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# SAMBHAV

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## **POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

**PIB, OCT 9, 2023**

Investment on urban schemes increased significantly since 2014: Housing & Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep S Puri

Urban Waste processing increased from 17 percent in 2014 to 76 percent now: Shri Hardeep S Puri

Urges cities to use innovative ways such as municipal bonds for raising the financial resources

Addressing the gathering at World Habitat Day (WHD) 2023, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural said, significance of World Habitat Day is increasingly being understood now. Recalling the conceptualisation of WHD in 1980s, he said that the concept of the World Habitat Day was first introduced in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the first celebration of the World Habitat Day was 'Shelter is my Right', underlining the most acute problem of 1986 – that of adequate shelter in cities. Since then, the Minister said that the discourse around human settlements has evolved. In the next few years, the annual themes varied to reflect the priorities of the time – from safety to women's empowerment, and from sanitation to dignity of work.

The approach towards development has also evolved through Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals. SDGs are designed from citizen centric perspective and focus more on inclusive and bottom-up approach. Talking the evolution of urban spaces in India, the Minister said that the focus of Government on Urban Transformation has increased considerably. There was neglect in urban development before 2014. Only Rs. 1.78 lakh crores were invested in urban areas between 2004 to 2014. Under the farsighted leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said this has changed. "More than Rs. 18 lakh crores have been invested since 2014 in the transformation of our cities and towns", he emphasised. He said that in 2014, the amount of urban waste processing was around 17 percent and now it has increased to 76 percent. He expressed confidence that in the coming time, the urban waste processing will reach to 100 percent. The huge legacy dumpsites in urban areas will also be removed through bioremediation in next 2 years, he added further.

Shri Puri said that this year's theme 'Resilient urban economies: Cities as drivers of growth and recovery' is aptly chosen. A discussion on this subject assumes greater significance now as the world enjoys its first year without the disruption of the pandemic. This theme underscores the role of cities as the epicentres of economic recovery and growth in the post-pandemic global order, he said. Speaking on the sustainable growth of urban spaces, the Minister said that the element of sustainability is incorporated in urban transport and other policy matters related to urban development. He mentioned about the green alternatives such as electric vehicles that are being promoted to fill the vacuum in the urban transport. He said that a country's economic growth can be measured from its energy consumption and from its urban landscape as well. Across the world, he said that urban areas are the productive hubs of economies, with more than 75 percent of the world's GDP generated here. "In India, despite the relatively low urbanisation, cities already contribute 66 percent to the national GDP", he said. This number is expected to go as high as 80 percent by 2050 when more than half of the country's population resides in its urban areas. This year's theme focuses on future-proofing urban economies to make them better prepared to handle black swan events, pandemics and other such catastrophic events, he added. The Minister urged the cities to use innovative ways such as municipal bonds for raising the financial resources. Complimenting the cities for raising for using municipal bonds to raise resources, he said through the AMRUT mission, the government has pressed for cities to go to the markets to raise capital investment. 12 cities have raised more than Rs. 4,384 crores through municipal bonds. Such actions have increased ULB creditworthiness and made them attractive investment destinations.

Talking about the India's model of planned urbanisation, the Minister said that underpinned by a focus on Antyodaya Se Sarvodaya has ensured that our cities remain vibrant and economically thriving in turbulent times. There is much that other countries can learn from the manner in which we have operationalised large-scale programmes and brought about green transition in our cities, he said.

About World Habitat Day:

Each year, World Habitat Day is held on the first Monday of October and launches Urban October globally. The day centres around the global observance, which is held in a different country each year with keynote speakers and roundtable discussions focused on a specific theme. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme 'Shelter is my right'.



This year's Global Observance of World Habitat Day under the theme of "Resilient urban economies. Cities as drivers of growth and recovery." looked at how cities can position their economies to benefit residents. Aligning with the theme, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, hosted an event at Vigyan Bhawan today i.e. on 9th October 2023. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, and Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA attended the event. The focus of the event was to convene various urban stakeholders to discuss ways in which cities can be primed to address economic and environmental challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PIB,OCT9,2023

DARPG to coordinate with Right to Service Commissioners for increased delivery of e.Services

2nd meeting with RTS Chief Commissioners/Commissions of States/UTs held on 9th October, 2023

14,736 e.Services provided by States, 1505 of 2016 mandatory e.Services are provided with saturation of 74.6%

Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through identified single Unified service delivery portal e.Unnat (1028), e.Sevanam (911) and Odisha One (404) respectively

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) convened the second meeting with the Right to Service Commissioners of various States/UTs in-line with "National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Way Forward's" objective to boost e-governance and improve e-service delivery in the nation on 9th October, 2023.

The RTS Chief Commissioners were also sensitized about the "NeSDA way forward" undertaken by the Department. Six NeSDA Way Forward Monthly reports have been released by the Department, for States/UTs. The reports set baseline for number of e-services and mandatory e-services provided by States/UTs on NeSDA – Way Forward dashboard. It also underlines the status of faceless, suo-moto delivery and unified service delivery portals. Moreover, the report assesses and compares the sector-wise e-services and highlights the state-specific opportunities to transition offline services to online platforms. Major Key Highlights of August Report were Departments across States/UTs provide 14,736 e-services with Jammu & Kashmir (1028) provides the maximum number of e-services. Besides, 1,505 out of 2,016 mandatory e-services

are available, making saturation at 74.6%. Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal i.e., e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam and Odisha One, respectively

Consensus was reached on the following issues:

States/UTs to review the 154 common services identified and provide them as e.Services in a specified time frame.

States/UTs to define a roadmap for achieving the provision of e-services through a unified portal, leveraging the support of respective RTS Commissions/Committees on the basis of e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam and Odisha One.

States/UTs to discuss the extant and approach to ensure that e-services are delivered proactively.

States/UTs to determine the extant of faceless service delivery through RTS.

A total of 27 officials including Chief Commissioners and Nodal officers from the States/UTs of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, and Karnataka participated and shared their valuable insights and actively engaged in discussions. The DARPG will curate a workshop of RTS Commissioners and other nodal officers from states/UTs at Dehradun in November, 2023.

PIB,OCT9,2023

Courses launched by Sashastra Seema Bal now Live on iGOT Karmayogi platform

Karmayogi Bharat, in partnership with Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), launched 12 courses designed to bridge competency gaps and are tailored to needs, and aspirations of officials. The courses will enable a fundamental shift from rule-based to role-based training. The courses were launched in the presence of Smt Rashmi Shukla, DG-SSB, Shri Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary, MHA, and Shri Abhishek Singh, CEO of Karmayogi Bharat, on the iGOT Karmayogi platform. The SSB Capacity Building unit under Shri Paresh Saxena (IG, Training) has developed the courses that are available both in English and in Hindi. The courses on Pre-hospital protocols in case of a Cardiac arrest, A Simple stretch to stretch your life, Benefits of Cardio-respiratory Endurance Training, Circuit Training, Lower Backache and its prevention and Wound Management are the courses that aim at changing the behaviour of civil services towards a healthy lifestyle.

The courses on Operating Software Installation, EPABX System, Earthing System and Basics of Computer Course for New Entrants will build upon the functional capacities of the learners irrespective of any department they are posted in.

There are also courses to build domain competencies of the Central Armed Police Forces.

iGOT Karmayogi (<https://igotkarmayogi.gov.in/>), managed, governed, and operated by Karmayogi Bharat-DoPT, is a comprehensive online portal to guide government officials in their capacity building journey. The portal combines 6 functional hubs for online learning, competency management, career management, discussions, events, and networking. More than 24 lakh learners from across the government spectrum are currently registered on the iGOT Platform having access to over 740 courses.

PIB,OCT9,2023

Special Campaign 3.0 in full swing in Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) to achieve efficiency in decision making and disposal of pending items

290 office sites identified for Cleanliness drive and waste disposal by DOPT and its Organizations

Constant Review of public grievances, appeals, Assurances and inter divisional references

Efficient Record management by review of physical records, weeding out of old files as per retention schedule and renovation of record room. Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT), along with its Attached/ Sub-ordinate organizations, is taking significant steps to conduct various activities as part of Special Campaign 3.0 to foster cleanliness, reduction in pendency of public grievances, promoting digitalization and enhancing efficiency in decision making through good governance initiatives. The advance preparations for special campaign commenced from 15th September, 2023 and in a time bound manner, all organizations in DOPT are enthusiastically carrying out their campaign related activities leading to enhancement of workplace experience, promoting a happier workplace and better management of resources.

The Department has identified thousands of physical files for review during the Special Campaign 3.0. So far, after review of records, more than twenty thousand old physical records/files have been identified for weeding out in terms of record retention schedule. DOPT has also set its target in respect of disposal of e-waste, old vehicles and other redundant items, as part of Special Campaign 3.0.



EHRMS 2.0 has been identified as the key digital service delivery enabler for integrated service delivery and enhancing employee satisfaction. Several other initiatives such as deployment of surplus manpower, enhancing probity in public life and simplification of HR policy instructions are being constantly strengthened to ensure better management and continuous capacity building of Human Resources across the Government. The Special Campaign 3.0 commenced from 2nd Oct. 2023 and is scheduled to continue up to 31st Oct. 2023 under the constant monitoring of Heads of different organizations who have, taken a keen personal interest in the campaign activities thereby enthusing the workforce involved and ensuring success of the Special Campaign 3.0 in letter and spirit.

PIB, OCT 9, 2023

Workshop on Art of Leadership Communication organized by Karmayogi Bharat

Karmayogi Bharat, DoPT organized a workshop on 'The Art of Leadership Communication' for senior government officials from various Ministries/Departments on 9th October 2023. Catering to one of the key skills needed for senior civil servants – 'Effective Communication' - the workshop was conducted with the objective to complement the Communication courses on iGOT Karmayogi Platform. The interactive workshop was conducted by noted academic, and Professor of Practice in Leadership Communication at Tufts University, Mr Mihir Mankad. The session covered themes such as Leadership Qualities for Building Behavioural Competencies, Art of Verbal Communication, Storytelling in Business and Life, and Communicating Data Impactfully. Participants included senior officials from various Ministries, and Government Departments, such as Prime Minister's Office, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Department of Posts, Ministry of Defence, Border Security Force, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Minority Affairs, DIPAM, Ministry of Electronics, and IT, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Youth Affairs, and Sports, and UIDAI.

iGOT Karmayogi (<https://igotkarmayogi.gov.in/>), managed, governed, and operated by Karmayogi Bharat-DoPT, is a comprehensive online portal to guide government officials in their capacity building journey. The portal combines 6 functional hubs for online learning, competency management, career management, discussions, events and networking. More than 24 lakh learners from across the government spectrum are currently registered on the iGOT Platform having access to over 740 courses.



PIB,OCT9,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviews the progress achieved in the first week of Special Campaign 3.0; expresses satisfaction, calls for a saturation approach to be adopted in all attached/ subordinate/ field offices/ Missions/ Defence establishments and establishments/ offices/ PSUs in all parts of the country

Massive participation from across the country for Institutionalizing Swachhata and Minimizing Pendency, 2.18 lakh sites for Swachhata identified

Swachhata Campaign successfully conducted at over 42,000 sites, over 7.75 lakh sq. ft of space freed, Rs 28.23 crore earned from scrap disposal

More than 64,000 Public Grievances redressed, 743 MP's references replied and 7.56 lakh physical files reviewed

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, reviewed the progress of week 1 of Special Campaign 3.0 being implemented in all Government offices of India and appreciated the progress achieved in minimizing Pendency and Institutionalizing Swachhata in the period October 2-7, 2023.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said massive participation is being witnessed across Ministries/Departments and their field/outstation offices. He reiterated the focus of the campaign is to cover offices with public interface. He urged Ministries/Departments to adopt saturation approach in the implementation of the Campaign to cover all outstation offices/defence establishments and PSUs in all parts of the country.

The Special Campaign 3.0 in its first week, has been holistic in size and scale witnessed widespread participation from offices across the country. More than 42000 sites have been covered and 4000 tweets have been issued from all Ministries/Departments highlighting the progress of the campaign in field offices/PSUs/ Defence Establishment/Missions and posts. The efforts of thousands of officials and citizens have created a mass movement for Swachhata in Government offices.

The Special Campaign 3.0 has been reviewed by Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Secretaries to the Government of India providing leadership and guidance in implementation. In first week of the implementation phase, the Department of Posts has conducted the cleanliness campaign in 12785 sites, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in 11588 sites, the Department of School Education and Literacy in 8652 sites, Department of Military Affairs in 3000 sites and Department of Fertilizers in 1585 sites.

The Progress of Special Campaign 3.0 is monitored on a dedicated portal (<https://scdpm.nic.in/>) on a daily basis. Regular review meetings are held under the Chairmanship of Secretary DARPG with nodal officers to review the progress of the campaign. The Special Campaign 3.0 has gained significant traction in social media with over 4,000 tweets by Ministries/Departments, 250 tweets by DARPG handle, 300 infographics on #SpecialCampaign3.0 and issue of 115 PIB statements.

Central Board of Direct Taxes – Launch of I-GoT on CPGRAMS of CBDT by Hon’ble Finance Minister

Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances – Launch of Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon’ble MoS PP on 29th September, 2023

Department of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare – Vertical Gardens at Krishi Bhawan

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship – Elephant Statue from plastic bottles at ITI Behrampur

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education – Check dams from plastic waste at VNIT, Nagpur

Department of Scientific & Industrial Research – Recycling on wheels to efficiently extract precious metals from shredded e-waste

Department of Telecom – Painting competition for children on the theme “Swachhata in daily life”

State Bank of India (Department of Financial Services)- Display of Special Campaign 3.0 Banner at SBI, PBB Sector 14 Panchkula Haryana giving wide publicity to the campaign amongst citizens

Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education – Shramdaan in Swachhata Campaign by CBSE school students by cleaning up their surroundings and spreading message of cleanliness and sustainability.

Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the reduction in pendency over the years through adoption of Special Campaign and called on all officials to sustain the momentum to achieve 50% targets by end of Week 2. Special Campaign 3.0 concludes on October 31st, 2023 with beginning of Evaluation phase in 1st week of November.

PIB,OCT11,2023

Cabinet approves establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth led development and provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat across the entire spectrum of the Government.

Impact:

The primary objective of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is to make it a whole of Government platform for youth development. Under the new arrangement, with access to resources & connection to opportunities, youth would become community change agents and nation builders allowing them to act as the Yuva Setu between the Government and the citizens. It seeks to harness the immense youth energy for nation-building.

Details:

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body will benefit the youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy. In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age-group of 10-19 years.

The establishment of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) would lead to:

## Leadership Development in the Youth:

Improve the leadership skills through experiential learning by shifting from isolated physical interaction to programmatic skills. Investing more in youth to make them social innovators, leaders in the communities. Setting the focus of the Government on Youth Led development and to make the Youth “active drivers” of development and not merely “passive recipients”. Better alignment between youth aspirations and community needs. Enhanced efficiency through Convergence of existing programmes. Act as a one stop shop for young people and Ministries. Create a centralized youth data base. Improved two-way communication to connect youth government initiatives and activities of other stakeholder that engage with youth. Ensuring accessibility by creating a phygital ecosystem. With a view to engage youth and their empowerment guided by the principles of ‘whole of government approach’, in a rapidly changing world, which has an environment of high velocity communications, social media, new digital opportunities and emergent technologies the Government has decided to establish overarching enabling mechanism in a form of a new Autonomous Body, namely Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).

PIB, OCT 11, 2023

Dr. Jitendra Singh launches the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard

DARPG under takes up Special Campaign 3.0 in a big way during the First week under the theme “Digital DARPG”

Major Thrust given to pan-India Unified Service Portals, Adoption of AI/ Emerging Technologies for Effective Redressal of Public Grievances

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions launched the Special Campaign 3.0 in DARPG on 29 September 2023 under the theme “Digital DARPG”. Under the theme “Digital DARPG” the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances took several significant steps under the Special Campaign 3.0 to promote pan-India unified service delivery portals, reduce pendency in public grievances, adopt AI/ Emerging Technologies for effective redressal of public grievances, promote sustainable practices and ensure cleanliness & efficient record management in office.



Unified Service Portals: DARPG convened a meeting with the 27 Senior Officials comprising of Right to Service Commissioners States/UTs and Senior Officers of States/ UT's implementing the Right to Services Acts to identify 164 services which can be delivered on pan-India basis as e-Services, in addition to the 56 mandatory e-Services. The RTS Chief Commissioners were sensitized about the "NeSDA way forward" publications of DARPG. The six NeSDA Way Forward Monthly reports released by DARPG, set the baseline for number of e-services and mandatory e-services to be provided by States/UTs on "NeSDA – Way Forward" dashboard. States/ UT's were sensitized on the need to promote faceless, suo-moto delivery and unified service delivery portals. States/ UT's discussed the sector-wise e-services and state-specific opportunities to transition offline services to online platforms. Currently States/UTs provide 14,736 e-services with Jammu & Kashmir provides the maximum number of 1028 e-services. 1,505 out of 2,016 mandatory e-services are available, making saturation at 74.6%. Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal i.e., e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam and Odisha One, respectively. The RTS Commissioners assured that all efforts would be made to adopt unified service portals and make all efforts to saturate e-Services across States.

Reducing Pendency in Public Grievances: DARPG released the 17th Monthly report on CPGRAMS issued on 7th September 2023 to sensitize all Ministries/ Departments on the timely redressal and qualitative redressal of public grievances under the Special Campaign 3.0. In September, 2023, average grievance redressal time in all the Ministries/Departments is 19 Days.

Adoption of AI/ Emerging Technologies for Effective Grievance Redressal: Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions launched the IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal on 29 September, 2023. The Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Dashboard has been implemented by IIT Kanpur following an MoU with DARPG for upgrading CPGRAMS with Artificial Intelligence capabilities. The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data. Besides, the Dashboard will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.

Adoption of Bharat GPT in CPGRAMS: DARPG signed the non-disclosure agreement with the Bharat GPT team led by IIT Mumbai for working on India Specific Large Language Models (LLM) powered by Bhashini to give a demonstrable large language model for CPGRAMS to further simplify redressal of citizen grievances in CPGRAMS in the near future. In addition to above, DARPG has disposed of 145 Public Grievances and 100% files have been reviewed during first week. After review, 447 Physical files have been identified for weeding out, of which 140 files have already been weeded out during 1st week. Also, 1317 efiles were identified for closure, all of which have been successfully closed in e-Office. Daily progress is being monitored at Senior levels. The Department is aiming to better its performance in this Campaign 3.0 in comparison to the last year Campaign 2.0.

PIB, OCT 14, 2023

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal releases a “Compendium of PM GatiShakti” to mark completion of two Years of PM GatiShakti

Compendium highlights eight exemplary use cases on adoption and benefits of PM GatiShakti

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal released a “Compendium of PM GatiShakti” in New Delhi yesterday to mark the completion of two Years of PM GatiShakti. The Compendium consists of some of the best use cases showcasing adoption and benefits of PM GatiShakti across the country. The Compendium was released in the presence of Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Sh. Som Parkash, Special Secretary (Logistics), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Smt. Sumita Dawra and other senior officers.

Over the past two years, PM GatiShakti has been pivotal in planning more than 7,000 kilometres of expressways, with digital surveys through GIS maps expediting field surveys. The year 2022-23 witnessed a remarkable increase in Final Location Surveys (FLS) for new railway lines, with over 400 projects, compared to just 57 the previous year, resulting in the planning of a staggering 13,500 kilometres of railway lines. The platform has also revolutionized the preparation of detailed surveys for petroleum and natural gas pipelines, reducing the process from 6-9 months to just a few hours, demonstrating a commitment to environmental conservation by minimizing deforestation.

In this compendium, eight exemplary use cases vividly illustrate the extensive adoption and profound benefits of PM GatiShakti throughout the country. These cases encompass a wide array of projects, including the planning of expressways and Multimodal Logistics Parks by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, rail connectivity planning by the Ministry of Railways, planning of green energy corridors by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and initiatives like setting up schools in unserved areas of Uttar Pradesh, etc. This compendium will serve as an important resource demonstrating the benefits and utility of PM GatiShakti to stakeholders and promote wider adoption. Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi the implementation of PM GatiShakti is achieving new heights. It is facilitating development of Next Generation Infrastructure, Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living. PM GatiShakti represents a groundbreaking approach to infrastructure planning by harnessing data for informed decision-making. This strategy employs multiple layers of data, which can be integrated on GIS maps to streamline digital surveys, revolutionizing the infrastructure planning process and significantly reducing field survey time and project timelines. It offers complete visibility of connectivity points, mitigates investment risks, simplifies governance for multimillion-dollar projects, and promotes economic and social connectivity.

PIONEER, OCT 15, 2023

PM Modi says Terror is Terror, anywhere, anytime







Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that “terrorism, no matter where it happens or for what reason, is against humanity”. “India has been a victim of cross-border terrorism for a long time and two decades ago even Parliament was a victim of terrorism,” Modi said, addressing the inaugural session of the Parliamentary (P20) Speakers’ Summit of G20 nations. The event is being attended by Speakers of Parliaments of G20 members and invitee countries. The Pan-African Parliament took part in the P20 Summit for the first time after the African Union became a member of G20 at the New Delhi G20 Leaders’ Summit last month. Modi regretted the world is yet to make a consensus on the issue of tackling terrorism of which India has been a victim.

“Terrorists wanted to take hostage, kill MPs. India has dealt with numerous such terror incidents,” Modi shared with the Presiding Officers from the G20 nations. Against the backdrop of massive Israel-Palestine conflict in the West Asia region, the PM cautioned that conflicts and confrontations being faced by the world today do not benefit anyone, saying the world has to move forward with a human-centric approach. “Now the world is also realising how big a challenge terrorism is for the world. Terrorism, wherever it may be, for whatever reason, in whatever form, is against humanity. In such a scenario, we will have to adopt a tough approach in dealing with terrorism,” he said. Modi lamented that there is no unanimity on the definition of terrorism even in the United Nations.

“Everyone is aware of what is happening in various parts of the world. The world is grappling with conflicts and confrontations. Such a world full of conflicts and confrontations is not in anyone’s interest. A divided world cannot provide solutions to the big challenges before humanity. Today also, in the UN, the international convention on combating terrorism is waiting for consensus,” the PM said in his address at the newly constructed Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in the national Capital. Modi said Parliaments and representatives across the globe will have to think about how they can work together in this fight against terrorism. The PM also underlined that there can be no better medium than public participation to deal with the world’s challenges.

Modi called for looking at the world with the sentiment of one earth, one family, one future.

The thematic session at the P20 Summit is focussed on four subjects of transformation in people’s lives through public digital platforms, women-led development, accelerating SDGs and sustainable energy transition. The P20 Joint Declaration adopted by participating G20 nations also talked about conflicts and peaceful resolution as spoken by the Prime Minister in his speech.

“In view of the constructive discussions held during the Ninth P20 and experience gained at the previous P20s, we reaffirm our commitment to continue our joint work to make an effective and meaningful parliamentary contribution to the G20 process, as appreciated by the G20 Leaders. We will continue to engage in parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue in relevant fora as a catalyst for promoting international peace, prosperity and harmony, including supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes,” stated the concluding part of the declaration. Reading out the resolution, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the unanimous adoption of the Joint Declaration at P20 Bharat exemplifies the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. “As public representatives, we pledge to collaborate for a human centric, prosperous and harmonious future. Many congratulations to all the delegates for their support,” Birla stated at the end of the opening session.

Modi also said that the general election scheduled next year is the biggest festival in India where about 100 crore voters are eligible to exercise their mandate. “I invite you to come and witness next year’s elections,” Modi told delegates. “India has conducted 17 general elections and over 300 State Assembly polls so far. In the 2019 general elections, people made my party victorious for the second time in a row; this was the world’s biggest election,” Modi said amid the thumping of the desk. During the end of his speech amid huge applause, Modi said the use of EVMs has boosted transparency and efficiency in the election process and results are now declared within hours of the start of counting of votes. The PM also informed the delegates about some achievements of his governance including the participation of women in every sector with almost 50 per cent of the elected representatives in local self-government institutions being women. The recent law on granting one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will further enrich the country’s parliamentary tradition, he added. The PM also took the opportunity to inform that India has more than 900 TV channels in 28 languages to provide real-time information to people and more than 33,000 different newspapers published in about 200 languages.

The parliamentary leaders also congratulated Indian Parliament for passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill, ensuring reservation of one-third seats in the Lok Sabha and in State legislatures. In his address, Inter-Parliamentary Union President Duarte Pacheco said maybe “if we have more women in the leadership of our countries, we will not have so many wars”. He said it was important to have more women in a participatory democracy.

Sources said the PM who was scheduled to leave after the pre-lunch session and his address stayed back to interact with the delegates and exchanged pleasantries with the members. President of the Mexican Senate Ana Lilia Rivera tied a “rakhi” on the wrist of Modi, who in turn gave her his blessings.



## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PIB,OCT10,2023**

**Direct Tax Collections for F.Y. 2023-24 up to 9th October, 2023 show an increase over comparable period of last year**

**Gross Direct Tax Collection higher by 17.95%**

**Direct Tax Collection (net of refunds) higher by 21.82%**

**Refunds amounting to Rs. 1.50 lakh crore issued during 1st April, 2023 to 09th October 2023.**

**The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to 09th October, 2023 continue to register steady growth, with gross collections at Rs. 11.07 lakh crore, which is 17.95% higher than the gross collections for the comparable period of last year. Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs. 9.57 lakh crore which is 21.82% higher than the net collections for the comparable period of last year. This collection is 52.50% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for F.Y. 2023-24.**

**So far as the growth rate for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) in terms of gross revenue collections is concerned, the growth rate for CIT is 7.30% while that for PIT is 29.53% (PIT only)/ 29.08% (PIT including STT). After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 12.39% and that in PIT collections is 32.51% (PIT only)/ 31.85% (PIT including STT). Refunds amounting to Rs. 1.50 lakh crore have been issued during 1st April, 2023 to 09th October 2023.**

**ECONOMIC TIMES,OCT13,2023**

**Finance Ministry holds meeting to expedite 'Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma' scheme implementation**

**New Delhi: Dr Vivek Joshi, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) within the Union Ministry of Finance, spearheaded two crucial meetings on October 12, aimed at expediting the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme.**



The meetings took place at the Regional Office of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Chandigarh and included officials from the states of Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, read the Ministry of Finance press release. These discussions revolved around the imperative need to ensure a seamless and efficient implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme to extend its benefits to artisans and craftsmen engaged in traditional trades. The scheme seeks to provide comprehensive support to individuals involved in 18 identified trades. This support includes access to skill training, collateral-free credit, modern tools, market linkage assistance, and incentives for digital transactions. The scheme aligns with the vision of inclusive development, "Sabka Vikas," as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr Joshi underscored the importance of state government field officials' role in expediting the enrolment of beneficiaries, swift verification, and seamless registration processes to ensure that eligible individuals can access the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme, read the press release.

This program is not only about preserving traditional skills but also transforming traditional craftsmen into entrepreneurs of the future. Throughout the meetings, comprehensive presentations were delivered by key government entities involved in the scheme's implementation, including the Union Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (RDSDE), and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

These presentations offered detailed insights into the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme and provided updates on its progress in various regions, read the release. As these efforts to boost traditional crafts and skills continue, it is clear that the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme is a pivotal tool for empowering artisans and promoting inclusive development in the region. The active collaboration between state governments and central authorities underlines the commitment to realizing the vision of an economically vibrant and culturally rich India.

ECONOMIC TIMES, OCT 13, 2023

RBI's Shaktikanta Das says US should rethink currency manipulator list

The US practice of putting emerging markets countries on a watchlist as potential currency manipulators should be reviewed, said India's central bank governor, who defended the need to buttress their economies from market swings. "There has to be a two-sided appreciation of the challenges" emerging markets face dealing with spillover effects of advanced economy policies, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said Thursday at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Marrakech, Morocco. India was most recently on the US Treasury's watchlist as a potential currency manipulator in late 2020 and was removed two years later. In its June update, Treasury didn't label any major trading partner as a manipulator, however seven economies remained on its monitoring list including China, Germany and Switzerland. India's central bank has been one of the most active dollar buyers in the market in recent years as it seeks to build reserves to fend off any speculative attack on the currency. The RBI has added \$60 billion to reserves after it fell to a two-year low of \$525 billion in October last year.

The RBI Governor said India's reserves accumulation was "as an insurance against spillover risks," of advanced economy central bank policies. "India, with a huge population, and with the size of our economy, we have to be self-reliant, we have to be self-dependent, we have to have our strong reserves," Das said. The RBI does intervene in currency markets, he said, but the objective is "not to fix," the dollar-rupee exchange rate at a particular level. Das also commented on the future of money.

[STATESMAN, OCT 13, 2023](#)

## IMF and India

In the ever-fluctuating realm of economics, forecasts serve as guiding stars for policymakers, investors, and citizens alike.

In the ever-fluctuating realm of economics, forecasts serve as guiding stars for policymakers, investors, and citizens alike. The recent projections by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding India's economic growth and inflation rates present a snapshot of the nation's financial landscape. While optimism abounds, there are underlying challenges that must be addressed.

The IMF's upward revision of India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal year, from 6.1 per cent to 6.3 per cent is undoubtedly encouraging. This adjustment reflects stronger-than-expected consumption trends, particularly during the April-June period. It is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of India's economy, which has faced its share of trials, from the pandemic's grip to economic uncertainties. However, optimism should be tempered with a dose of caution, especially concerning inflation.

The RBI's emphasis on keeping interest rates high until inflation nears the 4 per cent midpoint of its 2-6 per cent target range is a sign that they are taking inflationary pressures seriously. The decline in inflation to 5.50 per cent in September offers some relief, primarily attributed to moderating food prices and government subsidies. But the persistent challenges lie in essential food items like cereals, pulses and spices, where the central bank's influence might be limited. The reduction in vegetable prices, a noticeable contributor to inflation, is a heartening development.

Yet, the ongoing volatility in global crude oil prices poses a persistent risk. With oil prices hovering around \$90 a barrel, the impact on India, a significant oil importer, cannot be understated. Rising oil costs can cascade through the economy, affecting everything from transportation to manufacturing, ultimately impacting consumer prices. These economic dynamics underscore the delicate balancing act facing Indian policymakers. They must nurture and sustain the robust growth that the nation is experiencing while curbing inflationary pressures. Achieving this equilibrium is akin to walking a tightrope, where even a slight misstep can have far-reaching consequences.

Moreover, the IMF's global economic outlook serves as a backdrop, emphasising that despite India's resilience, global growth remains low and uneven. The revisions to China and the euro zone's growth forecasts signal that India is not isolated from external economic forces. As an integral part of the global economy, India's prospects are intertwined with those of the world at large. Looking ahead, India's economic journey will be marked by resilience and adaptability, hallmarks that have guided it through myriad challenges. While the IMF's projections paint a picture of continued growth at 6.3 per cent in 2023 and 2024, a broader perspective reveals that India must navigate various uncertainties, from inflation and volatile oil prices to global economic shifts. Balancing growth and inflation is a complex endeavour, requiring a steady hand on the economic tiller. India's ability to strike this balance will determine its trajectory in the uncertain global economic landscape.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**PIB,OCT9,2023**

Select students from schools across India display innovative S&T solutions at 10th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) of INSPIRE

Secretary Department of Science and Technology, Prof. Abhay Karandikar inaugurated the 10th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) of INSPIRE– MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Delhi, on 9 October 2023, where the innovative ideas of 441 select students from schools across the country were displayed.

“It is inspiring to see that young minds have come forward with innovations that could be solutions for day to day problems with the potential for improving the quality of life. They are using science and technology to solve local problem and I'm really excited and pleasantly surprised to see the talent that is exhibited here,” Prof. Karandikar pointed out. Secretary DST interacted with the students from different parts of the country who are exhibiting their innovations. The students explained their innovations, speaking about their inherent merit to all visitors and jury members. Prof. Karandikar said that more than 400 innovations filtered from among lakhs of innovations are on display, and this demonstrates the humongous potential in our country.

He emphasised that all such innovators should continue to innovate and contribute towards solving problems of society through use of science and technology. The DST Secretary appealed to local schools and colleges to motivate youngsters and help them realise their potential to become future leaders. The innovations at the exhibition organised for two days – October 09-10, 2023 reflected a focus on national priorities like technologies for the farmers, cleanliness and sanitation, safety & security for women, clean energy and so on. It is now open for the public. The top 60 students selected from among the exhibitors displaying their innovations at NLEPC, will be felicitated at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 11 October 2023.

Dr Arvind C Ranade, Director, NIF briefed about the process of INSPIRE- MANAK and said that the constellation of young talents offer innovative solutions to a wide range of challenges. These aspiring minds share a common dream to propel our nation to the forefront in various fields, from environmental conservation to grassroots empowerment. Dr. Namita Gupta, Head – INSPIRE and Scientist G, DST; Dr. Vipin Kumar, Chief Scientist, NIF; Shri Mahesh Patel, Scientist G, NIF;



Dr. Sandeep Bansal, Scientist DST; States / UT and District officials, mentors/teachers were also present along with the students on this occasion. The NLEPC is an important milestone under the annual INSPIRE – MANAK, a flagship scheme jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India, an autonomous body of the DST. During the year 2021-22, a total of 7.05 Lakh ideas and innovations were received from all States and UT's of the country. The scheme touched an unparalleled level of inclusivity by representing ideas and innovations of 715 districts of the country (98%) including 124 aspirational districts. The participants included 53% representation from girls. Around 83% of participating schools were from rural settings and 72% of the participating schools were from State / UT Government schools.

PIB, OCT 10, 2023

"Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Space flight, that is, "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Development flight (TV-D1) scheduled on 21st October, says Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

Before the ultimate manned "Gaganyaan" mission, there will be a test flight next year, which will carry "Vyommitra", the female robot astronaut:

“PM Modi unlocked India's Space sector and provided an enabling milieu during the last nine years”

Dr Jitendra Singh says ISRO is the epitome of India's Naarishakti, with women scientists leading the various activities in Space research programmes

The launch of "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Space flight, that is, "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Development flight (TV-D1) is scheduled on 21st of this month. This was disclosed here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing the gathering at a felicitation programme of ISRO scientists associated with the Chandrayaan Mission, here today.

ISRO will also test the efficacy of the Crew Escape System which is the crucial part of "Gaganyaan" mission, resulting in unmanned and manned missions to outer space by 2024. The test is to be conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Crew Module will carry the astronauts during the Gaganyaan mission to outer space. The test involves launching a crew module to outer space and bringing it back to Earth and recovering it after touchdown in the Bay of Bengal. Indian Navy personnel have already started mock operations to recover the module. The success of this test will set the stage for the first unmanned "Gaganyaan" mission and ultimately manned mission to outer space in low Earth orbit, informed the Minister. Before the ultimate manned "Gaganyaan" mission, there will be a test flight next year, which will carry "Vyommitra", the female robot astronaut, he said.

Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a human crew to an orbit of 400 km and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters. The prerequisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, Life Support System to provide an earth like environment to crew in space, crew emergency escape provision and evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery and rehabilitation of crew. Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is among the top five nations in the field of space exploration.

“India has recently created history by becoming the first country to land on the virgin south polar region of the lunar surface. With the launch of Aditya -1 which is the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun, India’s ambitious space exploration programme has left a clear message that we are one of the most scientifically advanced nations in the field of Space Science and Technology,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh gave full credit to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for enabling India’s Space scientists to vindicate the dream of their founding father Vikram Sarabhai by "unlocking" India’s Space sector and providing an enabling milieu in which India’s huge potential and talent could find an outlet and prove itself to the rest of the world. “After the opening up of the Space sector by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in June 2020, the number of Space Startups sky-rocketed from merely 4 to 150 Startups,” he said. He said, India’s space missions are designed to be cost effective.



Referring to applications of Space Technology to different sectors like Railways, Highways, Agriculture, Water Mapping, Smart Cities, Telemedicine and Robotic Surgery, which brought ‘Ease of Living’ for the common man, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Space tech has touched virtually every household in India.







“During PM Modi’s tenure of nine years, India’s disaster capabilities have become world class and we are providing Disaster Forecasts for neighbouring countries as well,” he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said ISRO is the epitome of India’s Naarishakti, - with women scientists not only participating but also leading the various activities in Space research programmes. On the occasion, ISRO scientists, - Dr Veeramuthuvel, Project Director, Chandrayaan-3; Ms. K. Kalpana, Associate Project Director, Chandrayaan-3; M. Shrikanth, Mission Director, Chandrayaan-3 & Aditya L1; and Ms. Nigar Shaji, Project Director, Aditya L1 were felicitated by the Union Minister.

PIB, OCT 12, 2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presides over the launch of the DBT and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) supported Global Health Innovation Fellowship to promote Med Tech StartUps and innovators among youth

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and WIPO fellowships will be implemented in the DBT Bio-design centers at IIT Delhi and AIIMS, New Delhi; IITB and Hinduja and Nanavati Hospital, Mumbai: Dr Jitendra Singh

As per the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to find scientific solutions to the unmet health-related needs and challenges, this initiative will promote intellectual property and public health: Dr Jitendra Singh

Daren Tang, DG, WIPO promises all help from WIPO to make India a Global Space Technology Hub and also a role model of South-South cooperation

Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh today presided over the launch of the DBT and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) supported Global Health Innovation Fellowship to promote Med Tech StartUps and innovators among youth. The Minister informed that the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and WIPO fellowships will be implemented in the DBT Bio-design centers at IIT Delhi and AIIMS, New Delhi; IITB and Hinduja and Nanavati Hospital, Mumbai. Dr Jitendra Singh said, as per the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to find scientific solutions to the unmet health-related needs and challenges, this initiative will promote intellectual property and public health. He said, the move will also enhance institutional collaboration and help provide a valuable platform for young innovators to develop impactful solutions to address global health challenges.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under this initiative, WIPO has initiated a formal collaboration with the DBT to support four WIPO-supported Fellows to participate in the DBT Bio-design Program. The partners received 157 applications from young professionals across the world including low- and middle-income countries. The Minister further added that recently, the DBT has scaled up Biodesign program by twinning over 20 medical and technical institutions across the country and he was happy to note that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has recognized this program for support under their Global Health challenges initiative. Lauding the efforts of the DBT and WIPO, Dr Jitendra Singh remarked, “This is a flagship partnership and must be strengthened to enable India attain global leadership in innovation and startup promotion”.

Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that the Bio-Economy is on its way to achieve 150-billion-dollar target to contribute effectively to Prime Minister’s vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy and as per the recent reports, every day 3 biotech start-ups are getting incorporated in India with aspirations to provide viable technological solutions. He said, India’s Bio-Economy with an exponential growth rate can support more than 10 million jobs in 2025. This has been made possible by the StartUps in the sector which is strengthening the “Make in India” initiatives and launching Biotech products in global markets, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that today India has 4,000 biotech startups which is expected to grow to 10,000 by 2025. He added that the Department of Biotechnology along with its PSU- BIRAC is steering the collective effort from all the stakeholders including Central/ State Government, Academia, Industry, Startups, Investors, Philanthropic organizations towards propelling the Indian Biotech start-ups.





Mr. Daren Tang, Director General, WIPO said, the successful landing of Chandrayan-3 on the South Pole of the Moon has demonstrated to the world India's scientific prowess.





Mr Tang promised all help from WIPO to make India a Global Space Technology Hub and also a role model of South-South cooperation. He promised meaningful cooperation in the areas of Biotech Fellows and Start-ups and in the field of Innovation. Referring to DBT-WIPO Fellowship initiative, Mr Tang said, “Our focus today is on leveraging IP, innovation and medical technology to solve local health challenges using global partnerships. The aim is to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among young professionals from diverse countries”.

Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India said “This partnership will enable us to co-develop national, regional and global institutional capacities of innovators across regions to collaboratively address global health challenges, including by promoting Global South-South cooperation”.

Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST said in his remarks that the Department of Science and Technology is one of India’s oldest organizations to promote innovations and of late it is taking up several incubators by Start-ups. Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary DSIR, said that WIPO should act as a catalyst to make India’s Technology gain Global acceptability.

**TELEGRAPH, OCT 12, 2023**

Learning for the future

Science and technology prepare students for the future. Just as computer education is a must, the ability to deal with Artificial Intelligence is fast becoming imperative too

Devi Kar

Voltaire had famously said that the body which called itself the Holy Roman Empire “was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire.” We can probably say something along these lines about schools that describe themselves as inclusive and as offering holistic, future-ready education. When schools claim that they provide ‘holistic’ education, people presume that their children will be given academic instruction, physical education with opportunities to play sports and some grounding in music, visual and performing arts as well as public speaking. Parents thus look for schools that offer a wide range of co- and extra-curricular activities. But this seemingly complete package doesn’t signify holistic education. A definition of holistic education is the development of social, physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual aspects of an individual. We are yet to devise means by which we can systematically foster and measure the steady development of social and emotional

skills. What has been happening is that much of students' characters and personalities developed in an organic way through the school community. It is the students' talents and skills rather than their minds that are consciously sought to be trained and honed in school. We are yet to be mindful of the true meaning of holistic learning.

'Future-ready' is a trendy, 21st-century expression to reassure parents who worry about their offspring's career path from the time they are admitted to the pre-primary school. It is not enough for schools to prepare students for the all-important Board examinations. They have to help students with college admissions and career choices. No matter how hard we try to prepare our students for the future, can we honestly say that we are succeeding in doing so? The future is becoming increasingly unpredictable. It is futile to try to teach students skills which may be redundant tomorrow or to insist on imparting defunct knowledge that will turn out to be irrelevant to their lives. Future-ready education is one that will help students adapt to ever-changing circumstances, prepare them for the drastic fallouts of climate change, teach them the importance of maintaining a balanced ecology and help them to be genuine global citizens.

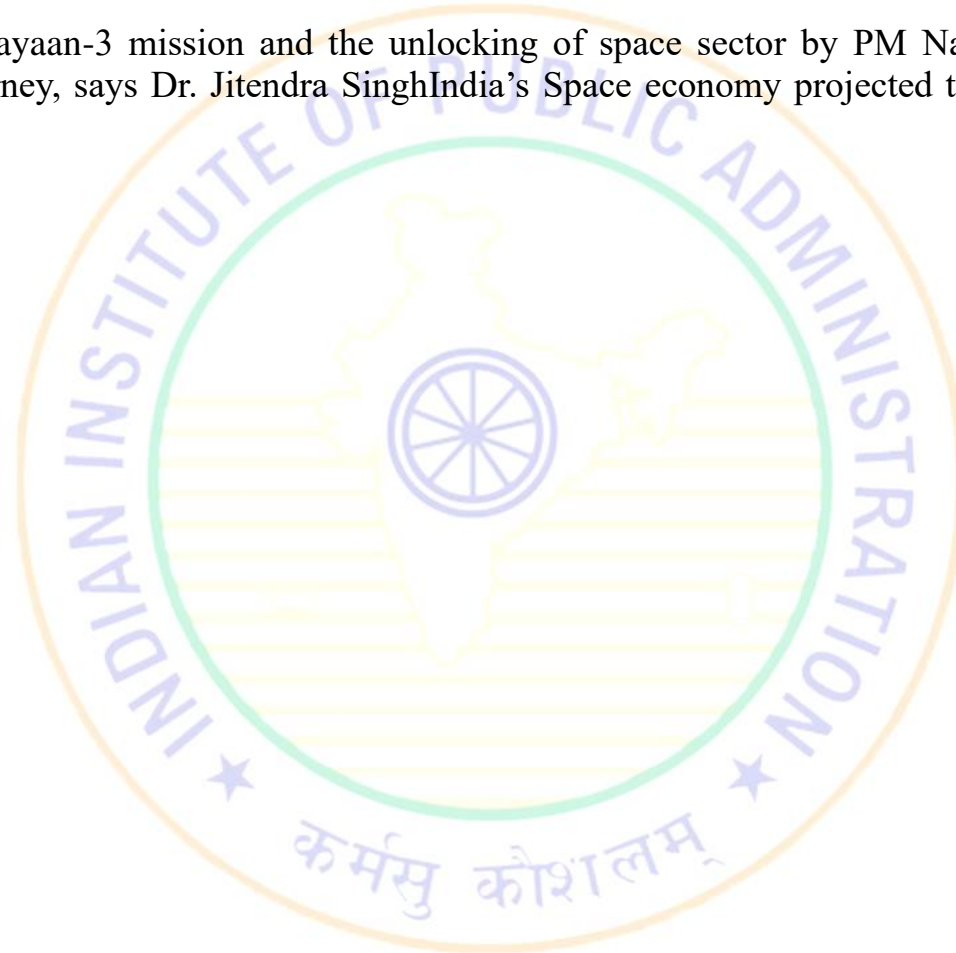
Science and technology prepare students for the future. Just as computer education is a must, the ability to deal with Artificial Intelligence is fast becoming imperative too. Current students will be the first generation who have to cope with machines that can make their own decisions and even create ideas of their own. These students and the following generations will have to learn to get these machines to work for them and not become slaves. This does not mean that chatbots should write their academic essays. Used wisely, ChatGPT can be of enormous help to students in their academic research or in locating a variety of thoughts. Another buzzword is 'inclusive'. I doubt that any school is genuinely so, because inclusivity is a far wider term than it is taken to be. Currently, when a school claims that it is inclusive, it means that it admits differently-abled children. However, being inclusive implies that the school also embraces children from different socio-economic backgrounds, communities, cultures and faiths.

Far from being inclusive, in present times, we are busy being exclusive. Our country has always been ridden with caste and class divisions. Till recently, Christians were dominant in the education field and now minorities are at the receiving end. How can we ever be inclusive, in the true sense of the term, if we are not willing to integrate? Despite the admirable social work being done by students, I am yet to see any social interaction between children from different economic backgrounds. In fact, parents take great pride in sending their children to obscenely expensive private schools that are unabashedly exclusive.

Let us hope that we soon have many genuinely inclusive schools delivering holistic and future-ready education. Only then will students be ready for life and be equipped to promote peace and save humanity from self-destruction.

PIB,OCT14,2023

After the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission and the unlocking of space sector by PM Narendra Modi, 'Sky is Not the Limit' for India's Space journey, says Dr. Jitendra Singh  
India's Space economy projected to grow beyond \$40 Billion by 2040: Dr. Jitendra Singh









India today is at par; World ready to be led by India, states Dr Singh

India's youth no more prisoners of aspiration after arrival of NEP, says Dr Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said, after the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission and the unlocking of Space sector by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, 'sky is not the limit' for India's Space journey. Dr. Jitendra Singh was delivering the inaugural cum keynote address at 'Campus Dialogue' on Chandrayaan 3 under the theme 'Viksit Bharat @2047' at the Central University of Jammu today. While interacting with the academia and students, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, India's quantum leap in space research with India's space economy standing at \$8 billion has been only possible due to the courageous decision taken by PM Narendra Modi to unlock the space sector from the shackles of the past. India's Space economy projected to grow beyond \$40 Billion by 2040 and as per ADL (Arthur D Little) Report, India's space economy has the potential to go beyond \$100 Billion by 2040, which is going to be a gigantic jump, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

On the successful conduct of the G20 Summit and Chandrayaan-3 Mission, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India today is at par with countries, such as the United States which commenced their space journey decades before us. Stating that India has made a quantum jump in its space journey in the last nine years, the Minister said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has created a supportive ecosystem. He added that the space sector has been opened for public private participation, with a swift increase in number of Space StartUps. Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Government of India has embarked on a mission to open Space Technology Teaching Centres in higher educational institutions. In this regard, the Minister mentioned the ISRO Teaching Centre established at the Central University of Jammu. A similar centre has also been set up at NIT, Agartala in Northeast, he informed. Enumerating the salient features of the National Education Policy 2020, Dr Jitendra Singh stated that India's youth are no more "prisoners of their aspiration" as the Policy now empowers them to choose or change subjects freely depending on their aptitude, skill, interest and other factors.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu were among those who also spoke on the occasion.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,OCT9,2023

**CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi organizes International Workshop on Advanced Materials and Energy Efficient Technologies to combat with climate change**

CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi is the National Measurement Institute (NMI) of India. CSIR-NPL is organizing a two days International Workshop on Advanced Materials Challenges and Standardization need for Net Zero Technologies from 9th - 10th October, 2023. Climate change is a critical concern globally and to mitigate its catastrophic impacts on the Earth's livelihood, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recommended the global greenhouse emissions to be declined to net zero by 2050. This workshop aims to bring national and international experts and researchers together on the same platform to discuss about the advanced materials, technologies and standards being developed globally to achieve the net zero target and the challenges therein to combat with the global climate change. The eminent scientists and researchers across the globe are participating in this workshop and sharing their research expertise in the areas of energy generation, materials for energy storage, materials for energy efficient technologies and materials for circular economy for sustainable development.

The program began with the welcome address by Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, Director CSIR-NPL. Prof. Achanta welcomed all the guests and participants and briefed about the workshop. He emphasized the role of CSIR labs in the development of various advanced materials and technologies for achieving the net zero target. He also mentioned that the workshop will be followed by VAMAS steering committee meeting-48 at CSIR-NPL from 11th October to 12th October, 2023. Followed by Prof. Achanta's address, Prof. Fernando Castro, VAMAS Chair, NPL-UK addressed the participants and mentioned about the conceptualization of the Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards (VAMAS) and its role in standardization of advanced materials and support to the world trade. He stressed upon the urgent need of net zero technologies to mitigate the climate change and its catastrophic impacts. He mentioned about the importance of materials metrology, accurate measurements and standard organizations

need to establish standards for new materials. The chief guest of the function Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary DSIR and Director General CSIR, addressed the gathering and mentioned about the need of advanced materials for net zero technologies. She mentioned that we need to work collectively to develop advanced materials and technologies for energy generation and storage. She mentioned about the importance of Zero for sustainable development. She said net zero is not a dream but has to be the mandate of the globe. She mentioned that advanced materials have lots of challenges and we need to take those challenges as opportunities to shape our future through a time bound process. She said we have to be very careful and justify our actions for the protection of our mother nature through collective efforts. She also mentioned about the role of CSIR-NPL in standardization and development of advanced materials and technologies for net zero emission. The inaugural program ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. S. R. Dhakate, Chief Scientist CSIR-NPL.

The program was followed by technical sessions on Materials for Energy Generation, Energy Storage and Carbon Capture by eminent speakers from various countries. The speakers mentioned about their research contributions and efforts towards development of advanced materials and technologies for achieving net zero emission.

PIB, OCT 10, 2023

Conduction of Cleanliness drive and mass awareness campaign related to the mandates and concepts of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)

Swachhata Hi Seva campaign at various locations in Delhi: Kalyanpuri, Connaught Place, Khanpur, Lodhi Garden and India Gate

The Delhi-based EIACP Programme Centres consisting of WWF, TERI, SPA, Sulabh-IIHH, CPCB and JNU EIACP PC-RPs, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) joined hands for organizing a mass Cleanliness cum Awareness drive under 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign and 'Mission LiFE'. The activities were held from 28th September to 02nd October 2023. As a part of the awareness activity, the cleanliness cum awareness drives were carried out at different identified locations in the Delhi region in association with the MCD staff in the presence of the area councillor, local communities and the Delhi Based EIACP PC-RP team members. The idea was to understand the importance of waste segregation at source, the journey of waste, waste to wealth, and alternatives to SUP.





## Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change

**Delhi based** Environmental Information, Awareness,  
Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Centres

Jointly Organizing with *Municipal Corporation of Delhi*



# साच्छता ही सेवा

## 15 सितम्बर - 2 अक्टूबर कचरा मुक्त भारत

Under

# Mission LiFE

Lifestyle for Environment





During the events, photographs and videos of the event were taken and uploaded on the Swachhata Hi Seva Portal. Cleaning activities like cleaning common areas, sensitization programmes, setting up of photo booths and pledge-taking sessions were organized, in which school and college students, general public took part. People from different sections of the society have come forward and joined this mass movement of cleanliness. From Government officials to MCD, NDMC staff, area councillors to the general public, all have lined up for noble work. Each and every designated location of the cleanliness drive witnessed the contribution of people in large numbers. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has become a 'Jan Andolan' receiving tremendous support from the people. The drive helped in raising awareness among the general public about the importance of cleanliness and its impact on health, environment, and overall well-being. The team managed to reach approximately 20000+ people through this mass cleanliness cum awareness drive.

TRIBUNE, OCT 13, 2023

Curbing air pollution

Centre, states need to work in close coordination

EVEN as Punjab and Haryana are grappling with the seasonal menace of stubble burning, the Supreme Court has sought a report from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the steps being taken for controlling air pollution in and around Delhi. The CAQM, a statutory body tasked with implementing the Central Government's Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to combat air pollution in Delhi-NCR during the winter season, had reported a 'sudden decline' in air quality parameters in the region last week, with Delhi's air quality index entering the 'poor' category. Consequently, Stage I of GRAP kicked in, with the CAQM directing authorities in the NCR to enforce a ban on coal usage in hotels and restaurants and take punitive measures against polluting industries and thermal power plants. Air pollution in Delhi-NCR is partly aggravated during October-November by the burning of crop residue, but there are several contributory factors which persist throughout the year. These include road traffic, ongoing work at construction and demolition sites and the use of petroleum coke by various industries. The apex court had on Tuesday asked the CAQM to take a holistic view of the import and distribution of highly polluting petroleum coke so as to strike a balance between the needs of industries and the imperatives of a clean environment.

The CAQM clearly has its work cut out, even as state governments need to be proactive in curbing stubble burning. In Haryana, the authorities are planning to deprive erring farmers of the benefits of government schemes; a database of habitual violators is also on the anvil. A political blame game, like the one involving BJP-ruled Haryana and AAP-governed Delhi, will serve no public purpose. The Centre and various states need to work in close coordination for the sake of the health of the people. After all, the Supreme Court has repeatedly asserted that the right to live in a pollution-free environment is part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

STATESMAN, OCT 15, 2023

Policy must be consistent to achieve climate goals

The global call for climate action reflects equally in India's reaffirmed commitment established through its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) from the 27th Conference of Parties (COP).

SOUTRIK GOSWAMI

The global call for climate action reflects equally in India's reaffirmed commitment established through its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) from the 27th Conference of Parties (COP). The country has made some steadfast steps in achieving 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 and reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent. The government's budgetary allocation in actual terms reflects its priority to meet the 2030 target as FY2017-18 to FY2021-22 saw a steady allocation to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The net allocation of Gross Budgetary Support and Internal External Budgetary Resources in actuals of FY21-22 was Rs 22463.54 Crores, and the compounded annual growth rate over the last four years has been 11.21 per cent. As we move towards COP 28 to be held in Dubai where the United Nations will conclude its first Global Stocktake to understand the world's collective progress towards climate change, the report published in September 2023 clearly indicates that the world is still far off from holding global temperatures at 1.5 degree Celsius.

Despite the serious commitment and numerous policy measures which have been in alignment with the 2030 targets, India still has several challenges to overcome. Across energy, automobile, and manufacturing one such significant issue is of policy inconsistencies which have proved to be a hurdle and have impacted the efficacy of India's de-carbonization pathway. We will take three examples, across the mentioned sectors, to understand this phenomenon.

India's major agenda as per the NDC is correctly aimed at decarbonizing energy, as historically the country has been very reliant on fossil fuel-based energy sources. A significant hindrance to the flagship schemes of the government to achieve independence from fossil fuel has been policy inconsistency. A major reason why India could not meet the target of 175 GW renewable energy capacity was attributed to the low solar rooftop and wind energy projects, as stated by a parliamentary panel.

The rooftop solar scheme's achievement was 7.4 GW out of the 40GW target. The scheme faced some major policy inconsistencies such as the discrepancy in the basic customs duty, net-metering limits to name a few. Let us understand the issue of net-metering to understand how this inconsistency has caused a regression in achieving its desired outcome. Initially a lot of state governments had rooftop solar capacity up to 1MW for net-metering but the 2021 Electricity (Rights of Consumer), 2020 Rules established a guideline lowering it to further to 500KW. For consumers, the reduction in the price of electricity is the most alluring feature of rooftop solar. The potential savings are dramatically reduced when the net metering limit is halved, especially for big and medium industrial consumers, hence over- all hampering its acceptance.

The manufacturing sector for renewables such as solar also has faced similar issues, and has hampered the overall progression towards India's targets. In 2010 the Jawahar Lal Nehru Solar Mission (JNNSM) instituted the domestic content category (DCR) which mandated solar projects in the country to utilize domestically manufactured solar cells and modules. This policy was aimed to have a domestic manufacturing base to be able to meet the long term renewable capacity, price parity and market demands. But after FY2010-11, the regulations of mandating DCR kept becoming lower as compared to the open category market.

From the beginning of 2011 to the end of 2012 solar module prices fell by 65 per cent and Chinese manufacturers captured most of the markets. Indian manufactured modules were costlier, hence were not preferred by the developers. This impact could have been minimized and India's solar manufacturing base could have been in a much better position today but due to inconsistent policies and lack of focus, it will take much longer to achieve this. A similar inconsistency was very recently observed in the automobile sector. India has also affirmed an intention to decarbonize its automobile sector by setting a target Electric Vehicle (EV ) sales penetration of 30 per cent for passenger automobiles, 70 per cent for commercial vehicles, and 80 per cent for two and three-wheelers by 2030. In order to achieve this, the government approved the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles (FAME scheme) in two phases.



The scheme's largest impact was seen through the market penetration of EVs in the two wheeler segment, which has the highest market share. Over the years, the market for cleaner vehicles has got steady hand-holding

through policy intervention and sub-sidies, but the recent reform in the FAME II subsidies presents a case of policy inconsistency. FAME II subsidies on electric two wheelers saw incentives cut down to 15 per cent of ex-factory price from the earlier 40 per cent and the demand incentive was cut to Rs 10,000/kWh from Rs 15,000/kWh in June 2023. The impact of this reduction saw a direct impact on the sales of the two wheelers in the Indian market. As per government's VAHAN website, the two wheeler EV segment saw a drop of registration from 1,06,006 to 46,011 in June 2023. It is imperative for our policy makers and government institutions to establish more consistent and uniform policies signaling mechanisms to expedite the country's de-carbonization and just transition. On the brighter side the government's recent interest in establishing carbon markets through its Energy Amendment Act (2022) shows its commitment to a more consistent and uniform policy.

In last 10 years the share of global emissions covered by carbon taxes and emission trading schemes has grown from 7 to 23 per cent. India has rich experience in various implicit carbon pricing mechanisms such as Coalcess and the recent pilot projects in Gujarat for running ETS programmes in Surat and Ahmedabad municipalities. It is also important to note that the existing regulatory mechanisms are made more fluent and participatory so that inconsistencies between union, state and all other relevant stakeholders can be minimized. In conclusion, India has an urgent need to expedite its effort to remove inconsistencies in existing policies.

(The writer is a Research Consultant at the Climate Finance Vertical at Center for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), a public policy think tank based in New Delhi, India. The views expressed are personal.)

## CURRENT EVENTS

PIB, OCT 9, 2023

**PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON ‘FROM RESEARCH TO IMPACT: TOWARDS JUST AND RESILIENT AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS’**

**MAKING OUR AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS MORE JUST, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE IS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE BUT ALSO CRUCIAL FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PLANET AND HUMANKIND: PRESIDENT MURMU**

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated an International Research Conference on ‘From research to impact: Towards Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems’, being hosted by CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in New Delhi, today (October 9, 2023). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that a society, irrespective of its prosperity, will cease to exist if it is devoid of justice. She added that when it comes to gender justice, agriculture, known as the oldest science, is found wanting even in the modern times. She said that Covid-19 pandemic has also brought to the fore a strong correlation between the agri-food systems and structural inequality in society. She added that as compared to men, women suffered more job loss in the pandemic years that triggered migration.

The President said that at the global level, we have seen that women have been kept outside the agri-food systems for long. She added that they form the bulk of the lowest pyramid of the agriculture structure, but they are denied the opportunity to climb the ladder to assume the role of decision-makers. She said that across the world, they are held back and stopped by discriminatory social norms and barriers to knowledge, ownership, assets, resources and social networks. She further said that their contribution is not recognised, their role is marginalised and their agency is denied in the whole chain of the agri-food systems and this story needs to change. She stated that in India, we have been witnessing those changes with women getting more empowered through legislative and governmental interventions. The President said that modern women are not “abla” but “sabla”, that is, not helpless but powerful. She added that we need not only women's development but women-led development. She said that making our agri-food systems more just, inclusive and equitable is not only desirable but also crucial for the well-being of the planet and humankind.

The President said that climate change is an existential threat and we need to act now, act fast and act swiftly. She said that climate change, global warming, melting ice caps and extinction of species are disrupting the food production and the agri-food cycle is also not sustainable and eco-friendly. It is hindering climate action and causing an increase in greenhouse gases. She highlighted that our agri-food systems are stuck in a vicious cycle and we need to break this “chakravayuh”. She also emphasised on the need to increase biodiversity and restore ecosystems so that food and nutritional security can be assured through the agri-food systems along with a more prosperous and equitable future for all.

The President said that for ecologically sustainable, ethically desirable, economically affordable and socially justifiable production, we need research which can enable conditions to reach these goals. She added that we need a systematic understanding of how to transform the agri-food systems. She said that the agri-food systems should be resilient and agile so that they can withstand shocks and disruptions to make nutritious and healthy diets more accessible, available and affordable for all and they should be more just, equitable and sustainable. She expressed confidence that during the next four days the conference will consider all the issues and will pave the way for positive transformation of the agri-food systems.

PIB,OCT9,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addresses the 10th "India-Sweden Innovation Day" meet;

Calls for strengthening India-Sweden collaboration to effectively address pressing global challenges while remaining steadfast in their pursuit of immediate objectives on the path to achieving a net-zero future

Speaking on the 10th edition of the India Sweden Innovation Day, Dr Jitendra Singh said, companies from both sides must be encouraged to engage in collaborative research and the exchange of human resources

This year, nine Swedish companies made a visit to India under the India-Sweden Innovations Accelerator with the aim of enhancing export and investment prospects in the field of green technology: Dr Jitendra Singh

Addressing the 10th "India-Sweden Innovation Day" meet in New Delhi today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh called for strengthening India-Sweden collaboration to effectively address pressing global challenges while



remaining steadfast in the pursuit of immediate objectives on the path to achieving a net-zero future. Speaking on behalf of the Govt of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said, companies from both sides must be encouraged to engage in collaborative research and the exchange of human resources.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that this year, nine Swedish companies made a visit to India under the India-Sweden Innovations Accelerator with the aim of enhancing export and investment prospects in the field of green technology, thereby fostering stronger ties between Sweden and India in this sector. The Minister noted that in 2023, both the countries are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations and Fifth anniversary of the Sweden-India Joint Declaration on Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future. He described it as a momentous occasion that serves as the guiding theme for the 10th India Sweden Innovation Day. Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that this milestone event is centered on harnessing our respective areas of expertise and spearheading environmentally sustainable growth, all with the aim of realizing a net-zero future.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in May 2022, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Ms Magdalena Andersson of Sweden reiterated their dedication to fostering collaborative research and innovation across multiple domains, including polar and space research. The Minister said, the partnership covers several areas, including smart cities, transportation and eMobility, energy, clean technologies, new materials, space, circular and bio-based economy, and health and life sciences. He also added that the India-Sweden Innovation Partnership bridges institutions, R&D intensive industries and creative entrepreneurs to address global challenges in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, recently, the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with the Swedish Government Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), has announced the INDIA–SWEDEN Collaborative Industrial Research & Development call. He said, this initiative forms an integral part of the broader Sweden-India Innovation Partnership, which collectively enhance competitiveness and tackle pressing global issues such as climate change and sustainable development through innovative solutions. Dr Jitendra Singh noted that only last year, India and Sweden announced the India-Sweden Joint call for proposals within Circular Economy. The Joint programme is co-funded by 09 Indian and Swedish funding agencies and a total of 03 major projects were supported under this call. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was formally endorsed on March 13, 2023, forging a partnership between the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology and the Swedish Foundation for



International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT). This collaboration is geared towards enhancing cooperation and fostering research connections among academic institutions in India and Sweden and also to promote knowledge exchange and research advancement by facilitating seminars, workshops, and conferences.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed his gratitude to Mr Andreas Carlson, Minister of Infrastructure, Government of Sweden for participating in the 10th edition of the India Sweden Innovation Day and said that India is ready to enhance the bilateral partnership, especially in the realm of Science & Technology, and to bolster our innovation ecosystem. The Minister concluded by saying that the bilateral diplomatic ties have prospered due to our shared values and dedication to fair trade and globalization. It brings me great joy to see that innovation cooperation is the most rapidly expanding aspect of the bilateral relationship between India and Sweden, he added. Ambassador of Sweden to India, Mr Jan Thesleff; Ambassador of India to Sweden, Shri Tanmaya Lal; Shri Robin Sukhia, President, Sweden-India Business Council and Shri Sanjoo Malhotra, CEO India Unlimited also gave their addresses on the occasion.

PIB, OCT 9, 2023

National event for Launch of 'Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children' to be held tomorrow in New Delhi

Standardised national Protocol drafted by MWCD with inputs from MH&FW for the first time, providing detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children

The 'Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children' will be launched during a national event at Vigyan Bhawan tomorrow ( October 10, 2023) under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, in the presence of Minister of State for WCD and Ayush, Dr Munjapara Mahendrabhai and the Secretaries of Ministry of Women and Child Development ( MWCD ) and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare ( MH& FW) .Senior Officers from WCD and Health Departments from across the country would be participating in the event. Dignitaries and experts from key international and other organisations such as UNICEF, Indian Medical Association (IMA), International Paediatric Association, Indian Academy of Paediatrics, World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) are expected to participate.



The event will also be attended by frontline functionaries including, CDPOs, Lady Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers and ASHA workers from across the country. During the event, Anganwadi Workers and ASHA workers, from different States/UTs, who have shown exemplary dedication and commitment to management of malnutrition among children, would be felicitated by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development .

Malnutrition is a complex challenge necessitating collective action. Towards this objective, convergent efforts are required for achieving desired outcomes. Under the aegis of ‘Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0’ of the MWCD, interventions to combat malnutrition are being orchestrated through a multi-sectoral approach in collaboration with key Line Ministries/Departments and with unwavering support and commitment from States/Union Territories. Identification of malnourished children and their treatment is an integral aspect of Mission Poshan 2.0. Identifying, treating and managing malnourished children at Anganwadi Centres and within communities and understanding when to refer them to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) or for medical help, are decisions highlighting the importance of close collaboration between the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare .

Until recently, treatment of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was considered to be restricted to facility-based approaches. In this context, for the first time, a standardised national ‘Protocol for Management of Malnourished Children’ (‘Protocol’) has been drafted by MWCD with inputs from MH&FW, providing detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children at the Anganwadi level, including decision-making for referral, nutritional management and follow-up care.

PIB,OCT10,2023

National Security Council Secretariat organizes the 2nd Edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise ‘Bharat NCX 2023’ for Government organizations, Public and Private Sector to strengthen India’s Cyber posture of India’s Critical Sector

Shri Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, today inaugurated the ‘Bharat NCX 2023’ alongside Deputy National Security Advisor Shri Rajinder Khanna and National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen MU Nair. The 2nd Edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 2023 ‘Bharat NCX 2023’ will be conducted as a hybrid exercise over a period of twelve days from 09 to 20 October 2023 with the aim to train senior management and technical personnel of Government/Critical Sector organizations and Public and Private agencies on contemporary cyber threats and

handling cyber incidents and response. The program is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Govt. of India in strategic partnership with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU). This flagship event serves as a unifying platform for over 300 participants, representing a diverse spectrum of government agencies, public organizations, and the private sector, all resolutely committed to the safeguarding of critical information infrastructure through training sessions, Live Fire and Strategic exercises. The participants will be trained on various key cyber security areas such as Intrusion Detection Techniques, Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Vulnerability Handling & Penetration Testing, Network Protocols & Data Flows, Digital Forensics, etc. Bharat NCX India will help strategic leaders to better understand cyber threats, assess readiness, and develop skills for cyber crisis management and cooperation. This will also help develop and test cybersecurity skills, teamwork, planning, communication, critical thinking, and decision-making.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, took the stage to deliver a compelling keynote address, one that resonated deeply. Dr. Sood's impassioned speech underscored the paramount importance of upskilling the cyber workforce, inspiring attendees to evolve into a formidable army of cyber warriors. His address placed a strong emphasis on continuous learning and expertise cultivation as the foundational pillars for reinforcing India's cybersecurity defenses. He also laid out the importance of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) protection, hardware security needs and Post Quantum Cryptography in his speech, while talking about the need to become "Quantum Safe".

Further enhancing the event's significance, Lt. Gen. M U Nair, National Cyber Security Coordinator, provided a strategic overview of India's cyber domain. His insights illuminated the evolving landscape of cyber threats, emphasizing the pivotal role of collective vigilance in safeguarding the nation's digital assets. On the sidelines of the event, Colonel Nidhish Bhatnagar, Director of Rashtriya Raksha University, lauded the unwavering commitment of the Government of India to cybersecurity. He highlighted the pivotal role of such initiatives in ensuring India's cyber-safety, particularly in an era characterized by extensive digitalization and an expanded threat surface and also a step towards workforce development in cyber security. Furthermore, Bharat NCX 2023 will showcase an exclusive exhibition spotlighting the innovation and resilience of Indian Cyber Security startups and Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). This exhibition will shine a spotlight on the cutting-edge solutions and technologies developed by these dynamic entities, underscoring their pivotal role in fortifying India's cybersecurity ecosystem.

Bharat NCX 2023 will host a prestigious conclave, gathering over 200 Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) from government, public organizations, and the private sector. This exclusive gathering of industry leaders will provide a unique platform for in-depth discussions and deliberations on the evolving cyber threat landscape.

PIONEER, OCT 12, 2023

## Kriegspiel

The five Assembly election results would give a fair idea about the political mood of the nation

Elections to Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram have been scheduled for November. These elections are not just regional contests but will have far-reaching implications for the General Elections of 2024. Madhya Pradesh has traditionally been a bellwether State with its outcome often indicative of the national trend. With the BJP keeping its cards hidden on the issue of the next CM, speculation is rife that it is the end of the road for incumbent Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The BJP is eager to regain power, while the Congress, led by Kamal Nath, is harping upon the anti-incumbency of 20 years of the BJP rule. In the state of Rajasthan it is Congress stalwart Ashok Gehlot who would be defending his turf and fighting anti-incumbency. In Telangana, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) will seek re-election. The BRS swept the 2018 Assembly polls, and KCR has since been a prominent player in national politics, advocating for a federal front. The Opposition, including the Congress and the BJP, is determined to challenge KCR's dominance in the State. These elections could determine whether KCR remains a formidable regional force and whether his federal front gains traction on the national stage. Chhattisgarh, a State with a history of left-wing extremism, will also go to the polls. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been leading the Congress Government, and the elections will test the party's popularity. In the border State of Rajasthan, it could be a direct contest between Congress and the BJP. Mizoram gears up for the impending Assembly elections on November 7. The State will see its 40 Assembly seats go to polls in a single-phase election. The electoral battleground in Mizoram appears to be poised for a close contest, with opinion polls predicting a hung Assembly. The interest in these elections is mainly for two reasons. First, they are the first major round of elections after the formation of the INDIA bloc and its first test at the hustings and, second, they are being held just months before the General Elections. psephologists maintain that most people tend to vote for the same party when State and general elections are narrowly spaced. This would indeed indicate the mood of the people in these five important States, of which four are in the Hindi heartland. These elections are not merely regional contests but pivotal events that will shape the political



trajectory of India as a whole. They will be closely scrutinised for clues about the national political climate, alliance dynamics and voter sentiments, all of which will impact the outcome of the General Elections in 2024. Though the state elections are different from the Lok Sabha election, the political parties would still be going all out to win these elections as they would not like to lose any ground just before the General Elections.

PIB,OCT14,2023

Text of PM's address at launch of ferry services between Nagapattinam, India and Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka

Excellencies, Brothers and sisters, Namaskar, Ayubowan, Vannakam!

Friends,

It is my privilege to join you on this important occasion. We are embarking on a new chapter in the diplomatic and economic relations between India and Sri Lanka. The launch of a ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai is an important mile-stone in strengthening our relations.

Friends,

India and Sri Lanka share a deep history of culture, commerce and civilization. Nagapattinam and towns near-by have long been known for sea trade with many countries, including Sri Lanka. The historical port of Poompuhar has been mentioned as a hub in ancient Tamil literature. Sangam age literature like Pattinappalai and Manimekalai speaks about boats and ships moving between India and Sri Lanka. Great Poet Subramania Bharti in his song 'Sindhu Nadhiyin Misai', had spoken of a bridge connecting our two countries. This ferry service brings alive all those historical and cultural connections.

Friends,

During the recent visit of President Wickremesinghe, we jointly adopted a vision document for our economic partnership. Connectivity is the central theme of this partnership. Connectivity is not only about bringing two cities closer. It also brings our countries closer, our people closer and our hearts closer. Connectivity enhances trade, tourism and people-to-people ties. It also creates opportunities for the youth of both countries.

Friends,

Following my visit to Sri Lanka in 2015, we witnessed the launch of direct flights between Delhi and Colombo. Later, we celebrated the landing of the first international flight in the pilgrim town of Kushinagar from Sri Lanka. The direct flight between Chennai and Jaffna began in 2019. Now, the ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai is yet another important step in this direction.

Friends,

Our vision for connectivity goes beyond the transport sector. India and Sri Lanka collaborate closely in a wide range of areas such as fin-tech and energy. Digital payments have become a mass movement and a way of life in India due to UPI. We are working on fin-tech sector connectivity by linking UPI and Lanka Pay. Energy security is crucial for our countries to power our development journey. We are connecting our energy grids to enhance energy security and reliability.

Friends,

Partnership for progress and development is one of the strongest pillars of our bilateral relationship. Our vision is to take development to everyone, leaving none behind. In line with this vision, projects implemented with Indian assistance in Sri Lanka have touched the lives of the people. Several projects related to housing, water, health, and livelihood support have been completed in the Northern province. I am glad that we extended support for the upgradation of the Kankesanthurai Harbour. Be it, restoration of railway lines connecting North to South; construction of the iconic Jaffna Cultural Centre; roll out of emergency ambulance service all across Sri Lanka; or the multi-specialty hospital at Dick Oya we are working with a vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayaas.

Friends,

You all know that India recently hosted the G20 Summit. Our vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has been welcomed by the international community. Part of this vision is putting our Neighborhood First, sharing progress and prosperity. During the G20 summit, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor was launched. This is an important connectivity corridor that will create a massive economic impact on the whole region. The people of Sri Lanka will also benefit from it as we strengthen multi-modal connectivity between our two countries. I thank the President, the Government and the people of Sri

Lanka for the successful launch of the ferry service today. With the beginning today, we will also work towards resuming the ferry service between Rameshwaram and Talaimannar.

Friends,

India remains committed to working closely with Sri Lanka to further strengthen our bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of our people. Thank you!

PIB,OCT14,2023

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates New Facilities at NEIGRIHMS

Lays Foundation Stone for Critical Care Block at the institute

The new facilities at NEIGRIHMS will provide much-needed healthcare services to the people of the Northeast region: Dr Mandaviya

“Union Government is committed to improving the health infrastructure in the Northeast region and to providing quality healthcare services to the people of the region”

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated a new Regional Cancer Centre, a new Under-Graduate Medical College, New Building of Nursing College, Hostels, 8 Modular Operation Theatres, a Virtual Autopsy and New Guest House at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) in Shillong, Meghalaya today. He also laid the foundation stone for a 150-bed Critical Care Block at the institute. Shri Heaving Stone Kharpran, Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya and Prof. Nalin Mehta, Director, NEIGRIHMS were also present.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Dr Mandaviya said that “the new facilities at NEIGRIHMS will provide much-needed healthcare services to the people of the Northeast region. The Central Government is committed to improving the health infrastructure in the Northeast region and to providing quality healthcare services to the people of the region.”



The Union Health Minister also stated that the new facilities at NEIGRIHMS will help to attract and retain medical professionals in the Northeast region. Appreciating the work culture and cleanliness in NEIGRIHMS, he said that the government is committed to further develop infrastructure at NEIGRIHMS so that the institute continues to remain a hub for medical treatment, research & training of healthcare & allied healthcare professionals for the Northeast region. Dr Mandaviya stated that the Union Govt looks at the Health sector through a holistic approach. “We are not only creating new and advanced medical infrastructure. We are also increasing the number of doctors and nursing staff. In the last nine years, the number of medical colleges have doubled in the country. 1,70,000 Health and Wellness Centres have been created across the country. We are also building one Critical Care unit in every district in the country”, he said.

Prof Nalin Mehta said that the new facilities will vastly improve healthcare facilities in NEIGRIHMS and will lead to increase in seats for MBBS and B.Sc. Nursing courses in Meghalaya. He further said that with the improvement of medical facilities in the Northeast region, people will not have to go far to other regions of the country for medical treatment.

The new facilities will provide much-needed healthcare services to the people of the Northeast region. The Regional Cancer Centre is a 252-bedded state-of-the-art facility that will provide comprehensive cancer care services to patients from across the region. The Under-Graduate Medical College will help in providing undergraduate medical education using state-of-the-art technologies to a batch of 100 MBBS students per year. The Nursing College will train nurses to meet the growing demand for nursing professionals in the Northeast region. The Hostels have a total of 416 rooms and will provide accommodation to MBBS Students & Interns. The Modular OT is a state-of-the-art operating theatre in the hospital that will be used for complex surgeries. The New Guest House has a capacity of 28 rooms that will provide accommodation for guests and visitors to NEIGRIHMS. A key highlight of the new facilities is the virtual autopsy facility at the institute, which is one of the most advanced and sophisticated facility, available only at few centres in the country. Virtual autopsy is a non-invasive post-mortem examination that uses medical imaging technology to create a 3D model of the body, which can then be examined by forensic pathologists and other medical professionals.

A 150-bed standalone Critical Care Block facility is being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) to treat highly contagious infectious diseases, such as COVID-19. This will help ensure that regular hospital care remains unaffected during such outbreaks.

The inauguration of these new facilities and the laying of the foundation stone of the Critical Care Block are major steps forward in the Government's efforts to provide quality healthcare to the people of Meghalaya and the entire North East region.

PIB,OCT14,2023

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR) in Kohima, Nagaland

NIMSR is the first Medical College in Nagaland

NIMSR is not just a medical college, it is also a research institute. It will not only fulfil the purpose of imparting medical education but will also address the health issues of the Naga people: Dr Mandaviya

“The aim is to ensure that each citizen of India is able to get access to affordable and accessible healthcare across the country”. Today is a historic day for the people of Nagaland as we inaugurated the first medical college in the state: Shri Neiphiu Rio

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya today inaugurated the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR) in Kohima, Nagaland in the presence of Shri Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister, Nagaland; Shri T R Zeliang, Deputy Chief Minister, Nagaland and Shri P Paiwang Konyak, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Nagaland.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mandaviya said that “NIMSR is not just a medical college, it is also a research institute. It will not only fulfil the purpose of imparting medical education but will also address the health issues of the Naga people.” The Union Health Minister encouraged the students and other stakeholders to not limit their scope of research within national borders. “We must encash on opportunities abroad as well”, he said. He also informed that the Union Govt has started foreign language courses in many medical education institutes so that students can have an edge in getting jobs abroad.

Dr Mandaviya said that strengthening the medical, nursing and pharmacy education in the country is an endeavour of the Union Govt for the holistic development and expansion of the country's health sector. "The aim is to ensure that each citizen of India is able to get access to affordable and accessible healthcare across the country", he said. He also highlighted the expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country to improve access to quality and affordable medicines for all.

Shri Neiphiu Rio stated that "today is a historic day for the people of Nagaland as we inaugurated the first medical college in the state". Highlighting that it was a long cherished dream of the people of Nagaland to have a medical college in their state, he thanked the Union Govt for steadfastly taking up the project. He also said that NIMSR would help the state in strengthening its secondary and tertiary healthcare and he further hoped that it would become a centre of excellence in the coming days. Shri Konyak said that the inauguration of NIMSR is an auspicious occasion for the state of Nagaland and thanked the Union Govt for the importance given to strengthening medical education and health infrastructure in the state. He also thanked the World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other partners and agencies who were involved with the NIMSR Kohima project.

NIMSR Kohima aims at providing holistic medical education to MBBS students enrolled under NIMSR, comprehensive hospital based and community outreach health care services to patients through various Health Care Programs, extra and intramural research facilities. The NIMSR, with its state of art skill development domain specific teaching learning tools, laboratories, central library, sports facilities and Medical Education Unit have renowned Faculty and Residents who continue to focus on capacity building, competence and confidence development, collaboration, and cooperation to develop further through partnerships, MOUs, and networking with other reputed Medical Colleges and healthcare organizations of national and international repute. NIMSR Kohima is affiliated to Nagaland University. It received the Letter of Permission for admission of 100 MBBS seats from academic year 2023-2024 from the National Medical Commission (NMC), in April 2023 paving way to start the first Medical College in the state after 60 years of statehood, realizing the long-cherished dream of the people of Nagaland. 85 MBBS students from state of Nagaland and 6 students from all India seats got admitted in NIMSR and have joined MBBS classes after induction program on 1.9.2023. The inauguration of NIMSR Kohima is a crucial part of the Government's efforts to improve the quality of medical education and healthcare infrastructure in Nagaland and the entire Northeast region. Cabinet members of the Govt of Nagaland; Senior officials of the Union and Nagaland Government, Members of Civil Societies and Special Invitees were present on the occasion.