the G20. Greater trade and investments are worthwhile only if they enable human resources to effectively boost the national economy. In the current scenario, there is a tremendous shift in the work ecosystem, with digitalisation and artificial intelligence being the cornerstones. Skilling, that too with an ethnographical approach, is the only sustainable way to make a transition, taking a cue from the latest report of the International Labour Organisation, which says that the global jobs gap stood at 473 million in 2022. It is a 33 million increase from 2019; the report states that this year, global employment growth will be only 1 per cent, which is less than half the level in 2022. Global unemployment is slated to rise slightly in 2023, by around 3 million. Deliberations have led to a roadmap for the development of an international skill gap mapping portal for the assessment of current and future labour market trends and skill needs.

Another major parameter is the nation's health, which is linked to food and nutrition, which, in turn, are reliant on agriculture. Thus, agriculture is of paramount importance and more so in India's context. There is unanimous agreement on a consumer-centric approach while ensuring food security amid disruptions. Another goal is to tackle price volatility to guard against inflation, protectionism and unrest due to food insecurity. The Agriculture Working Group of G20 highlighted priority areas to encourage diversification in agriculture, promoting sustainable agriculture and channelling financial resources towards environmentally conscious and climate-resilient farming. The development of seed banks and the promotion of organic farming, while ensuring food security, have to take precedence. Above all, the sustenance of trade and agriculture is strongly dependent on climatic conditions. Hence, concerns over climate change need to be addressed. The focus has been on curbing unsustainable production and consumption patterns to deal with biodiversity loss and pollution, with ambitious actions being taken under the Paris Agreement. The 'Panchamrit' strategy, unveiled by India at COP26 (Glasgow), was appreciated across the globe. India has adapted itself for a vital role globally to ensure a safe and

sustainable planet. A strong push for renewable energy, exhaustive measures to reduce carbon emissions and carbon intensity of our economy and efforts for developing our non-fossil energy sources are a few illustrative examples. The Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) is one such initiative. Having touched upon major areas of concern, we can conclude that India's G20 presidency seems to have achieved the desired outcomes. Various sessions so far have witnessed consensus on a transparent regime, ushering in free global trade in goods and services and enhanced investment in infrastructure, health, education, skilling, digital transformation and climate change mitigation.

With high hopes pinned on the practical implementation of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', it is imperative that India leverages the outcomes to catalyse a global and domestic renaissance and gains a stronger foothold while overcoming geopolitical discord. Let's hope that all members would agree on a collective approach to tackle multiple, complex and interconnected challenges, while keeping the aspirations and needs of the developing world at the forefront.

