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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,SEP18,2023

Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters conducted at the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education

Campaigns conducted at 482 sites

Special Campaign 3.0 to be conducted during October 2023

As part of the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM), the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education was able to minimize the pendency of various matters during the period December 2022 to August 2023 as follows:

PG receipts and disposal: 97.91% of Public Grievances have been disposed of (75410 out of 77021 receipts);

References from MPs: 88.67% of references received from MPs have been disposed of (2051 out of 2313 receipts);

Parliamentary Assurance: 89.86% of Parliamentary Assurances have been disposed of (133 out of 148 receipts);

PG appeals: 99.9% of Public Grievances appeals have been disposed of (21810 out of 21812 receipts);

Total files weeded out: 100% of files have been weeded out which were identified for weeding (7152 out of 7152 identified); and

Cleanliness campaign conducted at 482 sites.

The Department is committed to minimizing pendency and ensuring Swachhata in its premises and its Autonomous Bodies on a continuous basis. It is gearing up to conduct Special Campaign 3.0 from 02nd October to 31st October, 2023 to further minimize pendency, institutionalize Swachhata, strengthen internal monitoring mechanisms and improve records management. This year, the cleanliness drive under Special Campaign 3.0 will be undertaken in at least 3000 sites as compared to 1257 under Special Campaign 2.0.

PIB,SEP23,2023

The three 'S', - Skill, Speed and Scale are the key to Capacity Building for StartUps as also for those engaged in any other vocation, says Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

Training and constant upgrading of skills are the two main aspects constantly reiterated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi: Dr Jitendra Singh

“Kendriya Bhandar is the first organization in India to get all its employees trained by IIM, Raipur”

Minister inaugurates the Training Programme for Kendriya Bhandar officials by IIM, Raipur

Kendriya Bhandar achieves an all-time record with five-fold growth of Rs.4,043 crores in 2021-22 from Rs.750 crores in 2017-18

The three 'S', - Skill, Speed and Scale are the key to Capacity Building for StartUps as also for those engaged in any other vocation, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said while inaugurating the Training Program conducted by IIM Raipur faculty for the Kendriya Bhandar (KB) staff. The Minister said, "Quality with Cost-Effectiveness of the end-product is what determines the sustainability amid competition", he said. Kendriya Bhandar is the first organization in India to seek institutionalised training for its employees. Training and constant upgrading of skills are the two main aspects constantly reiterated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the Minister.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, success stories like Chandrayaan-3 and G20 have established PM Modi as the world's tallest leader. He said, these successes have been possible because ever since PM Modi took over in May 2014, he has heralded a new work culture, where excellence is pursued and promoted. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the KB Society was performing dismally after the withdrawal of Stationery OM in March 2015, and the sales turnover started falling down by Rs.100-150 crores annually and the profit also declined sharply till March 2018 and thus the Society was almost on the verge of losses.



कर्मसु कौशलम्

The Minister said, it was the cost-cutting measures and the efforts of the Managing Director Dr. Mukesh Kumar and the Board of Directors and all employees of the Kendriya Bhandar for ushering in a lot of reforms, especially in the wake of Covid pandemic, and thus making a turn around. As a result, profits soared over 30%.



In his address, Dr. Mukesh Kumar said, the Society has taken a lot of measures to heighten the morale and confidence of the employees by granting them fair wages which are comparable to the industry, while record number of promotions at faster pace to the performing employees were granted. He said, apart from these, measures like re-designation of posts guaranteeing respect, improving the quality of life at work place and periodical training through cooperative institutes, FSSAI and other activities for personality development of the employees. Kendriya Bhandar created an all-time record by achieving five-fold growth of Rs.4,043 crores in 2021-22 from Rs.750 crores in 2017-18, which is unprecedented in any public or private sector. It is also worth mentioning here that the society had accumulated fixed deposits of Rs.98.59 crores in 55 years since its coming into existence and Rs.41.28 crores (29.51% of total Rs.139.87 crores) have been added in the last five years.

The Society serves the common man by providing essential commodities at the lowest rates in the country. In recent times, the Society sold Onions @ Rs.15/- per kg against market price of Rs.70/- per kg; Bharat Atta @ Rs.27.50 per kg against market price of Rs.40/- to Rs.45/- per kg in February-March 2023; Sold Tomatoes @ Rs.70/- per kg against market price of Rs.200/- per kg in the month of August, 2023; Selling Bharat Dal (Chana Dal) @ Rs.58/- per kg against market price of Rs.110/- per kg. Further, the role of Kendriya Bhandar during the Corona / crisis has been commendable as it provided fastest services and quality items at the lowest rate in the country. Kendriya Bhandar was set up in 1963 as a Welfare Project. It has been registered as a Multi-State Co-operative Society under MSCS Act 2002 with shareholding of the Govt. and Govt. employees. It has over 93,000 members out of which more than 10,000 members are still serving in Govt. The Society is managed by a Board of Directors (14 Directors). The Board has 09 elected Directors, 03 Nominated, 01 MD and 01 Co-opted Director. The Society has 149 shops and establishments/offices, besides 05 Chemist Shops/Jan Aushadhi outlets all over the country.

PIB, SEP23, 2023

World Sign Language Day is celebrated today

MoS Km. Pratima Bhoomik highlighted the efforts taken by the government to promote job employment of youth with disabilities

260 signs of financial terms in Indian Sign Language; 10,000 ISL dictionary terms and Video Relay Service for the deaf community through WhatsApp video call launched today

Sign Language Day' with the theme "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!" was celebrated by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi under the aegis of DEPwD (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Bhim Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre Janpath, New Delhi today. Ever since the United Nations declared 23rd September as the International Day of Sign Languages, the ISLRTC celebrates it every year on 23rd September. DEPwD and ISLRTC had brought more citizens, stakeholders, service-providing agencies, Deaf schools, NGOs, activists, Deaf leaders, educators, researchers etc. together on this Sign Language Day celebration to create positive awareness about Indian Sign Language among all sections of our society.

Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Km. Pratima Bhoumik was the Chief Guest and Shri Rajesh Aggrawal, Secretary; DEPwD was the Guest of Honour on this occasion. Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary, DEPwD and Shri Mrityunjay Jha, Director, DEPwD & ISLRTC, and Representatives from National Association of Deaf, All India Federation of Deaf, All India Federation of Deaf for Women also graced the occasion. The Minister of State, Social Justice and Empowerment, Km. Pratima Bhoumik mentioned that Mann Ki Baat should be started in ISL. She highlighted the efforts taken by the Government to promote job employment of youth with disabilities. Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD informed about the initiative taken by DEPwD to employ persons with disabilities, and the department is planning to provide tablets to deaf students to enable them to access educational videos in sign languages. Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary, DEPwD welcomed all the dignitaries and participants. He said that ISLRTC will take the initiative to develop a platform where deaf can easily communicate with the hearing and that ISLRTC will work on the translation of NCERT textbooks for class VII and onwards. Shri Sunil Sahasrabudhe, President, All India Federation of Deaf appreciated the significant growth of ISLRTC over the last 8 years. Smt. Uma Kapoor, President, All India Federation of the Deaf Women said that all parents should learn the online self-learning ISL course so that they can communicate with their deaf children.

Shri A.S. Narayan, President, National Association of Deaf said that on the significant occasion of Sign Language Day, the government is recognizing the occasion by displaying blue light central locations like India Gate. During the programme, the following programs and materials were also launched. Basic Communication Skills in Indian Sign Language an online self-learning course was launched. The primary aim of this course is to foster basic communication skills in Indian Sign Language. It is tailor-made for parents of deaf children, siblings, educators, and individuals interested in acquiring basic knowledge of Indian Sign Language (ISL). The course comprises 10 modules, covering 30 essential topics, ensuring a comprehensive grasp of basic ISL communication.

260 signs of Financial terms in Indian Sign Language which are jointly developed by ISLRTC, Societe Generale and V-Shesh was launched. The sign for financial terms are developed to facilitate communication between deaf and hearing people working in the financial and banking sector. The project will help improve the employment prospects of deaf job-seeking youth. 10,000 ISL dictionary terms were launched on website.

ISL course in Special Schools for the hearing impaired was launched. Video Relay Service for the deaf community through WhatsApp video calls was launched. Video Relay Service is a video telecommunication service which enables deaf people to communicate with hearing people vide a remote sign language interpreter.

STATESMAN, SEP24, 2023

A historical moment for India

Parliament this week passed a landmark bill for women's empowerment, which provides a 33 per cent quota for women in the Lok Sabha and legislatures. This gender bill marks a significant milestone towards empowering women in politics. On Wednesday, the Lok Sabha approved the Women's Bill in Parliament and legislatures through a voice vote. Of 543 MPs, 454 supported the Bill, with only two members opposing it.

The next day, the Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Bill, with all 215 members voting in favour. With both houses clearing the Bill, kudos are due to the Prime Minister and to all the lawmakers. Mr. Modi praised parliamentarians for overcoming "agni pariksha" and achieving gender equality, highlighting the need for cooperation. It shows that if the BJP and Congress are together, they can pass any bill.

Other parties also claimed credit for the legislation's success. Congress leaders like Sonia Gandhi celebrated the victory and demanded prompt implementation, calling the bill 'our Bill'. It is beneficial for parties to appeal to female voters before the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Despite India's Constitution promoting gender equality, women have been historically underrepresented in Parliament and state legislatures despite making up nearly half of the population. Implementing women's quotas requires careful consideration of social, political, and cultural factors. The Bill has faced several obstacles till now. It has been introduced and abandoned multiple times due to disagreements among political parties. However, the primary reason for its failure is the reluctance of male legislators. They fear losing their perceived importance. Efforts to achieve gender balance in politics faced challenges in negotiating the quota. Rajiv Gandhi initiated, and Sonia Gandhi took it forward. Sushma Swaraj encountered opposition from parties like SP and RJD.

The Congress and other opposition parties insisted on a quota within the quota for OBC women. Male politicians also oppose the idea that subquotas were suggested, such as reservations for OBC women within the percentage. Although the status of women has improved in India since the adoption of International Women's Day in 1975, progress could have been faster. The Bill's legislative journey started during the Rajiv Gandhi era, but it was introduced in Parliament by Prime Minister Deve Gowda on 27 September 1996. Despite several attempts by subsequent administrations, it has failed due to a lack of political will and consensus. The Bill was passed by the Manmohan Singh administration in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 but failed to pass in the Lok Sabha. There is a divided opinion on the subject in almost all the parties except the Left. The primary opponents to the Bill were the Janata Dal-United (JD-U), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party. Some blame should also attach to the women's organisations who refused to accept the 20 per cent reservation proposed at one point. Despite the passage, women must wait until after the next Census and delimitation processes are completed by 2029. These exercises will commence after the next Lok Sabha polls. The BJP may leverage this for electoral advantages in the 2024 and 2029 polls. Several countries have implemented steps to ensure gender equality in political representation. They include reserving some legislative seats and promoting women's political involvement. India has signed international agreements for gender equality. Reserving political positions for women is in line with these commitments.

The United Nations praised India after Parliament passed the Bill. Susan Ferguson, the Country Representative for UN Women India, stressed the significance of women having political representation to continue their empowerment. She described the Bill as a “bold” and “transformative” measure to help reach this objective. Currently, the law reserves one-third of the chairpersons at all Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies for women. As a result, over a million women currently serve at the grassroots level. Supporters argue that a quota is essential to address the underrepresentation of women in Indian politics and decision-making bodies. They believe it will empower women, promote gender equality, and give them a stronger voice. Additionally, it is a step towards correcting the historical gender imbalances. Some say a quota is unfair and may reinforce inequality. Rotating these seats every election could decrease motivation among MPs. Furthermore, they apprehend women may be chosen based on connections rather than qualifications, leading to accusations of tokenism. The battle for equality is ongoing. While the Bill has been passed in Parliament, more work must be done to address all gender-related concerns. True empowerment requires shifting people’s attitudes and eradicating harmful practices such as rape, khap panchayats, honour killings, and Sati. Despite having laws in place, their enforcement could be improved. Influential leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati, and Mehbooba Mufti have the power to help those who are less fortunate. The 33 per cent reservation for women is a crucial opportunity whose benefits must be maximized.

INDIAN EXPRESS, SEP24, 2023

Inside Track by Coomi Kapoor: Post-dated cheque

It remains to be seen if it can be encashed by its proposed date of 2029

Coomi Kapoor

Last week’s unnecessarily hastily passed Women’s Reservation Bill in Parliament was described brilliantly by the NCP’s Supriya Sule as a “post-dated cheque”. It remains to be seen if it can be encashed by its proposed date of 2029. If I am slightly cynical, it is because I have witnessed similar Bills being introduced in Parliament on different occasions — 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2008 — with much fanfare, but eventually the Bills quietly lapsed.

The linking of the Bill to the delimitation of constituencies can be viewed as either Machiavellian or a masterstroke. Delimitation of constituencies is a Pandora's Box, which is why the number of seats in the Lok Sabha has remained static for half a century, despite huge variations in population sizes in constituencies. In 1976 and 2002, the scheduled delimitation exercise was quietly postponed because of the government's fears of the fallout. With delimitation, the proportion of parliament seats from south India would automatically fall even as the share of the BJP-ruled cow belt states would rise. The south has long protested that it cannot be penalised for its progressiveness in practicing family planning.

Media segregation

The process of segregating the media from lawmakers was started in the old Parliament House. The divide has been accentuated in the new one. There are separate entrances and elevators for Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, MPs, media and visitors. Functionaries have their offices in different sections and security guards make it difficult to move from one area to another. In contrast, in the old House, scribes strolling down the airy circular corridors would bump into MPs or drop in informally into offices and chambers to meet policymakers without an appointment.

Jama Masjid fountains may have been lit up for G20 and landmarks illuminated, but the Indian government did not want the heads of government to visit this part of old Delhi as it would entail a meeting with the masjid's Shahi Imam. G20 leaders, on the other hand, perhaps wanted to please their Islamic constituents back home with photographs with the Imam. French President Emmanuel Macron and Turkish President Erdogan's requests to visit Jama Masjid were turned down, ostensibly for security reasons since Jama Masjid was not part of the scheduled programme. Only junior members of certain countries' delegations got to meet the Imam, according to mosque sources.

Illiberal Hearts

Boycotting media outlets and anchors by governments and politicians is normally done subtly. When NDTV was owned by the Roys, BJP spokespersons and ministers stayed away from the channel, but mysteriously reappeared once Adanis bought it. But the INDIA parties have resorted to sledgehammer tactics. It announced a blacklist of 14 TV anchors, reminiscent of VC Shukla's loyalty list of publications during the Emergency, where those on the D-list, including The Indian Express, were not allotted government advertisements.

Since the INDIA measure smacks of illiberalism, something that it accuses BJP of practising, there were red faces among more mature members of the Opposition. Nitish Kumar openly criticised the move. In fact, it was not an impulsive decision, the suggestion first cropped up at INDIA's Mumbai meet. The list was fine-tuned at a meeting in Delhi, where Raghav Chadha of AAP and Pawan Khera of Congress were at the forefront. Rahul Gandhi gave his go-ahead through his aide, K C Venugopal. Interestingly, the original list had over two dozen names but was whittled down when certain people lobbied to omit names of anchors kind to them personally. A popular anchor from Bihar had both JD(U) and RJD rooting on her behalf. The next move contemplated is to prepare a list of unfriendly channels and stop advertisements to them by CMs and parties in the INDIA alliance. The boycott also exposed the partisan positions of leading journalist associations. The Editors Guild of India, the Press Club of India and the Indian Women's Press Corps kept silent and did not condemn the concept of a blacklist. While the virtually moribund Broadcast Editors Association sprung to life and passed a resolution decrying the INDIA move.

After my last column, SP MP Javed Khan MP telephoned to protest that I should make it clear in my next column that I have never spoken to him. He was rattled enough to immediately tweet the fact, tagging his party leader Ram Gopal Yadav and Congress media boss Jairam Ramesh. In fact, I have never claimed acquaintance with Khan. Curiously, there is no denial of the basic news in the offending item that two Muslim parties, AIMIM and AIUDF, though old allies of UPA and the Congress respectively, have been kept out of the INDIA front, presumably to appease majoritarian sentiment.

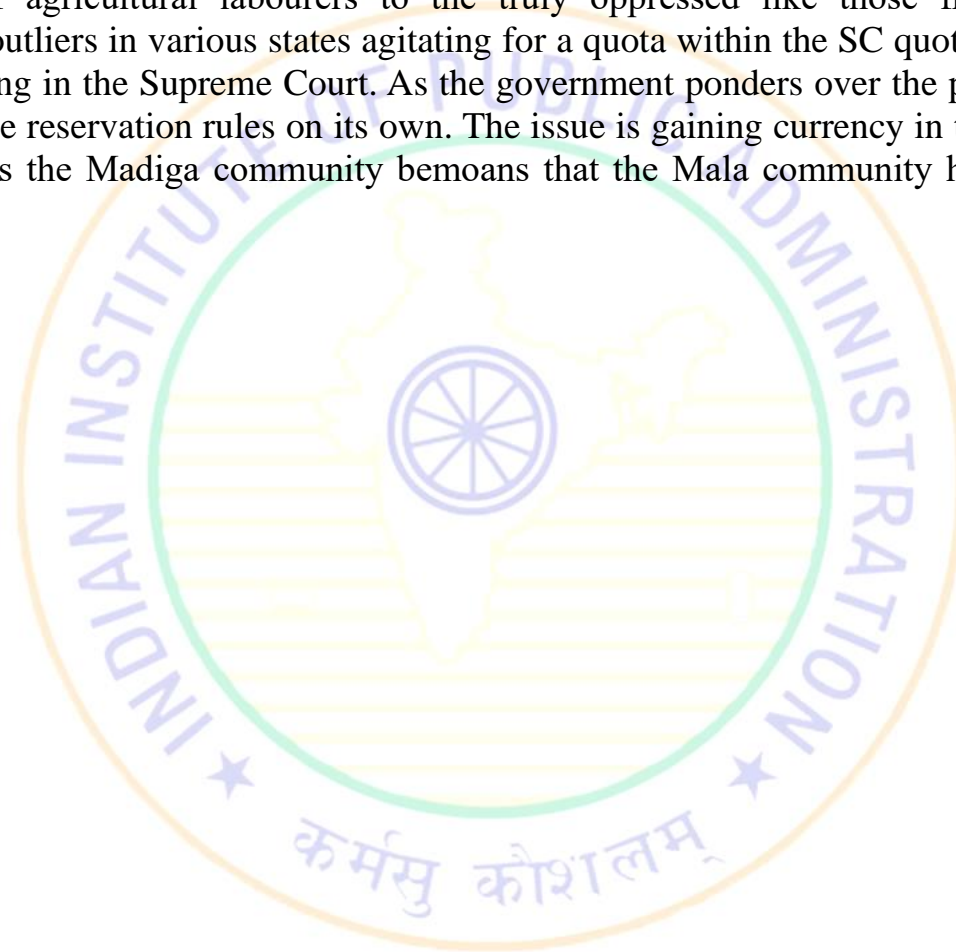
TRIBUNE, SEP24, 2023

Quota in SC quota

Need to ensure fair distribution of benefits

THE proposal for a quota within the Scheduled Castes reservation aims to rectify the inequitable distribution of benefits among these castes and hence it is a welcome instrument. Over the past few generations, ever since the quota regime was mandated by law to give the underprivileged and oppressed sections of society opportunities for representation in high political and bureaucratic offices, data points to the fact that such beneficiaries have mostly remained confined to a few families or sections that have already benefited from the quota. This has led to a skewed situation wherein the more backward among the SCs find themselves left out of the reckoning for jobs and education opportunities and remain

marginalised. This is mainly because the subsequent generations of the fringe sub-category people are unfairly pitted against the children of those who have got government jobs under the quota; the advantage enjoyed by the latter enables them to get reserved seats in premier educational institutions and government jobs. The distinctions among the SCs may, for example, range from a sub-group of agricultural labourers to the truly oppressed like those from the 'manual scavenging' category. This has led to the outliers in various states agitating for a quota within the SC quota and moving courts over their demand. The matter is pending in the Supreme Court. As the government ponders over the pros and cons, it could wait for the court verdict or amend the reservation rules on its own. The issue is gaining currency in the election year. It is currently a hot subject in Telangana as the Madiga community bemoans that the Mala community has grabbed the lion's share of opportunities.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PIB,SEP18,2023

SHREYAS scheme empowers thousands: over 2300 crore rupees allocated for education of SC and OBC students since 2014

SHREYAS National Fellowship Scheme benefits more than 21,000 SC students for Higher Education

The umbrella scheme of "SHREYAS" which comprises 4 central sector sub-schemes namely "Top Class Education for SCs", "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs", "National Overseas Scheme for SCs" and "National Fellowship for SCs". Since all these sub-schemes are central sector schemes, state-wise data is not maintained for these schemes. The brief of the sub-schemes under SHREYAS along with the allocated budget, expenditure details and number of beneficiaries for the last 9 years i.e since 2014-15 is as under:

Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs:

The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them appear in competitive and entrance examinations for obtaining appropriate jobs in Public/Private Sector as well as for securing admission in reputed technical and professional higher education institutions. The ceiling of the total family income under the scheme is 8 lakhs per annum. 3500 slots are allotted per annum. The ratio of SC: OBC students is 70:30 and 30% slots are reserved for females in each category. In case of non-availability of the adequate number of candidates in SC category the Ministry can relax this ratio. However, in no case, a less than 50% SC students shall be permitted.

From 2014-15 till 2022-23 a total of 109.77 crore rupees have been released to benefit 19,995 beneficiaries.

Top Class Education for SCs:

The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst students belonging to SCs, by providing full financial support. The Scheme will cover SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class. The scholarship, once awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance of the student. The

ceiling of the total family income under the scheme is 8 lakhs per annum. Presently, 266 higher education institutes which includes Government institutes and private institutes such as all the IIMs, IITs, NITs, IIITs, AIIMS, NIFTs, NIDs, NLUs, IHMs, CUs and institutes of national importance, NAAC A++ accredited institutes and top 100 National Institutional ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking institutes. The overall number of scholarship would be capped at 21,500 for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26 (4100 for 2021-22, 4200 for 2022-23, 4300 for 2023-24, 4400 for 2024-25 and 4500 for 2025-26).

Under the scheme, (i) full tuition fee and non-refundable charges (there will be a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum per student for private sector institutions (ii) Academic allowance of Rs. 86,000 in the first year of study and Rs. 41,000 in every subsequent year, to take care of living and other expenses is provided. From 2014-15 till 2022-23 a total of 398.43 crore rupees have been released to benefit 21,988 beneficiaries

(iii) National Overseas Scheme for SCs:

Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to the selected students from SCs (115 slots); De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (6 slots); landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisan categories (4 slots), for pursuing masters and Ph.D. level courses abroad. Presently, 125 slots are allotted under the scheme.

Such students can benefit under the scheme whose total family income including the candidate is less than Rs. 8 lakhs per annum, who have more than 60% marks in the qualifying examination, below 35 years of age and secured admission in top 500 QS ranking foreign Institutes/ Universities. Under the scheme, total tuition fee, maintenance and contingency allowance, visa fee, to and fro air passage etc. are provided to the awardees. From 2014-15 till 2022-23 a total of 197.14 crore rupees have been released to benefit 950 beneficiaries

(iv) National Fellowship for SC Students:

Under the scheme fellowship is provided to Scheduled Castes students for pursuing higher education leading to M.Phil/ Ph.D degrees in Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Universities/Institutions/ Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).

The scheme provides for 2000 new slots per year (500 for science stream and 1500 for Humanities and Social Sciences) who have qualified the National Eligibility Test- Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC and Junior Research Fellows for Science stream qualifying UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) Joint Test.

The rates of fellowship including HRA is as under:

S. No.

Head

Rates Applicable for

JRF

SRF

1.Fellowship in all streams.

Rs. 31,000/- p.m. for initial two years

Rs. 35,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure

2.Contingency for Humanities & Social Sciences

Rs.10,000/- p.a. for initial two years

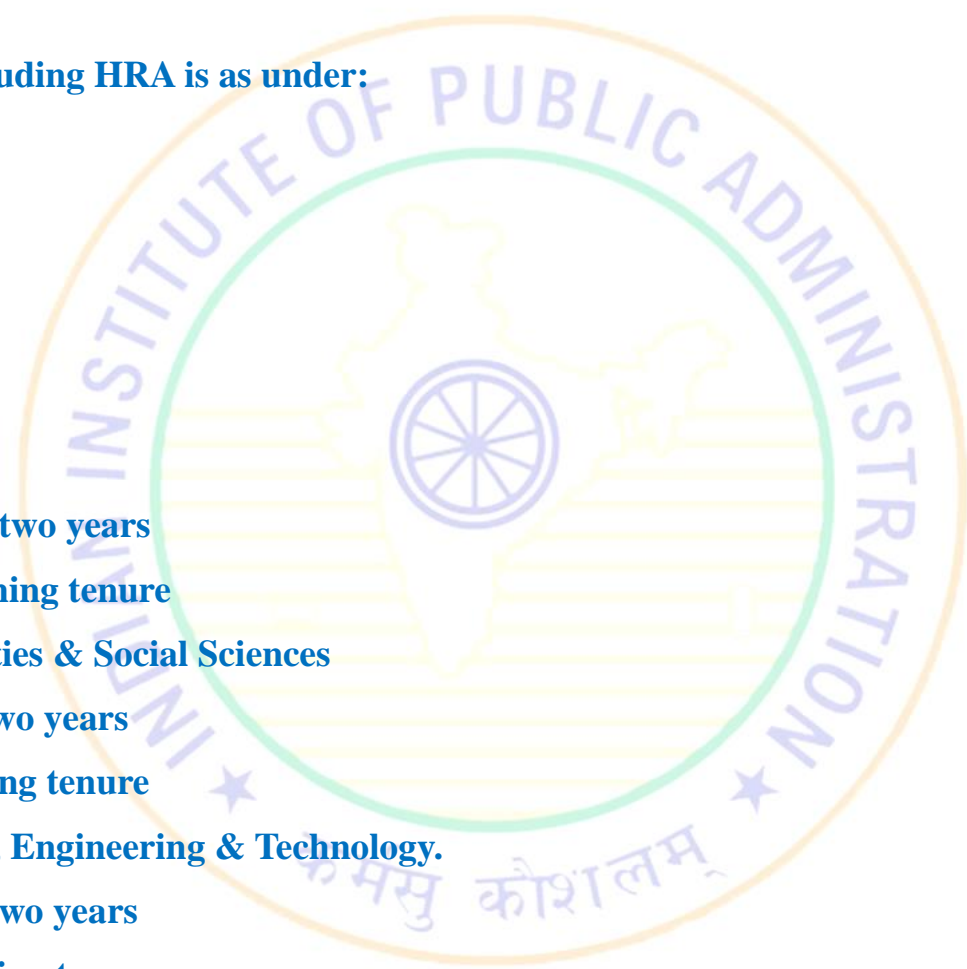
Rs.20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure

3.Contingency for Sciences, Engineering & Technology.

Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for initial two years

Rs. 25,000/- p.a. for remaining tenure.

Note: There is no financial ceiling under the scheme.



From 2014-15 till 2022-23 a total of 1628.89 crore rupees have been released to benefit 21326 beneficiaries.

PIB,SEP19,2023

Ayushman Bhav Abhiyan for saturation coverage of essential health services ongoing across the country since September 17th, 2023

Over 30000 Ayushman Melas held across the country in the last three days

Over 2.6 lakh patients registered in the last 3 days as part of Ayushman Bhav Abhiyan

Over 8 lakh Ayushman Cards issued in the last 3 days

Over 2.50 lakh ABHA IDs generated in the last 3 days

More than 10 lakh people receive free drugs in the last three days

As part of the Seva Pakhwada, Ayushman Bhav Abhiyan for saturation of essential health services is being held across the country from September 17th. The 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign inaugurated by the Hon'ble President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, on September 13, 2023, aims to redefine healthcare accessibility and inclusivity across the country, and embodies a whole-of-nation and whole-of-society approach. The core objective of the Seva Pakhwada is to extend comprehensive healthcare coverage to every village and town, transcending geographical barriers and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As part of the Ayushman Bhav Abhiyan, over 30,000 Ayushman Melas have been completed since 17 Sept 2023 which have seen a footfall of over 2.5 lakh patients as on 19 Sept, 2023. The following is a comprehensive list of indicators and beneficiaries of Ayushman Melas since 17th September 2023:

The tables below highlight the achievements of Ayushman Melas under the Ayushman Bhav:

As part of the Ayushman Bhav campaign, in the last 3 days alone, over 2.5 lakh ABHA IDs have been generated, over 10 lakh people have received free drugs, and over 8 lakh people have received free diagnostic services. The Seva Pakhwada aims to play a pivotal role in distributing Ayushman cards, generating ABHA IDs, and raising awareness about vital health schemes and disease conditions, such as non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis (Nikshay Mitra), sickle cell disease, as

well as blood donation and organ donation drives. To access the services provided under the Seva Pakhwada, citizens are encouraged to visit their nearest Health and Wellness Centres.

PIB, SEP 20, 2023

Salient features and Guidelines of PM Vishwakarma Scheme

PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched on 17th September, 2023 by the Prime Minister to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades, viz. (i) Carpenter (Suthar/Badhai); (ii) Boat Maker; (iii) Armourer; (iv) Blacksmith (Lohar); (v) Hammer and Tool Kit Maker; (vi) Locksmith; (vii) Goldsmith (Sonar); (viii) Potter (Kumhaar); (ix) Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker; (x) Cobbler (Charmkar)/ Shoemaker/ Footwear artisan; (xi) Mason (Rajmistri); (xii) Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver; (xiii) Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional); (xiv) Barber (Naai); (xv) Garland maker (Malakaar); (xvi) Washerman (Dhobi); (xvii) Tailor (Darzi); and (xviii) Fishing Net Maker.

The Scheme envisages provisioning of the following benefits to the artisans and crafts persons:

- (i) Recognition: Recognition of artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
- (ii) Skill Upgradation: Basic Training of 5-7 days and Advanced Training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of Rs. 500 per day;
- (iii) Toolkit Incentive: A toolkit incentive of upto Rs. 15,000 in the form of e-vouchers at the beginning of Basic Skill Training.
- (iv) Credit Support: Collateral free 'Enterprise Development Loans' of upto Rs. 3 lakh in two tranches of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh with tenures of 18 months and 30 months, respectively, at a concessional rate of interest fixed at 5%, with Government of India subvention to the extent of 8%. Beneficiaries who have completed Basic Training will be eligible to avail the first tranche of credit support of upto Rs. 1 lakh. The second loan tranche will be available to beneficiaries who have availed the 1st tranche and maintained a standard loan account and have adopted digital transactions in their business or have undergone Advanced Training.

(v) Incentive for Digital Transaction: An amount of Re. 1 per digital transaction, upto maximum 100 transactions monthly will be credited to the beneficiary's account for each digital pay-out or receipt.

(vi) Marketing Support: Marketing support will be provided to the artisans and craftspeople in the form of quality certification, branding, onboarding on e-commerce platforms such as GeM, advertising, publicity and other marketing activities to improve linkage to value chain.

In addition to the above-mentioned benefits, the Scheme will onboard the beneficiaries on Udyam Assist Platform as 'entrepreneurs' in the formal MSME ecosystem. Enrolment of beneficiaries shall be done through Common Service Centres with Aadhaar-based biometric authentication on PM Vishwakarma portal. The enrolment of beneficiaries will be followed by a three-step verification which will include (i) Verification at Gram Panchayat/ ULB level, (ii) Vetting and Recommendation by the District Implementation Committee (iii) Approval by the Screening Committee.

For more information, the Guidelines of PM Vishwakarma can be accessed at pmvishwakarma.gov.in. For any queries, artisans and craftspeople may call at 18002677777 or email at pm-vishwakarma@dcmsme.gov.in.

PIB,SEP21,2023

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) & Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) Ahmedabad, partner with to empower 3000 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, organized a Roundtable Meet for Corporate to 'Support, Activate and Build Assured Livelihoods (SABAL) for Persons with Disabilities under CSR Actions'.

Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS Secretary – DEPwD, Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, EDII, Dr. Raman Gujral, Director, Department of Projects (Corporate) at EDII, senior officials from DEPwD as well as National Institutions under DEPwD and CSR leaders from leading corporate entities including PNB, XIAOMI, NHPC, Delhi Metro, BHEL etc attended this ground breaking Meet. The 'Meet' took up the agenda of sensitizing society at large and instituting interventions and measures that ensure establishment of 3000 new enterprises by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), including 1500

technology driven and 1500 general enterprises. This pivotal Roundtable Meet brainstormed on creating a better world for PwDs through an effective synergy between Government, Corporate and Institutions. The discussions revolved around the specific objectives of ensuring empowerment of PwDs through sustainable enterprise creation; creating a set of best practices in the context of infrastructure, perception, environment, security and other facilities to promote their complete inclusion in society; floating ways to ensure an integrative working environment; deciding on an inventory of business opportunities that PwDs could tap into to create own enterprises; aligning the project and its interventions with sustainable development goals and breaking the professional segregation in society that relegates disabled to lower paying jobs. Based on the tangible discussions and takeaways, the participating Corporate identified some primary areas of cooperation. Some of the activities identified to achieve the goal of creating 3000 PwD led enterprises included: Awareness Campaign to Ensure Community Integration of PwDs; Immersive Life Skills for Adolescents with Disabilities; Sourcing Business Opportunities for PwDs; Sensitization workshops for PwDs; Credit Linkage Support; Entrepreneur Growth-cum-Counselling Programme (EGCP) to Support PwD-led Enterprises and Micro Skill entrepreneurship Development Programme (MSDP) to enable unemployed PwDs to set up their business

Secretary, DEPwD Shri Rajesh Aggarwal started his speech with the message that India has reached the moon but there are many challenges that persons with disabilities are facing today. In India, our attitudes are inclusive but infrastructures are yet to be inclusive. He opened up the conversation for supporting Divyangjan through various initiatives including donations through CSRs in providing aids and assistive devices, up skilling, providing loans and mentorship to PwDs, mapping of jobs following the 'cool ability factor', providing reasonable accommodation, providing leaves for health issues and spreading the message across distribution networks of the companies and hiring PwDs. He also stressed upon the attitudinal changes of the society at large towards Divyangjan. Shri Kishor B. Surwade, Deputy Director General DEPwD spoke about various initiatives and schemes of the Department including National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs, Assistive devices, Scholarship to Divyangjan and rehabilitation services. A video was screened explaining the features of newly launched DEPwD PM Daksh portal for skilling and employment of Divyangjan. Dr. Sunil Shukla, expressed, "It is high time that we, as a society, think about inclusive development wherein empowering PwDs must be high on our priority. On a regular basis, we need to curate sustainable business opportunities, viable entrepreneurial prospects and ensure that the PwDs get suitably trained and handheld. It is also important to establish best practices at workplaces and at various levels of the social framework to foster equality and inclusivity at all levels.

Dr. Raman Gujral, discussing the various projects undertaken by corporate to empower PwDs, said that EDII has so far 8,533 PwDs through 266 skill training programs, leading to the establishment of 1,247 enterprises. EDII houses the Centre for Empowerment of the Differently Abled (CEDA), supported by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Directorate of Social Defense, Gujarat State Handicapped (Divyang) Finance & Development Corporation, Government of Gujarat, on its campus. A brainstorming session was held between the officials and corporate leaders present in the conference room. The one hour long round table discussion included topics related to accessibility, aids and assistive devices, AI for PwDs, Job mapping, entrepreneurship opportunities and disability sensitization.

PIB,SEP23,2023

Review of Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 3.0 preparation at the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare. Special focus on "Ease of Rules" for enhancing "Ease of Living" for Pensioners. As part of the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 2.0 (SCDPM 2.0), the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare have taken various steps to ensure Ease of Living for Pensioners during the period December 2022 to August 2023 as follows:

PG receipts and disposal: 91.40% of Public Grievances have been disposed of (48142 out of 52668 receipts).

Reference from MPs: 100% of references received from MPs have been disposed of.

Parliamentary Assurance: 100% of Parliamentary Assurances have been disposed of.

Total files weeded out: 75% of Physical files have been weeded out which were identified for weeding.

Under "Ease of Rule" category, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare issued 62 OMs for Ease of Living of pensioners.

Cleanliness campaign was conducted at 27 sites during the period.

Central Government Pensioners' Associations have participated in this campaign all over the Country.

The Department is committed to ensure Ease of Living through "Ease of Rule" and ensuring Swachhta in its premises on a continuous basis. It is gearing up to conduct Special Campaign 3.0 from 2nd October to 31st October, 2023 to further minimize pendency, institutionalize Swachhta, strengthen internal monitoring mechanisms and improve records

management. The department has identified targets of Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 3.0 (SCDPM 3.0):-

Public Grievances receipts:-5000

Physical files for review:- 1358

Electronic files for review:- 883

No. of Cleanliness Campaign to be conducted:- 50

No. of rules identified for simplification:- 50

This department will undertake an extensive Swachhta Campaign across Bharat through Central Government Pensioners' Associations and their affiliated Association

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP24, 2023

RBI likely to keep interest rate unchanged as inflation still high: Experts

The Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo on policy rates for the fourth time in a row at its bi-monthly monetary policy review meeting early next month, as retail inflation continues to remain high and the US Federal Reserve has decided to keep a hawkish stance for some more time, according to experts. The Reserve Bank had raised the benchmark repo rate to 6.5 per cent on February 8, 2023 and since then it has retained the rates at the same level in view of the stubbornly high retail inflation and certain global factors including elevated crude oil prices in the international market. The Reserve Bank Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting is scheduled for October 4-6, 2023. The last meeting of the MPC, the highest rate-setting panel, was in August. "We do expect the RBI to hold on to a status quo position this time as inflation is still high and liquidity tight. In fact, going by RBI forecast on inflation, it would be above 5 per cent in Q3 too, which will ensure that the status quo prevails for the calendar year for sure and probably Q4 too," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.

Sabnavis further said there are uncertainties relating to Kharif crop, especially on pulses, which can increase prices. "The comfort is that there is less concern on growth which is on target," he added. Although the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation eased a bit to 6.83 per cent in August from 7.44 per cent in the preceding month in July, it remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent. It may be mentioned that the government has mandated the RBI to keep inflation at 4 per cent with 2 per cent margin on either side. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Limited said the headline CPI inflation is expected to ease to 5.3-5.5 per cent in September 2023 from 6.8 per cent in August 2023, benefitting from the halving of the average price of tomatoes as well as a favourable base.... We expect the CPI inflation to ease to 5.6 per cent in Q3 FY2024 and further to 5.1 per cent in Q4 FY2024, amid upside risks to food inflation on account of the impact of uneven and sub-par monsoons and low reservoir levels on Kharif yields and Rabi sowing, respectively," she said. Nayar said ICRA expects the MPC to remain on hold in October 2023 policy, while continuing to demonstrate caution amid a cloudy outlook for food inflation and elevated crude oil prices. The Reserve Bank has projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, with Q2 at 6.2 per cent, Q3 at 5.7 per cent and Q4 at 5.2 per cent, with risks evenly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1, 2024-25 is projected at 5.2 per cent. On his expectations from the next bi-monthly monetary policy, Sanjay Bhutani, Director, Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) said the RBI has gone along with the market sentiment of retaining the benchmark interest rate at 6.5 per cent for quite some time now.

However, it's time for the central bank to contemplate a reduction of the interest rate with the objective of boosting growth, he said. "...if that is not possible in view of high retail inflation and the hawkish stance of the Federal Reserve, the medical technology sector, which is reeling under the burden of high debt, does expect the RBI to continue with the pause and at the same time provide some firm indication of easing rates in the near future," Bhutani opined. Sandeep Bagla, CEO, Trust Mutual Fund was of the opinion that the environment for interest rates has worsened considerably from MPC's last policy review in August. In the US and in India, the economy has shown resilient growth, and inflation numbers have risen beyond comfort levels. "While food prices have softened, crude oil prices have climbed up, thereby raising inflationary expectations as evidenced by sharp rise in US treasury yields. The MPC will consider all these factors and maintain status quo on repo rates, as headline inflation is expected to come down in the coming months," he said. The Reserve Bank mainly factors in the CPI-based inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy. The borrowing cost which started rising in May last year has stabilised with RBI keeping the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February, when it was raised from 6.25 per cent. Later in the next three bi-monthly policy reviews in April, June and August the benchmark rate was retained. The

MPC consists of three external members and three officials of the RBI. The external members on the panel are Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma. Besides Governor Das, the other , the other RBI officials in MPC are Rajiv Ranjan (Executive Director) and Michael Debabrata Patra (Deputy Governor).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,SEP18,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, while celebrating Chandrayaan success, India is at the same time also using Space Technology and its applications in various sectoral development projects

“Space Technology today has virtually entered every Indian household”: Dr Jitendra Singh India is laying down the targets such as on Climate Change, we have set the Net Zero target by 2070, and tomorrow we will be one of the major exporters of Hydrogen,

says Dr Jitendra Singh



“We had everything, but we were possibly waiting for an enabling milieu to happen... And that enabling milieu happened after Prime Minister Modi came in”: Dr Jitendra Singh

While celebrating Chandrayaan success, India is at the same time also using Space Technology and its applications in various sectoral development projects, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing a special session on "Emulating Chandrayaan-3 Success in Biomedical Sciences".



Space Technology today has virtually entered every Indian household, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said Space Applications is being utilised in almost all sectors such as Weather Forecasting and Disaster Management, Smart City project, Infrastructure Development, Railway Tracks & management of unmanned Railway Crossings, Roads & Buildings, Telemedicine, Governance, and most importantly, the 'Svamitva' GPS land-mapping. "It is in these last 7 to 8 years that we have shown the world how Space Technology & its scientific applications could be used for sectoral development... (We have to) make our boys and girls understand the huge enormous, collateral positives coming out of this. Now suddenly this technology has become available all across the country," he said, addressing the International Association of Pancreatology in New Delhi.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the virgin South Polar region of the Moon demonstrated before the world India's technological capability and talent through cost-effective means. The evidence of Mineral Elements like Sulphur, Cobalt, Hydrogen and Water Molecules by Chandrayaan-1 mission is being looked up by the entire scientific community across the globe because they expect some new inferences. Dr Jitendra Singh said today India is laying down the targets such as on Climate Change, we have set the Net Zero target by 2070, and tomorrow we will be one of the major exporters of Hydrogen.

"We have actually proved to the world we can meet you on your platform," he said, adding, "We are now no longer taking lead from others, we are in a position to give lead to the rest of the countries. So India is now ready to lead, the world is ready to be led. Now it's up to us, how much capacity do we have to lead. And that is why it is giving esteem to each and every citizen." Dr Jitendra Singh further said, India's quantum leap in the Space sector has only been possible after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took the courageous decision to "unlock" this sector from the "veil of secrecy".

With the unlocking of Space Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the common masses of the country have been able to witness the launch of the mega space events like Chandrayaan-3 or Aditya, some 10,000 students and common people came to see the Aditya launch and some 1,000 media persons were there during the Chandrayaan-3 landing on the moon. "We had everything, but we were possibly waiting for an enabling milieu to happen. And that enabling milieu had to come from the level of the policy makers, from the level of the political leadership and that happened after Prime Minister Modi came in," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a known Diabetologist and Professor of Medicine, said the ‘Anusandhan National Research Foundation’ (NRF) will have 70-80% of its funding from non-government sources.

PIB,SEP19,2023

C-DOT and CSIR-National Physical laboratory sign agreement for ‘Development of NavIC based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock for Telecom Sector

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and CSIR-National Physical laboratory (NPL) signed an agreement for ‘Development of NavIC based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock (PRTC) for Telecom Sector’.The agreement is signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme of the DoT for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.The project focuses on the development of a device which shall provide direct Indian Standard Time (IST) traceability to all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) within ± 20 ns. This shall benefit India in multiple ways starting from reducing the dependency on GPS, shifting to IRNSS/NavIC, digital forensic analysis of transactions, cyber secure networks, reduce call drops & further synchronise all the telecom services with one reference time source IST, developed by CSIR-NPL.Time synchronization of the telecom networks will be foundation for a strong cyber secured nation, as every bank transaction, stock market transactions and exchange of information is through the TSPs and ISPs. Development of NavIC based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock (PRTC) is an initiative which aims towards achieving the objective of “One nation One time”.

Speaking at the Agreement signing ceremony, Dr. Rajkumar Upadhyay, CEO, C-DOT underscored the tremendous potential of Indian R&D in developing futuristic innovative solutions for the benefit of our nation’s prosperity and improving the quality of life. He emphasized the need to collaborate in other areas of joint interest for realizing the vision of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”.The event was attended by Dr. Ashish Agarwal & Dr. K. K. Maurya, Senior Principal Scientists along with other senior scientists of NPL. Dr. Pankaj Kumar Dalela, Ms. Shikha Srivastava-Directors of C-DOT were also present during the agreement signing ceremony.Both C-DOT and CSIR-NPL

expressed their enthusiasm and reiterated their firm commitments towards taking this engagement further with a resounding success.

PIB,SEP21,2023

Government comes out with a new set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation known as “Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar”

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India. The Government of India has come out with a new set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation known as “Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar”. The objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) is to recognize the notable and inspiring contribution made by the scientists, technologists, and innovators individually or in teams in various fields of science, technology and technology- led innovation. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India. Scientists/ technologists/innovators working in government, private sector organizations or any individual working outside any organization, who have made distinguished contributions in terms of path-breaking research or innovation or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology- led innovation shall be eligible for the awards. People of Indian Origin staying abroad with exceptional contributions benefiting the Indian communities or society shall also be eligible for the awards. The awards shall be given in following four categories:-

Vigyan Ratna (VR) award will recognize lifetime achievements & contributions made in any field of science and technology.

Vigyan Shri (VS) award will recognize distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) award will recognize & encourage young scientists up to the age of 45 years who made an exceptional contribution in any field of science and technology.

Vigyan Team (VT) award to be given to a team comprising of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in any field of science and technology.

Scientists, technologists, and innovators working in any field of science in government or private organizations who have contributed or carried out a path breaking research, technology led innovation or discovery in any field of science or development of innovative technologies/products having significant societal impact shall be eligible for the award.

Scientists, technologists, and innovators of Indian origin abroad with exceptional contributions benefitting the Indian communities or society at large shall also be eligible. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be given in the 13 domains, namely Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and Others. The representation from each domain/field, including gender parity will be ensured. All nominations received for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards shall be placed before the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC) to be headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to Government of India and comprising Secretaries of Science Departments, members of Science and Engineering Academies and some distinguished scientists and technologists from different fields of science and technology. The nominations for this bouquet of awards will be invited every year on 14th January which would remain open till 28th February (National Science Day) every year. These awards shall be announced on 11th May (National Technology Day) every year. The Award Ceremony for all categories of awards will be held on 23rd August (National Space Day). All Awards will have a Sanad & a medal.

These new National Awards is a transformative step in recognizing achievements of Scientific community at the highest level by the Government of India. With transparency and fairness in the entire selection process, work done by all sections of Scientific Innovators and Technologists will be awarded providing at par status with other National Awards

PIB, SEP23, 2023

India is a role model for the world for its integrated in Preventive Healthcare, credits PM Modi for making India a world leader in preventive healthcare with first ever DNA vaccine for Covid: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Genomics is going to shape the future of India's healthcare: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Bio-economy has grown up to \$100 Billion, now India is targeting \$150 Billion by 2025: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Bio-Tech start-ups crucial to India's future economy: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Dr. Jitendra Singh Addresses ICMR-India Diabetes and Joint Diabetes program at Kashmir University

Graces the valedictory function of 'Genomics towards Better Health' Event

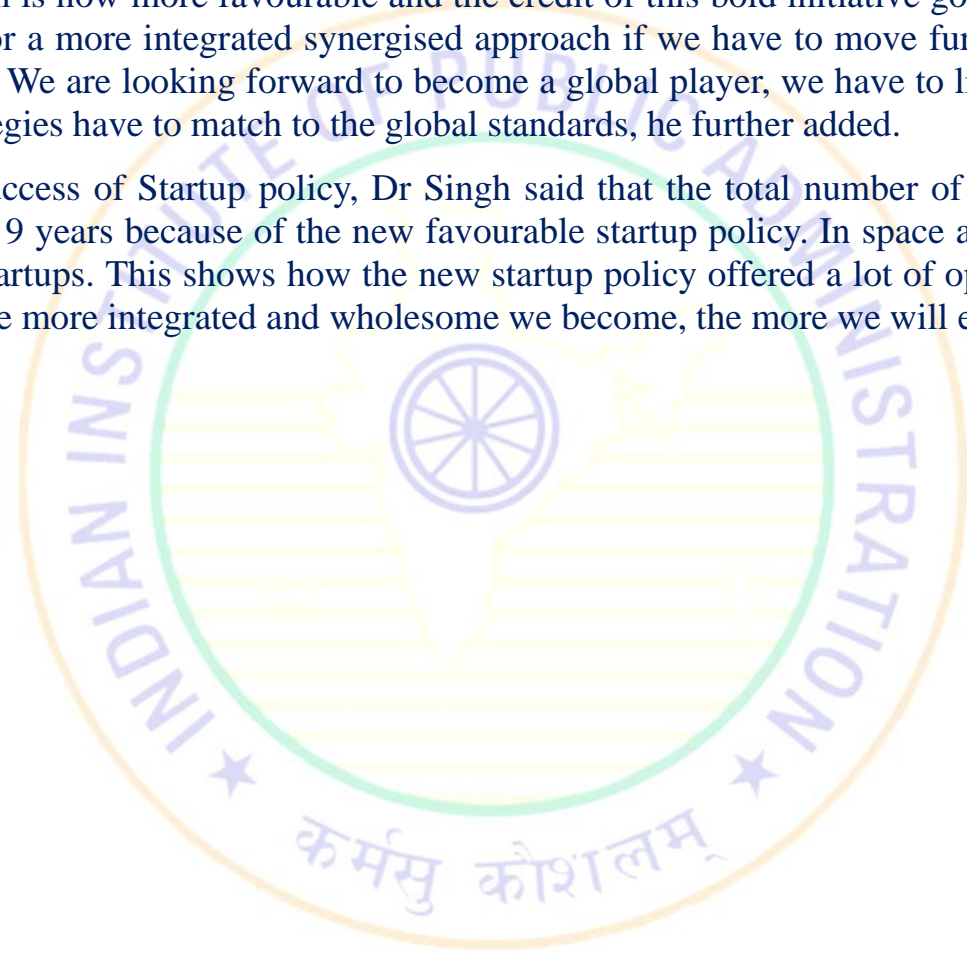
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said, India is a role model for the world for its integrated approach in preventive healthcare and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making India a world leader in 'Preventive Healthcare' by enabling Indian scientists to develop first ever DNA Vaccine for Covid and provide it to the other countries. The Minister also emphasised the importance of preventing Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and other lifestyle disorders in the young. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing ICMR-India Diabetes and Joint Diabetes program at Kashmir University & the valedictory function of 'Genomics towards Better Health' Event.

During his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Biotech Start-ups are crucial to India's future economy as Biotechnology as awakened by PM Modi has its own merits and potential to lead India. "India's bio-economy was just about \$8 Billion in 2014 and now under Prime Minister Narendra Modi we have at least awakened to the merits of Biotechnology and Bioeconomy which has grown up to \$100 Billion, now we are targeting \$150 Billion by 2025". Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

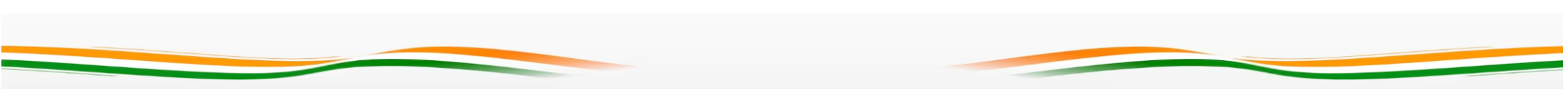
Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his speech, commended the organizers for orchestrating a well-designed and highly scientific program that delved into topics of current importance, laying the groundwork for breakthroughs in the field of genomics. He emphasized that genomics is no longer confined to the realm of research but has a profound impact on precision and personalized medicine. India, he noted, is making significant strides in comprehending the role of genetics across various domains, particularly in healthcare. Highlighting the pivotal role played by the "GenomIndia" project, one of the flagship initiatives of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the efforts of Dr. Ashraf Ganie leading the project, which is poised to improve our understanding and research further in the field. Addressing the gathering Dr. Jitendra Singh said that both the institutions, CSIR and Kashmir University jointly collaborating for a project here today, have a rich legacy and have marched with the times along with the journey of independent India. Dr. Singh Said that this event is being held when the entire nation is basking under the success of Chandrayan. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, science and scientists have gained immense respect and recognition in India. This underscores the

positive developments and advancements taking place in the country, he added. Dr. Singh talked about the National Education Policy 2020 which will ensure that the coming generation will get the best of the aptitude and talent particularly in the area of research and innovation. Earlier the education system was not flexible and did not give us enough opportunity but now the whole ecosystem is now more favourable and the credit of this bold initiative goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I have been pushing for a more integrated synergised approach if we have to move further from where we are today we have to grow holistically. We are looking forward to become a global player, we have to live up to the global challenges and parameters and our strategies have to match to the global standards, he further added.

While speaking about the success of Startup policy, Dr Singh said that the total number of startups have sprung up from 35400 to 125000 just in 8 to 9 years because of the new favourable startup policy. In space alone, in 4 years we have gone up from 4 start ups to 150 startups. This shows how the new startup policy offered a lot of opportunities encouraging more startups to come forward. The more integrated and wholesome we become, the more we will excel.







Dr. Singh highlighted that this is now a time when the world is ready for an integrated approach. India gave the world the first DNA COVID vaccine but what is exciting and amazing is that this country which hardly believes in protective healthcare. It is amazing to know that the same nation which didn't have much aptitude for therapeutic healthcare has become a leader in preventive healthcare and a frontline nation in terms of research and the world is recognising us. Genomics is another step towards that preventive strategies we are going to have in the future. Insulin resistance is the main hallmark to prevent diseases and I am sure we will widen this project and we will also integrate these two three studies so that we can benefit from each other's inputs. Dr. Singh hoped for efforts for an integrated approach in future. We have to learn to put our inputs and work cultures together otherwise we won't be able to achieve the wholesome output, that is the hallmark. The government has come up with The Anusandhan National Research Foundation of which the Kashmir university and other institutions can make best use of it. Dr. Jitendra Singh closed his address by underlining the pressing need for more such innovative programs and institutions for non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes. He stressed the necessity of dedicated diabetes institutions for research and training, ultimately contributing to better healthcare and well-being for all.

The valedictory function at Kashmir University marked an important milestone in the journey toward leveraging genomics for better health and tackling the diabetes epidemic that looms large on the horizon.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,SEP21,2023

ICG Pollution-Control Vessel 'Samudra Prahari' carries out Pollution Response Table-Top exercise with Thai officials at Khlong Toei Port in Bangkok

Showcases India's maritime expertise & commitment towards addressing shared challenges

Ship's crew, along with NCC cadets & Embassy officials, conduct clean-up activity at Pattaya Beach as part of Puneet Sagar Abhiyan

Highlighting India's maritime expertise and commitment towards addressing shared challenges, particularly marine pollution, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Pollution-Control Vessel 'Samudra Prahari' carried out a comprehensive Pollution Response Table-Top exercise and demonstration at Khlong Toei Port in Bangkok, Thailand on September 20, 2023, the final of its four-day visit. The exercise involved personnel from Thailand's Maritime Enforcement Coordination Centre (MECC), Customs Department, Marine Department, Royal Navy, Fisheries Department and other government officials. The exercise involved a scenario that devised and tested Thailand's Maritime Pollution Response contingency plan in collaboration with the ICG. It fostered knowledge sharing and an interactive environment among the services, ensuring seamless cooperation during real-life oil pollution scenarios. The exercise demonstrated ICG's pollution response capabilities and India's shared commitment towards the region. Ahead of the exercise, a joint yoga session was conducted on the helo deck of the ship, involving embassy officials and Thai-MECC representatives. The participants were enlightened about the significance of incorporating Yoga into their daily lives, emphasising its unifying power and numerous benefits.

During the visit, the ship's crew, along with National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and representatives from the Embassy of India actively engaged in an international outreach beach clean-up activity at Pattaya Beach. The initiative was part of the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, a nationwide flagship campaign of NCC to clean sea shores of plastic & other waste material, while raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness. The activity saw the collaboration of local Thai youth organisations in promoting environmental responsibility.

Commanding Officer DIG GD Raturi also held a meeting with Director General of Office of Policy and Plans Rear Admiral Wichnu Thupa-ang at Thai-MECC Headquarters. Both the leaders discussed growing relations between India and Thailand in the field of maritime safety and security.

The visit of 'Samudra Prahari' to Bangkok under the India- ASEAN initiative marks a significant milestone in elevating the ties between the ICG and Thai MECC in maritime domain and highlighting India as a dependable maritime partner, in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) and the theme of India's G20 Presidency 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future'. The India-ASEAN Initiative of Overseas Deployment was announced by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh during the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus meeting in Cambodia in November 2022.

PIB,SEP23,2023

Haryana to bring down fire counts substantially and will attempt near elimination this year, as per the Haryana State Action Plan for Management of Paddy Stubble Burning submitted to CAQM

During the current harvesting season, the State envisages to manage paddy straw in 5 lakh acres through bio-decomposer application

Government of Haryana is implementing various financial incentives and schemes to bring down the cases of paddy stubble burning substantially. In the last review meeting, Commission for Air Quality Management, (CAQM) further directed State Government including DCs concerned to ensure effective, intensified and strict enforcement of the District Plans and State Action Plan, with special focus on hotspot districts and keep a close monitoring on daily basis to eliminate stubble burning in the State. Out of the 22 Districts of Haryana, in 09 Districts, the incidents of farm fires are nil or very minimal as per 2022 data on stubble burning. In respect of 04 Districts namely Palwal, Panipat, Rohtak and Sonapat, farm fires incidents have been brought down below 100, last year. The hotspot Districts where the farm fire incidents are more than 500 are Fatehabad, Kaithal and Jind. The other Districts of concern are Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Ambala, Yamuna Nagar and Hisar.

Envisioning drastic reduction of stubble burning incidents in Haryana through effective enforcement of the State Action Plan, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM), has recently taken stock of preparedness of the Haryana Government to bring down stubble burning cases drastically during the paddy harvesting season of current year. During the meeting, State Government Secretaries In-charge of Departments concerned including Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) and District Collectors (DCs) concerned assured the Commission to take all necessary steps, actions and measures in right earnest to effectively implement the State Action Plan to achieve drastic reduction in case of stubble burning during the current paddy harvesting season. As per the State Action Plan, the total area under Paddy is estimated to be 14.82 Lakh hectares and a paddy straw generation of non-basmati paddy is expected to be more than 7.3 million tonnes.

Four (04) meetings have already been held by CAQM to finalize the action plan and review the preparedness and implementation of State and District Action Plans for the current paddy harvesting season. This year, CAQM has also sought the District-wise Action Plans along with the State Action Plan. CAQM has also issued Statutory Directions for strict implementation of Action Plan. During the latest review meeting DCs of Districts concerned assured that mechanisms are in place towards management of straw in their respective districts through In-situ and Ex-situ management. The status of availability of machinery was also deliberated upon, alongside the use of straw as fodder and management of straw through bio-decomposer application. Haryana is currently having more than 80,000 crop residue management machineries. The overall availability of machines and procurement of new machines were also reviewed. Optimal utilization of machines by mapping of demand and supply was reiterated in the review meeting. Based on the satellite data for Kharif Season 2022, hot spot villages and Districts have been identified for the current year as part of micro planning based on active fire location (AFL):

Zone

No. of Villages

Red (6 & above AFL)

147

Yellow (2-5 AFL)

582

Green (0-1 AFL)

6175

Most of the Red Zone Villages are located in the Districts of Fatehabad (49), Kaithal (36), Jind (24), Sirsa (11) and Karnal (10). Various financial incentives and schemes are being implemented in the State of Haryana to achieve substantial reduction of paddy residue burning during the current harvesting season. They include:

Incentive @ Rs. 1000/- per acre for in-situ / ex-situ management of paddy crop residue;

Incentive @ Rs. 7000/- per acre for diversification of paddy area with alternative crops under Mera Pani Meri Virasat scheme;

Incentive @ Rs. 4000/- per acre for adoption of direct seeding of rice;

Grant of Rs. 1,00,000/- for achieving Zero Burning to Red Zone Panchayats;

Grant of Rs. 50,000/- for achieving Zero Burning to Yellow Zone Panchayats;

Transportation charges of Bales @ Rs 500/- per acre limited to max of

Rs. 15,000/- to Gaushalas;

Special provisions of providing subsidy to the clusters identified for 2G ethanol plant;

Fixation of rates for procurement of paddy crop residue @ Rs. 2,500 per tonne. State Government has also taken initiative to manage 5 lakh acre paddy area through Pusa Bio Decomposer and State Government will provide Pusa bio decomposer kits to the farmers, free of cost. With the State Action Plan for the control on paddy stubble burning in place, Haryana is expected to witness drastic decline of the paddy stubble burning cases during this year. State Government representatives including Haryana State Pollution Control Board and DCs have assured that all preparations are in place to control the situation.

CAQM has repeatedly directed State Government officials including Deputy Commissioners and HSPCB to ensure effective and strict enforcement of the State Action Plan, especially in the districts where fire counts were comparatively high in the last year namely Fatehabad, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Sirsa.



CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,SEP18,2023

India's presidency of G20 has been inclusive, ambitious and people-centric, says the Vice-President

Outcomes of G20 Summit are transformational, will help reshape the global order in coming decades-VP

Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha congratulates the nation at the commencement of the 261st session of the Council of States

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today congratulated the nation for successfully conducting the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi. Lauding the outcomes of the Summit as 'transformational', he expressed his conviction that these outcomes would help in reshaping of the global order in the decades to come. Addressing the House at the commencement of the 261st session of the Rajya Sabha, the Vice-President stressed that India's presidency of G20 had elevated the nation's stature on the global stage. Noting that this presidency had been 'inclusive, ambitious and people-centric', he expressed his appreciation for the vision of the leadership that had truly made it 'People's G20', with its reach extending across all States and Union Territories of India.

Drawing attention to the New Delhi G20 Leaders' Declaration, which was adopted unanimously and with consensus, the Vice-President underlined the global acknowledgement of India's role in 'bridging the North-South divide and overcoming the strong East-West polarisation'. The declaration is thus a recognition of India as a voice of peace and moderation in a world ridden with divisions, the Vice-President emphasised. Making special mention of the India-Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor and the Global Biofuels Alliance during the Summit, the Vice-President drew attention to a host of initiatives that have sown the seeds for a more connected future with a key leadership role for India. He also highlighted how India's Presidency had been instrumental in 'bringing the voice of the Global South into the heart of the G20 discourse'. The African Union being accepted as a permanent member of the G20 is also the outcome of the initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he elaborated.

Highlighting that the focus of G20 has shifted from a mere economic centric to a much broader human-centric approach, the Vice-President commended the priority accorded to realizing Sustainable Development Goals, establishing digital public infrastructure, promoting a Green Development Pact and encouraging women-led development, among other notable steps. In view of the upcoming Parliament-20 forum, he called upon members of the House to participate in welcoming the world to the 'Mother of Democracy' and building on the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

PIB,SEP18,2023

Shri Apurva Chandra unveils "People's G20", an eBook on India's G20 Presidency

Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting today unveiled "People's G20", an eBook on India's G20 Presidency in New Delhi. The book was released in the presence of Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau Shri Manish Desai and other senior Officers of Ministry of I&B and PIB. The book presents a complete journey of India's G20 Presidency. The book consists of three parts, the first part dealing with the monumental G20 Summit that was held between September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi. The book encapsulates the structure and working of G20 and elaborates on the initiatives that have been taken under India's Presidency of the grouping. The second part provides a summary of the meetings of various Working Groups under the Sherpa and Finance Track along with the meetings of the Engagement Groups that have been held across the country over the last year since India took over as the Chair.

The last part of the eBook presents a photo essay of the Jan-Bhagidari events that were held across the country in the past year transforming India's G20 Presidency into a people-powered movement.

The book is accessible at the following URL:

https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/People_g20_flipbook/index.html

PIB,SEP18,2023

Under the visionary leadership of Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Department of Rural Development is participating in upcoming Swachhata Campaign 3.0

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances releases guidelines to implement Special Campaign 3.0 from 2nd October to 31st October

Under the visionary leadership of Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, department of Rural Development is gearing up for the upcoming Swachhata Campaign 3.0 to further institutionalise cleanliness and reduce pending matters within the Department and in its Autonomous body. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has released guidelines to implement the Special Campaign 3.0 from 2nd October to 31st October, 2023, in order to achieve the goals of institutionalizing Swachhta and reducing pendency in Government offices. The Department of Rural Development (DoRD) is participating in the aforementioned Campaign 3.0, as well as in the campaign's Preparatory Phase, which begins on September 15, 2023.

Department of Rural Development, in its secretariat as well as in the Autonomous Office under its administrative authority, also took part in the Special Campaign 2.0 for the disposal of pending references and promoting Swachhta during 2nd October, 2022 to 31st October, 2022. Pendency in a variety of categories, including VIP References, Inter Ministerial Consultation (IMC) References, State Government References, PMO References, Public Grievances, and Public Grievance Appeals, was efficiently handled during the Special Campaign's implementation phase. The Identified files were reviewed. The campaign's accomplishments were also uploaded on the Special Campaign 2.0 for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM) Portal of DARPG. The efforts under the Special Campaign were posted on Social media which was used to promote the campaign as well.

The efforts under Special Campaign 2.0 were continued post campaign from the period December, 2022 to August, 2023. The highlights of the achievements in terms of disposal of pending references during December, 2022 to August, 2023 are as follows:

MP references - 155

Public Grievances - 13,313

Public Grievances Appeal - 3,112

Space freed - 2,242 sq. ft.

Revenue Generated - ₹ 17,04,828

PIB,SEP19,2023

"Parliament's Central Hall was witness to India's march from pre to post independence and whenever I crossed through it, which I did very often because that was a short route between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, I always consciously looked at the plaque carrying the inscription which mentioned that the Constituent Assembly of India sat in this hall from December 1946 to January 1950 to frame the constitution of India. Looking at this plate each time gave me a feeling of a brush with history": Dr Jitendra Singh

“It witnessed the sittings of the Imperial Central Assembly during the British Rule, the Constituent Assembly sittings also took place in the Central Hall of Parliament and after Independence in 1947, the Old Parliament emerged as the hub of the highest seat of democracy” .Dr Jitendra Singh hailed the proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to name the old Parliament House as "Samvidhan Sadan". It was very thoughtful of PM Modi , he said.

"Parliament's Central Hall was witness to India's march from pre to post independence and whenever I crossed through it, which I did very often because that was a short route between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, I always consciously looked at the plaque carrying the inscription which mentioned that the Constituent Assembly of India sat in this hall from December 1946 to January 1950 to frame the constitution of India. Looking at this plate each time gave me a feeling of a brush with history". This was the instant spontaneous sentiment expresses by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh when he left the old parliament building this afternoon to shift to the new parliament building.Speaking to the media at the entrance of the new parliament building, Dr Jitendra Singh reminisced the time spent in the old parliament house. It is not only the personal bond that we MPs shared amongst ourselves, but even the bricks and walls of that building had stories and anecdotes to tell right from British times, down to the tenures of India 15 Prime Ministers after independence, he said.“It witnessed the sittings of the Imperial Central Assembly during the British Rule, the Constituent Assembly sittings also took place in the Central Hall of Parliament and after Independence in 1947, the Old Parliament emerged as the hub of the highest seat of democracy,” said Dr Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, “All MPs not only share emotional relationship with the Old Parliament, but also there is a special bonding with its precincts,” he said. “The Old Parliament building will remain immortal for all times to come,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh hailed the proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to name the old Parliament House as "Samvidhan Sadan". It was very thoughtful of PM Modi , he said.

About shifting to the new parliament building, Dr Jitendra Singh said it was a momentous occasion for the present Members of Parliament of the 17th Lok Sabha as we are blessed with the privilege to serve a part of our term from the Old Parliament building and from today the latter part of the term in the new Parliament building.

This day marks a turning point in the history of India’s parliamentary democracy, said the Minister.

Turning nostalgic, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled taking the route through Central Hall of Parliament over a hundred times while shuttling between the two Houses, - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. “Whenever I crossed the Central Hall, I could not escape attention of the plaque at Central Hall with the inscription that the Constituent Assembly sat here from December 1946 to January 1950. Today I consciously took back this passage to have a date with history,” he said.



Thanking Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman for accepting the proposal, Dr Jitendra Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi thoughtfully suggested the renaming of Old Parliament as Samvidhan Sadan due to its pride of place in Indian democracy.

PIB,SEP20,2023

‘Swachhata’ does not add to costs but boosts productivity and conserves resources, says Dr Jitendra Singh

About 90 lakh square feet space cleared and Government earned a revenue of over Rs. 370 crores from sale of scrap during the last two Swachhata campaigns

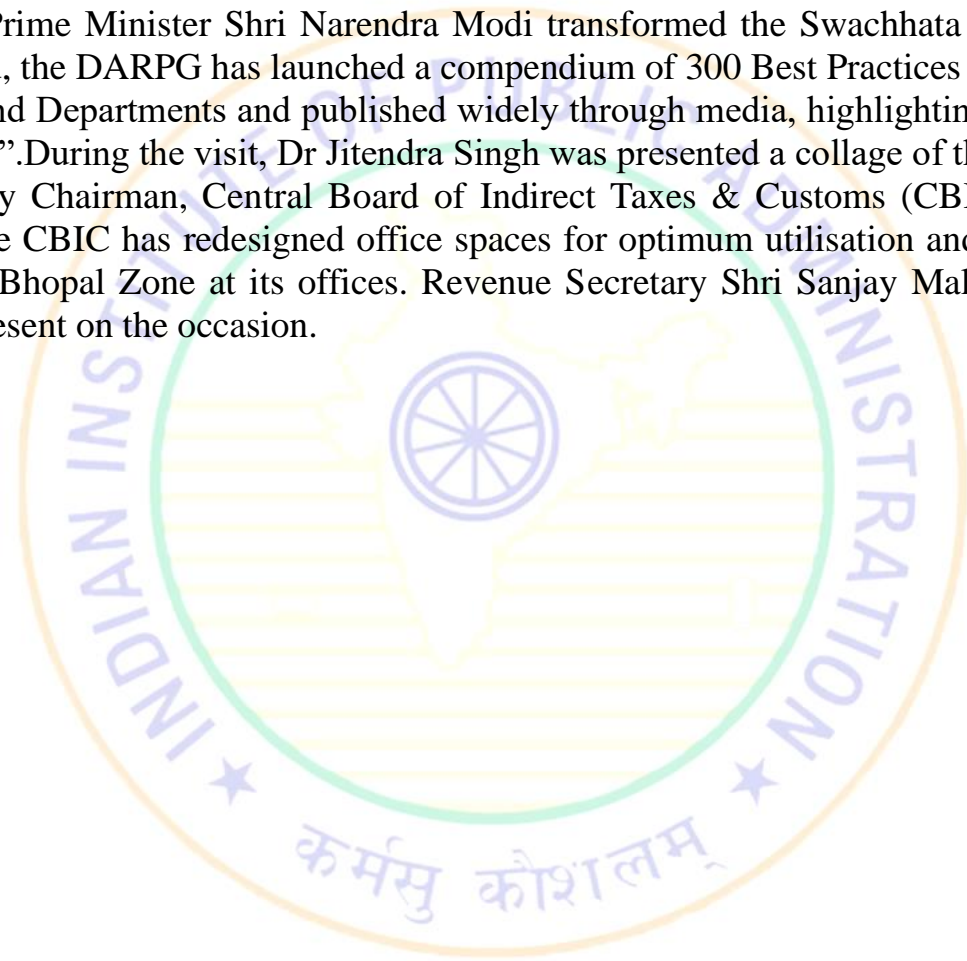
Union Minister directs senior officers to aim for reducing pendency in Government Offices with a saturation approach during the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0

“PM Modi transformed the Swachhata campaign into a Jan Andolan”

‘Swachhata’, viz Cleanliness, does not add to costs but, in fact, boosts productivity and conserves resources, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, during his visit to the Finance Ministry offices in North Block to oversee preparations for the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0. He directed senior officers to aim for reducing pendency in Government Offices with a saturation approach. The Union Minister said, close to 90 lakh square feet of prime office space has been cleared during the last two Swachhata campaigns and put into productive usage. Besides, the Government generated a revenue of Rs. 370.83 crores from disposal of scrap, 64.92 lakh files were reviewed, 4.56 lakh Public Grievances Redressed and 8,998 MPs’ references replied. Swachhata campaign also spurred eOffice work culture in the Government and now over 90% file work has been made online. The Government of India has announced Special campaign 3.0 from 2nd October, 2023, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, till 31st October, 2023. The Campaign is a sequel of the Special campaigns conducted in the last two years.

Special Campaign 3.0 will focus on field/outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having public interface, in addition to the Ministries/Departments and their attached/subordinate offices. Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is the Nodal Department for implementation of Special Campaign 3.0.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi transformed the Swachhata campaign into a Jan Andolan within a few months. He said, the DARPG has launched a compendium of 300 Best Practices which will be implemented by all Government Ministries and Departments and published widely through media, highlighting 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Science' approach". During the visit, Dr Jitendra Singh was presented a collage of the activities undertaken during the Special Campaign 2.0 by Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Shri Sanjay Agarwal. He apprised the Minister that the CBIC has redesigned office spaces for optimum utilisation and a rooftop garden & cafeteria has been created by CGST, Bhopal Zone at its offices. Revenue Secretary Shri Sanjay Malhotra and Secretary, DARPG, Shri V. Srinivas were also present on the occasion.





Special Campaign 3.0 will focus on field/outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having public interface, in addition to the Ministries/Departments and their attached/subordinate offices. Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) is the Nodal Department for implementation of Special Campaign 3.0. The Cabinet Secretary has addressed all Secretaries of Government of India on 25th August, 2023 and DARPG guidelines for the same were issued on 1st September, 2023.

PIB,SEP23,2023

English rendering of PM's interaction with ground level functionaries of G20 Summit

Some of you may not admit that you were fatigued at all. Well, I have no intention of taking up much of your time. But such a grand success has been achieved, the name of the country has been illuminated, and praise is pouring in from all sides. All of you are those people who were behind it, who put in day and night, and, as a result, this success has been achieved. It is akin to when a player goes to the Olympic podium and wins a medal, and the name of the country shines, the applause for that continues for a long time. Similarly, all of you have together illuminated the name of the country. Perhaps people may not even realize how many people were involved in organising this event and how much work was done under what circumstances. And most of you are likely the ones who have never had the opportunity to work on such a large event before. In a way, you had to also imagine the event, think about the likely problems and what could be done to resolve them. What should be the response in different circumstances? You had to consider many things in your own way. That's why I have a special request for all of you: Will you leave at that what you have accomplished?

Some of you may have been involved in this project for three to four years, or for four months only. You should record everything since the day when you were briefed and the time you took to undertake this project. You should write down everything. A website should be created. Everyone should write in their own language, in which they are comfortable with, how they managed to do this work, how they perceived it, what shortcomings they noticed, and if any problems arose, how they found solutions. If your experiences are recorded, it can serve as a valuable guideline for future projects and institutions. In the future, they can use it as a resource material while carrying out any responsibilities at this scale.

Therefore, I urge you to write down everything in detail and meticulously, no matter if it takes even 100 pages. You can store it in the cloud, where there's plenty of space. Your experiences will prove to be very useful. I hope such a system is created and everybody should benefit from it. However, I want to hear from you, I want to know your experiences, if any of you want to initiate.

For example, you have been assigned to take care of flowerpots. If this feeling emerges and this spirit is born, the upkeep of flowerpots will ensure the success of the G20. Any mess-up with the arrangement of the flowerpots could cast a shadow on the G20. Therefore, this is a crucial responsibility. If you consider that no task is small for you then success starts kissing your feet.

Friends,

Similarly, you should openly share and discuss your experiences with your colleagues in every department and listen to other people's experiences as well. It is very beneficial. Sometimes when you are alone, you may think, "I have done a lot of work. If I weren't there, what would have happened to the G20?" But when everyone hears each other's stories, it becomes clear that others did more than what you did. You would find that they were working harder during the tough times. It is then that you realize that what you did was good, but others also did a splendid job and that's how this success could be achieved. The moment we recognize someone else's capabilities, understand their efforts, envy fades away, and we get an opportunity to look within ourselves. "Well, till yesterday, I was assuming that I did everything, but today I found out that so many other people have also contributed." It's true that you would not have appeared on TV, your photos would not have been published in the newspapers, and your achievements would not have been discussed. You would be feeling that only those people hogged the limelight who did not shed any sweat and those who have expertise in it whereas all the work was carried out by us the labourers. Today's program is a celebration of "Mazdoor Ekta" (labourers' unity). I might be a slightly bigger labourer, and you might be smaller labourers, but ultimately, we are all labourers. You must have also experienced the joy of this hard work. I mean, even on the night of the 10th or the 11th, if someone had called you and said something, you wouldn't have felt like, "Why is he bothering me? The work is already done." Instead, you would have thought, "No, no, something must be pending, let me do it." It's this spirit, you know, which is our greatest strength.

Friends,

Many of you have worked before as well. Many of you have been working in the government for 15-20-25 years. Most of you may have been tied to your desk, dealing with files, maybe exchanging greetings with your colleagues nearby while handing over files. Perhaps you have discussed your children's education during lunchtime or tea breaks. But, we often don't get to discover the capabilities of our colleagues when we are involved in routine office work. Even after spending 20 years together, we may not know what additional skills and abilities are hidden within others because we are confined to a prototype job.

When we work in such opportunities, we have to think anew every moment. New responsibilities emerge, new challenges arise, and solving them becomes a part of the routine. And when we see a colleague in action, it feels like there's excellent quality in him. This kind of shoulder-to-shoulder work in any field is beneficial for the success of any governance. It eliminates silos, both vertical and horizontal, and forms a team naturally. You may have been working for many years, but this time you might have stayed up late at night, sat around, and maybe even searched for tea near the sidewalk during the G20 project. Among the new colleagues you met, you would not have come across in your 15 or 20 years of work experience. You must have met many colleagues with fresh capabilities in this project. Therefore, we should always look for opportunities to work together.

For example, as we can see, a cleanliness campaign is going on in all departments. If everyone in the department, including the secretary, steps out of their chambers and participates in this campaign, you will see that the atmosphere will change completely. You won't feel like work; it will feel like a festival. Let's clean up our homes, tidy up our offices, take out files from our desks – it's a joyful task. And I often say to everyone, let's have a department picnic once a year. Just take a day trip nearby, spend 24 hours together.

There is tremendous power in unity. When you're alone, no matter how much you do, you sometimes think, "Should I be doing all this alone? Am I responsible for everything? Everyone else gets their salaries, and I have to do all the work." Such thoughts come to mind when you're alone. But when you're with everyone, you realize that there are many people like you who contribute to success, whose efforts keep organizations running smoothly.

Friends,

Another important thing is that we as seniors should always step out of the world of hierarchy and protocols that exist and think about the people we work with. We often can't imagine what capabilities those people have. When you recognize the strength of your colleagues, you achieve remarkable results. Try this exercise at your office. I suggest you a game and you do it. For example, there are 20 colleagues with whom you are working in your department. You maintain a diary for a day. Then, one by one, ask each of the 20 colleagues to write down in the diary their full names, where they are originally from, what work they handle here, and what extraordinary qualities or skills they possess. Don't ask them directly; instead, observe what you know about them and put it in the diary. Later, read what those 20 colleagues have written about themselves. You'll be amazed to know that you were not aware of their qualities. You might say things like their handwriting is good, they are punctual, or they are polite, but you might not have noticed the deeper qualities they possess. Try it once, and you'll have an incredible experience. You will find extraordinary qualities that exist in your colleagues. It's like having an external perspective on imagination.

Friends, I have been working in human resources for years, and I've never had the opportunity to work with machines. My work has always been related to working with people, so I can understand these concepts well. However, these opportunities are extremely important from a capacity-building perspective. If an event is conducted correctly, it can yield great results. Otherwise, the common refrain is that things have been going on for ages and it will also be done this time. What happens with that approach? There are two experiences in front of our country in this regard. One, a few years ago, we hosted the Commonwealth Games. If you ask anyone about the Commonwealth Games, you'll get an idea of how people of Delhi or those from outside Delhi perceive about these games. Those of you who are seniors may remember that event. It was truly an opportunity to brand our country, create an identity, enhance our capabilities, and showcase our strengths. However, unfortunately, the event got mired in controversies and mismanagement, leading to a tarnished image for our country. It also left a sense of disillusionment and a belief among people and those in the government that such endeavours were beyond us.

On the other hand, with the G20, it's not like there were no shortcomings. It's not as if everything went exactly as planned, and every goal was achieved with a score of 99 or 100. In some cases, we may have scored 94, 99, and in some cases even 102. But the cumulative effect of these efforts was significant. The overall impact was that it showcased our country's capabilities and showed the world our potential. The success of such events is in the cumulative effect they have, not just in

getting 10 editorials published. Modi is least bothered about it. What brings me joy is that there is now a belief in my country that we can accomplish any task effectively.

In the past, whenever there was a calamity or a need to work on humanitarian issues anywhere, we would find the Western world hogging the limelight. People would say that if something happened in some part of the world, this or that Western country, with its resources and capabilities, stepped in and helped. Our country was rarely mentioned. Major Western countries were the ones in the spotlight. However, we have seen a change. When earthquakes struck Nepal and our people went there to assist, when cyclones hit Fiji and our teams responded, when Sri Lanka faced a crisis and we sent aid, when the Maldives had an electricity crisis and our teams quickly provided help, when Yemen was in dire straits and we sent assistance, when Turkey experienced an earthquake, and when there was a rapid response from our people, all of these instances have instilled a belief in the world that Bharat is capable of making a difference in humanitarian efforts. In times of crisis, Bharat reaches out to the world, and this has built trust and confidence in our capabilities worldwide. When the earthquake struck Jordan recently, I was very much occupied with the summit. However, despite my busy schedule, I made a phone call to officials early in the morning and inquired about how we could assist Jordan. I asked them to prepare our aircraft and equipment, figure out what we need to take, and identify the team that would go. Everything was ready on our end. On one hand, the G20 summit was happening, and on the other hand, preparations were underway to provide aid to Jordan. This demonstrates our capability. Jordan, recognizing its topography, informed us that they wouldn't require the kind of assistance we were preparing to offer. Finally, we did not have to go there. They managed their situation without our intervention.

My point is that where we were once invisible, where our name didn't even come up, we have achieved that status in such a short time. We need global exposure. Now, here we all are sitting here – the entire council of ministers, all the secretaries – and the program is structured in such a way that you are sitting in the front whereas others are sitting behind you. It's the opposite of how it usually happens. And this is what brings me joy because when I look at you from here it means our foundation is strong. Even if there's some disturbance at the top, it won't matter much. And that's why, my colleagues, now we will work with competence and our every endeavour will be in the global context. Now, look at the G20 Summit – there were one lakh people from around the world who came here, and there were the crucial teams of their respective countries. They were part of the decision-making teams. And they came here, saw Bharat and celebrated its diversity. It is not that they won't go back to their countries and keep these experiences to themselves; no, they will go back and become ambassadors

for the tourism of our country. You might think that you just greeted them when they arrived and asked what you could do for them. Would they like to have some tea or things like that? It might seem like a simple gesture, but by greeting him, asking him if he'd like tea, and fulfilling any of his needs, you've sown the seed for him to become an ambassador for Bharat. You've done such a significant service. He will become the ambassador of Bharat and wherever he goes, and he will say, "Bharat is like this, Bharat has these things. In technology, Bharat is far ahead". He will surely mention that. My point is that we have the opportunity to take tourism to a whole new level in our country.

PIB,SEP23,2023

PM to inaugurate 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' on 23rd September in New Delhi

Conference is being organised for the first time in the country

Theme of the conference: 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23rd September, 2023 at 10 AM. Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion.

International Lawyer's Conference 2023 is being organised by the Bar Council of India on the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System' on 23rd - 24th September, 2023. The conference aims to serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue and discussion on various legal topics of national and international importance, foster exchange of ideas and experiences, and strengthen international cooperation and understanding on legal issues. The conference, which is being organised for the first time in the country, will discuss topics such as emerging legal trends, challenges in cross-border litigation, legal technology, environmental law etc. The programme will witness the participation of distinguished judges, legal professionals, and leaders of the global legal fraternity.

PIB,SEP23,2023

One week training programme on public policy and governance for the senior civil servants of Gambia completed in partnership with MEA

So far 79 Sr. Civil Servants from Gambia received training at NCGG

The one-week training programme on public policy and governance for the senior civil servants of Gambia concluded in New Delhi. The programme was attended by 30 permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and directors from Gambia. An MoU was signed between DARPG and Gambia Public Service Commission to train Civil servants of Gambia.

In the Valedictory Session, Shri V Srinivas, Secretary DARPG and DPPW & DG, NCGG was the Chief Guest. In his address, Shri V Srinivas emphasized on the importance of technology in transforming the lives of citizens. He called for creating a conceptual framework to meet the needs and expectations of people and work for the holistic development in the country. He also highlighted the importance of building relationships and creating an enabling environment among countries by forging partnerships. He also emphasized that NCGG is working to enhance the capacity of civil servants by providing them with the necessary knowledge, impart skills and by bringing attitudinal changes to perform their duties effectively.

In his address, he highlighted how this training programme is meticulously curated with the primary objective of facilitating the exchange of knowledge and innovative practices that have been successfully implemented in India to enhance digital governance and public service delivery. The DG urged the participating officers to identify 4–5 key learnings from the training programme that they can adapt and replicate, with necessary modifications based on their specific needs. During the valedictory ceremony Mr. Mustapha Jawara, High Commissioner of the Republic of The Gambia appreciated the training programme in every sphere. He expressed the need to collaborate with various institutions of India which will help in providing people-centric governance to improve the quality of life of people in Gambia. He requested to organize some more training programmes in future to Civil servants of Gambia having duration of two weeks. He also emphasized how India is working closely with Gambia as a partner, which is helping people of Gambia.

Dr. A. P. Singh, course coordinator, in his address, highlighted the topics covered in the training programme. Among the topics covered is the Artificial Intelligence in Government, digital governance in healthcare, housing for all, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), insights on good governance, I-startup Rajasthan: a case study of Rajasthan, digital public infrastructure and India- Africa relations, among others. He also highlighted that the participants of the programme had the valuable opportunity to partake in exposure visits, which proved to augment their overall learning journey. Among the planned visits were the Research and Information System for developing countries, NITI Aayog, and AIIMS, among others.

The entire capacity building programme was supervised by Dr. A. P. Singh, Course Coordinator for Bangladesh, Dr. Mukesh Bhandari, Associate course Coordinator, Shri Sanjay Dutta Pant, Programme Assistant and the capacity building team of NCGG.

PIB,SEP23,2023

Fourth Gender Samvaad was co-organized by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission ((DAY-NRLM) and Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE) yesterday

Fourth Gender Samvaad is a unique attempt to establish a shared platform to generate awareness on DAY-NRLM's gender interventions across the country

The fourth Gender Samvaad was co-organized by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development and Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE) yesterday here. Gender Samvaad, is a unique, joint attempt between DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE to establish a shared platform to generate awareness on DAY-NRLM's gender interventions across the country, with a focus on hearing voices from the states and of SHG members. The virtual event brought together over 8000 participants, including senior officials MoRD, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of Bihar and state government officials, practitioners, gender experts, academia, civil society actors, and members of self-help groups.

In his keynote address, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Charanjit Singh expressed concerns over the statistics on gender based violence and emphasised on the role that community based institutions can play in addressing this issue. He also stressed on inter-ministerial convergence to address Gender Based Violence, especially with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Education for awareness generation and sensitisation. Joint Secretary, DAY-NRLM, Smt. Smriti Sharan highlighted the extensive efforts undertaken by DAY-NRLM in empowering women and creating model institutions to address women's issues in rural areas particularly through the platform of Gender Resource Centre.

Community resource persons (CRP) from various states including Jharkhand, Kerala and Odisha were invited to share their experience of institutional strategies adopted to address gender based violence. Smt Rajani Dandasena from Odisha shared the experience of the functioning of the Prerna Kendra (Gender Resource centres) at Gram Panchayat level. The Prerna Kendras have established strong linkages with other departments through Gender Forum and have been able to address cases of Violence. The Gender Campaign launched in November 2022 has also led to widespread awareness on GBV and demanding public action through the institutions of the women. Women shared experiences of addressing issues like witch hunting, drug abuse, sexual violence, etc.

Smt. Mahua Roy Chaudhary from Jeevika, Government of Bihar highlighted the importance of gender training, learning pedagogies and use of IEC materials leading to creation of gender responsive institutions particularly Didi Adhikar kendras for addressing violence that is deep rooted in patriarchy and social norms. She also emphasized the political empowerment of women as ward members and mukhiyas in the state. She emphasized the importance of sustainability of these institutions in continuing delivering women's empowerment.

A panel discussion followed which included Joint Secretary from Ministry of Women and Child Development, Gender Expert and Women's rights lawyer to emphasise the importance of SRLM and system related opportunities like legal remedies including fast track courts, horizontal and vertical gender training across different stakeholders and inter-ministerial convergence adopting multi-pronged strategies to address GBV. The panel discussed innovative financing for sustainability, safe spaces for women like Shakti Sadan and short stay homes, strengthening data driven governance and economic agency of women. The conversation laid out the scope of convergence between Naari Adalats under Mission Shakti with Gender Resource Centres under DAY-NRLM. The Samvaad 2023 ended with the need to come together to address the core issues of women through focus on preventive measures, convergence and innovative and local approaches of problem solving.

PIB,SEP23,2023

Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh will address 2nd National Seminar on "Social Audit of Rural Development Programmes" on 26th September,2023

Theme of the Seminar is “Re-imagining Social Audit with a view to bring transparency and accountability”

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA gives Gram Sabha right to conduct regular social audits of all works and expenditures

Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh will address the 2nd National Seminar on “Social Audit of Rural Development Programmes” on 26th September 2023 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre here. The theme of this National Seminar is “Re-imagining Social Audit with a view to bring transparency and accountability”.

Union Minister of States for Rural Development and Steel Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Union Minister of State for Rural Development & Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti and Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Secretary Department of Rural Development Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) Shri Amit Kataria and officers from the Ministry, Senior officers from all the State/UTs Governments will also be present on the occasion.

Experts participating in the seminar and officials have been invited from the States to share their experiences regarding Social Audit. In this Seminar, Director of Social Audit Unit from States/UTs will be participating along with SRP (State Resource Persons), DRP (District Resource Persons) and BRP (Block Resource Persons) of State’s Social Audit Team. Their insights will greatly enrich the discussions, and best practices adopted on the ground can serve as a model for others to follow. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) gives Gram Sabha the right to conduct regular social audits of all works and expenditures. This includes facilitation of the social audit through independent Social Audit Units, complete access to all records-online and offline, and pro-active disclosure through Wall writings. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was the first act to mandate Social Audit by the Gram Sabha of all the projects taken up in the Gram Panchayat. Since then, it has been mandated in many other schemes. The Central Government, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) notified the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011, which laid down the methodology and principles for conducting social audits in the States/UTs. As of now, 28 States/UTs have established Social Audit units. The SAUs are being constantly impressed upon to recruit and train required core staff at State, District and Block level.

After the successful first National Seminar held in 13th-14th November, 2019; Social Audit was extended to other major schemes administered by the Department of Rural Development. It is imperative to review the status of the implementation of the Social Audit in the States/UTs and work out a road map to re-imagine the Social Audit with a view to bring transparency and accountability. In this regard, this 2nd National Seminar is being organized by the Department of Rural Development on 26th September.

STATESMAN,SEP24,2023

Vande Bharat Express depicts new energy of India, says PM Modi, flags off 9 new trains

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged off nine new Vande Bharat Express trains and said that these trains depicted new energy of the country. During the launch event, PM Modi said that the speed and scale of infrastructure development in the country are matching with aspirations of 140 crore Indians. “The speed and scale of infrastructure development are matching with the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. Today people of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat will get the facility of Vande Bharat Express trains. These new Vande Bharat Express trains depict the new energy of the country,” PM Modi said while speaking at the launch of new trains. The prime minister said that the addition of nine more Vande Bharat Express trains to the existing 25-strong fleet shows the train’s rising popularity. “The popularity of Vande Bharat trains is constantly rising. Over 1,11,00,000 crore passengers have already travelled on them,” he added. The launch of these new Vande Bharat Express trains will connect religious and tourist destinations across 11 states.

The new trains are Kasaragod – Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express, Rourkela – Bhubaneswar – Puri Vande Bharat Express, Ranchi – Howrah Vande Bharat Express, Udaipur – Jaipur Vande Bharat Express, Tirunelveli-Madurai- Chennai Vande Bharat Express, Hyderabad –Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, Vijayawada – Chennai (via Renigunta) Vande Bharat Express, Patna – Howrah Vande Bharat Express, and Jamnagar-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express.

These Vande Bharat trains will be the fastest trains along the routes of their operation. As compared to the current fastest train along the route, the Rourkela- Bhubaneswar – Puri Vande Bharat Express and Kasaragod – Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express will be faster by about 3 hours.

Hyderabad – Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express by more than 2.5 hours; Tirunelveli-Madurai- Chennai Vande Bharat Express by more than 2 hours.Ranchi – Howrah Vande Bharat Express, Patna – Howrah Vande Bharat Express and Jamnagar-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express by about 1 hour; and Udaipur – Jaipur Vande Bharat Express by about half an hour.

STATESMAN,SEP24,2023



‘Amrit Kaal’ also ‘Kartavya Kaal’ for every citizen: PM Modi in 105th Mann Ki Baat



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the “Amrit Kaal” is also a “Kartavya Kaal” for every citizen of the country. Addressing the 105th episode of his monthly radio show ‘Mann Ki Baat’, PM Modi said world leaders lining up to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi during the G20 summit is a big proof that ideals are relevant even today. “Who can forget that scene during the G-20 Summit in Delhi, when many world leaders reached Rajghat together to pay homage to Bapu. This is a big proof of how relevant Bapu’s thoughts are even today across the world,” PM Modi said. The prime minister said that India displayed its leadership by playing a decisive role in African Union’s inclusion in the G20 grouping. PM Modi also hailed the India-Middle-East-Europe Economic Corridor announced during the G20 summit and said that it will become the bases of world trade for hundreds of years to come. The PM also highlighted the recent inclusion of Rabindranath Tagore’s Shantiniketan and Hoysala Temples of Karnataka in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. “It is a matter of immense pride that Santiniketan associated with Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and the Hoysala Temples of Karnataka have been declared world heritage sites. It is India’s endeavour that our historical and cultural places get recognised as World Heritage Sites,” he said. In every Mann Ki Baat episode, the prime minister highlights inspiring stories of from across the country and highlights significant achievements. In today’s episode, the PM Modi lauded the efforts of Uttar Pradesh’s Sambhal district to revive the Sot River. “UP’s Sambhal district exemplifies Janbhagidari. 70 villages united to revive the Sot River. People have also planted 10,000 bamboo saplings on the river banks,” he added.