

SAMBHAV

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

INDIAN EXPRESS,SEP12,2022

Shape of Opposition unity: Story of five blind men who discovered an elephant

Almost every non-NDA leader with the possible exception of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chants the mantra of the Opposition unity nowadays

Manoj C G

A strong Congress is a major pillar of the Opposition unity, say the leaders of the grand old party, whose top leader Rahul Gandhi has been on a Bharat Jodo Yatra which, he believes, will make him “wiser” and help his battered party reconnect with the people. Not necessarily, say the leaders of several Opposition parties, who claim that the Opposition unity can take shape with or without the Congress. Almost every non-NDA leader with the possible exception of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chants the mantra of the Opposition unity nowadays. But it is more like the story of the five blind men discovering an elephant. Like in the case of the elephant, every leader has formed a unique impression about the Opposition unity and sees it differently. With one and a half years to go for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Opposition remains a divided house on the question of getting united against the BJP.

The question relating to the “face” who will emerge as a challenger to Narendra Modi is a contentious one and perhaps rightly so because of multiple aspirants for the role. Almost everyone is fancying their chances – the latest one to join the list is Telangana Chief Minister and TRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao, who has announced that he will launch a national party soon.

Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal – they are all eyeing a national role for themselves. And then there is the Congress – the biggest player in the Opposition bloc and the natural claimant for it. The point remains that despite its massive electoral slide the Congress is still the only party in the Opposition ranks with a pan-national footprint. The others will have to carve that space for challenging the BJP. But despite their positioning every such leader has invariably the same answer on the issue of the Opposition’s prime ministerial candidate. Their standard answer remains that “Face is not important....unity

of Opposition parties is”. But what is the Opposition unity that they are envisaging: Is it a Congress-led front, a third front or even a fourth front?

The Congress’s idea of the Opposition unity is largely limited to Parliament. On the ground, it is looking at state-specific tie-ups – with the DMK in Tamil Nadu, the RJD plus JD(U) in Bihar, the NCP and Uddhav Sena in Maharashtra, and the JMM in Jharkhand. But other parties have different ideas. West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee has named Nitish Kumar, Hemant Soren, and Akhilesh Yadav as potential allies. She can do that since her party is not a player in Bihar, Jharkhand or Uttar Pradesh. But the Congress cannot. It will contest in Bengal, maybe with the Left parties, and Uttar Pradesh, and will be a part of the “grand alliance” in Bihar. The Congress does not figure in Mamata’s gameplan. Why would it? So, is Mamata looking at a non-BJP, non-Congress third front? It is another matter that Kumar and Soren are in alliance with the Congress in their respective states.

On his part, Kumar believes that the Congress has to be a part of any credible Opposition grouping. The RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav too shares the view but believes the Congress should take a back seat in states where it is weak: In other words, allow the regional parties to be in the driving seat in such states. The Congress does not fit in Rao’s calculations too. Interestingly, Mamata did not name the TRS as a potential ally. Rao has had meetings with Kumar, H D Deve Gowda, M K Stalin and several other Opposition leaders. The AAP and the BSP prefer to go solo. Then comes parties like the NCP, Shiv Sena and DMK, that believe the Congress should lead the unity efforts. The Samajwadi Party’s Akhilesh Yadav, on the other hand, has made it clear that he will not have any truck with the Congress or the BSP. It prefers smaller allies like the RLD. The Left parties may ally with the Congress in Bengal but will continue to fight it in Kerala. The Left is essentially a votary of the post-poll coalitions. Once a strong advocate of the third front, the Left now believes coalitions can take shape post elections depending on the numbers and often argues that the United Front in 1996 and the UPA in 2004 (even the NDA in 1999) were post-poll tie-ups.

So amid all the meetings that the Opposition leaders are having with each other, one thing that is becoming clearer is that there is no clarity. One set of parties wants the Opposition unity to be formed without the Congress, second one wants the Congress as a constituent and another one accepts the Congress’s central role in it. The fact is that every regional party wants to maximise its seats in their respective states by positioning as a national player. Despite their posturings, all the Opposition leaders however know that what ultimately matters is the numbers. Rahul Gandhi and the Congress realise that there has been

a question mark over the grand old party's preeminence in the Opposition camp. From the Congress's point of view, the Yatra is perhaps the answer. The Congress says the Yatra will strengthen and rejuvenate the party and believes that the Opposition unity is possible when the Congress emerges stronger. The Congress's Jairam Ramesh, for instance, said Monday that the party will not allow itself to be weakened any longer. In his words, the elephant has woken up and its impact will be seen in due course.

PIB,SEP14,2022

Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujarat sign MoU to collaborate in Gram Panchayat Development Planning for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) . MoU to give fillip to strengthening and capacity building of PRIs. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR calls upon PRIs to use digital technology to reach out to the last mile and take everyone along in the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas .Collaboration between IRMA and MoPR couldn't have come at a more opportune time, given that the nation is celebrating the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav': Dr. Umakant Dash, Director, IRMA. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IRMA Campus in Anand, Gujarat today. Graphical user interfaceDescription automatically generated

Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR and Dr. Umakant Dash, Director, IRMA, signed the MoU, which has been formulated to give a fillip to the strengthening and capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country, and to establish a framework under which MoPR and IRMA will collaborate in the area of Gram Panchayat Development Planning for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through PRIs.“If attainment of SDGs in rural areas is to be permanent and meaningful in nature, PRIs need to identify them with themes of localization of SDGs with clear vision and achieving thematic goals”, Shri Kumar said on the occasion. “IRMA”, he added, “is the only institute best placed to serve such needs and requirements that are necessary for the overall development of rural India.” Shri Kumar called upon the PRIs to use technology / digital technology to reach out to the last mile and taking everyone along in the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas.

In his address, Dr. Umakant Dash said that IRMA was established with the stated purpose of creating rural managers, committed to work at the grassroots. The collaboration between IRMA and the MoPR couldn't have come at a more opportune

time, given that the nation is celebrating the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, commemorating 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people. The people who are the backbone of the PRIs and institutions like IRMA have a responsibility towards rural development. This collaboration, he added, would aid IRMA faculty and participants to work closely with PRIs and hone their skills on the ground, towards the attainment of the larger goal of the localization of SDGs.

Smt. Rekha Yadav, Joint Secretary, MoPR, shared an overview on the localization of SDGs and their convergence with different stakeholders at the grassroots. Stressing on the need for recognizing the challenges and the opportunities present in mobilizing community participation, she said the MoPR recognizes the same and its efforts are now focused on undertaking implementation and monitoring of the localization of the SDGs. She concluded by saying that IRMA would be expected to bring its specialization, technical prowess and practical experience to the common objectives of the agreement and the collaborative efforts would bring about the implementation of best practices across the nation.

The MoU ceremony also saw presentation from IRMA faculty on various domains like IRMA’s strategy for integrating its PGDM students with the MoPR fellows during the institute’s Village Fieldwork Segment (VFS) and the Summer Internship Segment (SIS), as well as its continuous commitment to create research and capacity-building programmes that engage rural communities and create sustainable models to transform economy and livelihoods scenario of India. The ceremony was capped by an interactive session between Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR, Smt. Rekha Yadav, Joint Secretary, MoPR and the students of IRMA's flagship PGDRM programme.

PIB,SEP15,2022

More reforms in Telecom Sector in offing but the industry too will have to do its bit and reciprocate by improving quality of services – Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw

Last mile connectivity crucial for the development of Telecom Sector - Shri Devusinh Chauhan The theme of this year’s Annual Flagship Event was “Gati Shakti Vision For 5G & Beyond”. The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that the Telecom Sector in the country will witness more reforms in coming years and asserted that the industry too will have to do its bit and reciprocate by improving quality of service significantly. He was addressing the Annual Flagship Event 2022 of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association

(DIPA), an apex industry body representing Digital Infrastructure providers industry in India, here yesterday. The Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that service quality parameters have to be significantly increased, and the Telecom Department should approach Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard. He advised the Telecom Department to send a new consultation paper to TRAI for significantly increasing the quality-of-service parameters almost making it 3X or 4X of what it is today. The Minister said that the journey of 5G is going to be very exciting and noted that many countries took multiple years to reach 40% to 50% coverage. But we are targeting a very aggressive timeline and the Government has given a target of 80% coverage in short time frame and we should definitely cover at least 80% in a very short timeframe, he added.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the industry including Telecom Operators and Infrastructure Providers to move full steam ahead on improving quality of services in the country, now that a slew of reforms had been announced and more were lined up. The Minister said initiatives cannot be one-sided, and the equation has to be reciprocal, he added. While addressing, the Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan has said that our country is transforming from Developing Country into Developed Country and the Telecom Sector's role is crucial in achieving this. He referred Prime Minister's Reform, Perform and Transform which should be the slogan of this sector to move ahead. Shri Devusinh Chauhan said that the last mile connectivity is very crucial for the development of Telecom Sector and he advised the Telecom operators to work hard in this direction. He further said that the 5G connectivity should play a major role in providing Health, Education, Mining, Transportation, Logistics fields etc. DIPA should play a pivotal role in this regards, he added. The theme of this year's Annual Flagship Event was "Gati Shakti Vision For 5G & Beyond".

During the event, EY-DIPA White paper titled 'GatiShakti — paving the way for an accelerated digital infrastructure rollout in India' was also unveiled. The paper focuses on the fact that the advent of 5G is going to be a game changer for India and is likely to have a profound impact on the socio-economic fabric. 5G is expected to lead to a surge in data traffic, which will necessitate upgrading existing networks and build new Greenfield ones. with a key focus on the future of trends in telecommunication industry.

Dr. P. D. Vaghela, IAS, Chairman, TRAI, Shri K. Rajaraman, IAS, Chairman DCC & Secretary (T), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Chief Secretary, Manipur, Shri Anand Singh, IAS, Joint Secretary, DoT, Shri. Sanjai Kumar, CMD, RailTel, Shri Subhash Chand, Director General, DoT, Dr. Sushil Kumar Chaturvedi, CEO, Ascend

Telecom, Ms. Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy, APAC, GSMA, Mr. Jack Haddon, Head of Research, APAC, Tower Xchange, Mr. Milind Joshi, Partner - Global Infrastructure Partners, Mr. Maheep Jain, Managing Director, Macquarie Capital were present on the occasion.

PIB, SEP15,2022

Best practices & recent initiatives taken by UIDAI have tremendous impact on good governance - Shri Khilli Ram Meena

AADHAAR organizes Delhi State Level workshop on ‘Recent Initiatives for Simplifying Aadhaar Usage’

The Principal Secretary (Revenue) cum Divisional Commissioner, GNCT of Delhi, Shri Khilli Ram Meena has applauded the efforts of UIDAI team and said that sharing of best practices & recent initiatives taken by UIDAI have tremendous impact on good governance and are one of the important features of this workshop. He was addressing the Delhi State Level Workshop on ‘Recent Initiatives for Simplifying Aadhaar Usage’ to promote Aadhaar usage by States, here yesterday. Senior Officers of the State Government, Banks, Department of Posts including IPPB, CSC, NPCI and the Central Government attended the workshop. Shri Meena also shared his experience with the audience about the elimination of ghost ration cards from PDS and saving of significant sum of revenue due to the usage of Aadhaar. He noted that the benefits of Aadhaar have not only led to monetary savings to the State but also stimulated responsible behavior, transparency and faster delivery of benefits till the last mile in various schemes of the Government.

Aadhaar has proved to be one of the biggest innovations of the country. Quite interestingly, Aadhaar has given identity to a large number of people who did not have any identity whatsoever earlier. The scale and facilities extended by Aadhaar are unheard of in entire world. Notable amongst the Senior officers were Shri Alok Shukla, ITS, DDG (Media), UIDAI (HQ), Delhi, Shri Sanjay Sohani, ITS, DDG, UIDAI, RO-Delhi, Shri Atul Chaudhary, ITS, DDG (HR), UIDAI (HQ), Delhi, Shri Vijendra Singh Rawat, IAS, Director (Planning), GNCT of Delhi, District Magistrates of all 11 districts of GNCT of Delhi also attended the workshop.

The four sessions of the workshop deliberated on the latest Authentication features added in the Aadhaar ecosystem, Innovative use cases of Aadhaar and best practices implemented in Delhi, Direct Benefit Transfers and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System. The sessions also elaborate m-Aadhaar App, Aadhaar online services and how the UIDAI has made efforts to make Aadhaar enrolment and updation services a seamless experience for the residents. In his inaugural remarks, Shri Alok

Shukla, ITS, DDG(Media), UIDAI(HQ), Delhi highlighted various facets of Aadhaar Ecosystem and informed that recently UIDAI has taken many initiatives for simplifying usage of Aadhaar leading to savings of 2.24 lakh crores in DBT schemes and 134 Cr Aadhaars have been generated so far. Speaking on the occasion Shri Sanjay Kumar Sohani ITS, Deputy Director General, UIDAI Regional office, Delhi explained how Aadhaar has become the core of India's digital public infrastructure, bridged the digital divide, enabled e-KYC services, provided banking at the doorstep through mobiles and facilitated cash transfer directly into the bank accounts of the needy and deserving beneficiaries of various welfare schemes of the Government. He further mentioned about the recent initiatives like Face Authentication, Offline Verification & reduction of authentication fees taken by UIDAI. He further emphasized on ALBR so as to further improve penetration in 0 to 5 years.

Various topics were covered in the workshop. Shri Murugan, Jt. Director of School education GNCT Delhi gave presentation in which he elaborated on Aadhaar usage in implementing DBT schemes meant for student beneficiaries. Shri Dhrubojyoti Roy, Senior Associate, National Payment Corporation of India gave a presentation on leveraging the payment gateway for Direct Benefit Transfer schemes of the State Government and backend integration with IT infrastructure of the Banks. Shri Devendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary from DBT Mission shared the best practices on direct benefit transfers. Shri Saroj Adhikari, Dy. Director, UIDAI (Hqrs.) gave a presentation on the process and guidelines for notification of various schemes under Section 7 and Section 4 of Aadhaar Act, 2016 to extend the various subsidies and services to the beneficiaries. Shri Devesh Arya, Senior Manager, India Post Payment Bank, Delhi gave a presentation on the various services provided by the IPPB based on the Aadhaar. Shri Ankit Gupta of Authentication Division, UIDAI HQ gave presentation on online & offline Authentication.

TELEGRAPH,SEP15,2022

Mind the monitor

When a nation declines to outgrow 'Monitor-Complex' it leads to the rise of the democracy of one

Shyam G. Menon

Remember the time we sat in class with a monitor noting our every move? The chosen candidate was usually an academically brilliant sort or a teacher's favourite. Both had limited understanding of the world but in school you are deemed limited pending education by those knowing better. When those knowing better let you act on their behalf, it is a high. Within this

paradigm, monitors came in two varieties. The one easier dealt with identified himself / herself as a victim; an avoidable responsibility — something they hadn't asked for — being thrust on them. Notwithstanding their duty as monitors, this reluctant bunch saw themselves as part of the class. The second variety saw themselves as chosen and self-righteous, dispatched to keep an eye on a lesser category and empowered by higher powers to show them how to exist. Devoid of an individual mind and requiring to be told what is right and wrong, they sought out powerful others who could provide an agenda or a code of conduct.

Decades after leaving school, it is common for former classmates it is common for former classmates to meet and reminisce about school, the monitors they had, and even how reluctant or earnest the ones still in their midst were in such roles. When you look back, that old avatar seems unrecognisable. But what if no matter how old you grow you never leave school? You are still seeking out teachers and seniors to decide for you and then willingly submitting yourself to their agenda without an iota of introspection? Worse, what if the whole nation has become a pliant classroom and denies you the opportunity to notice what you are doing to yourself ? What if all that you hear is a chorus of approval for the juvenile immaturity you still cling to?

Arguably, India's political right-wing is in a similar position. It should be clear as daylight to anyone of voting age that a democracy meant to work as an engagement between government and Opposition is in trouble if the latter is being systematically decimated, often using official machinery to embarrass and corner it. Besides being hammered by charges pressed against it, around the end of July, the toothless Opposition was being further defanged in Parliament with 27 members of Parliament suspended for staging protests. Whichever way I looked at it, all I could see was a familiar psychology on display — call it the 'Monitor-Complex'. It is a belief in the right-wing that the people don't know what they want and they — the political Right — will show the rest of the country (including the many who didn't vote for them) how everything should be run. From suspending MPs to serving as vigilantes for culture and religion — the list is resplendent.

Needless to say, the key to such clarity and ease of conviction is blind faith in outsourced programming. As in the cinematic portrayal of such dystopian situations, there exists somewhere out there facilities where right-wing loyalists can plug a cable into their brains and download self-righteousness strong enough to hawk the delusion that a democracy with no Opposition is still a democracy. That such apolitical arrangement, supported by big business for the ease of decision-making and the market

efficiency it promises, may be accepted as an equivalent of the people's will. That the people are an ignorant bunch to be kept entertained by irrelevant contests, as at a Roman arena, while private agenda and questionable ones unfold, unnoticed.

In the real school, one eventually outgrew the system and its boring monitors. Even monitors outgrew their stay as teachers' favourite, abandoned the supremacy of life by instruction, and accepted the right of others to decide and choose. 'Really? That was me?' — some may ask incredulously, gazing at old photographs from school and reminiscing the roles they played then. But when a nation declines to outgrow school and its monitors, it is a problem— a really big problem — for there is no escape from this to that. It amounts to the same immaturity, the same brainwashed gaze. It is the progressive death of choice and the rise of the democracy of one.

PIB,SEP16,2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presents INSPIRE awards to 60 Start-Ups and financial support to 53,021 students

These innovators will be extended complete incubation support for their entrepreneurship journey. The Minister says, out of 6.53 Lakh ideas and innovations received from all States and UTs of the country, 53,021 students were identified for financial support of Rs 10,000 each to develop prototypes of the ideas submitted for the scheme 556 students have made their way to 9th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition as country's most promising Scientists, Researchers, Scholars and an overall group of S&T talent in the making: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh today presented INSPIRE awards to 60 Start-Ups and financial support to 53,021 students. The award is instituted by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, and these innovators will be extended complete incubation support for their entrepreneurship journey.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, during the year 2020-21, while the country like rest of the world was battling with the severe impact of COVID-19, the annual INSPIRE Awards – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) competition attracted an unprecedented 6.53 Lakh ideas and innovations from all States and UTs of the country. He said, the scheme touched an unparalleled level of inclusivity by representing ideas and innovations of 702 districts of the country (96%) including 123 out of 124 aspirational districts, 51% representation from girls, 84% participation from schools located in rural

areas of the country and 71% of the schools run by the State / UT Governments. Dr Jitendra Singh informed that out of 6.53 lakhs, a total of 53,021 students were identified for financial support of Rs 10,000 each so that they could develop prototypes of the ideas which they submitted for the scheme. As a next step, they competed at respective District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC's) and State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC's) and now a total of 556 students have made their way to 9th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC).

Dr Jitendra Singh said, these 556 students who will be part of NLEPC, are the country's most promising Scientists, Researchers, Scholars and an overall group of S&T talent in the making. He said, their innovations have a societal focus which gives India an opportunity to solve the problems by application of S&T. The Minister informed that dedicated mentoring workshops are organized at the top Technological Institutes of our country like the IIT's, BITS, NIT's etc for these students, which will not only raise their exposure level to the latest trends in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) but also coach them to make right decisions for their innovative technologies and gain an insight into what is going to help their innovation most.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, every year, from all recognized eligible schools, amongst the school students of 10-15 years of age, studying in class VIth to Xth, a million ideas are aimed to be scouted and a lakh to be identified for further value addition and an opportunity to compete and move ahead on account of their inherent merit in their incubation trajectories.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the awards jointly implemented by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India is a flagship scheme of the Government of India for nurturing the ideas and innovations of school students and motivate them to pursue Science and a career in Research. The scheme aims to help build a critical human resource pool for strengthening, expanding the science and technology system and increase the research & development base on the same, the Minister added.

Secretary, DST Dr S. Chandrasekhar said, to ascertain their value proposition and to mentor students at each stage, a series of District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC) for each District in the country, followed by a series of State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC) for each State / UT are organized. Students get an opportunity to present their innovations, articulate the merit of their ideas and thoughts, build confidence, gain knowledge of Science and Technology like never before and finally, about a thousand students are aimed to be invited annually to participate in the NLEPC (National Level Exhibition and Project Competition). As an outcome of NLEPC, a total of 60 innovative ideas and innovations are

desired to be identified, recognized and rewarded which will be extended a complete incubation support so that their entrepreneurship journey could also begin.

PIB,SEP16,2022

PM launches National Logistics Policy

“The notion that India is emerging as a manufacturing hub is stabilizing in the mind of the world”

“Policy is just a beginning, policy plus performance is equal to progress”

“National Logistics Policy has not come out of the blue, there are 8 years of hard work behind it” “From 13-14 percent logistics cost, we should all aim to bring it to single-digit as soon as possible” “Unified Logistics Interface Platform- ULIP will bring all the digital services related with the transportation sector on a single portal” “Gatishakti and National Logistics Policy together are now taking the country towards a new work culture” “India, which is determined to become developed, now has to compete more with developed countries, so everything should be competitive”

“National Logistics Policy has immense potential for development of infrastructure, expansion of business and increasing employment opportunities” The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister called the launch of the National Logistics Policy a significant step in fulfilling the ‘Pran’ of India being a developed country. “To ensure quick last mile delivery, end transport-related challenges, save time and money of the manufacturers, prevent wastage of the agro-products, concerted efforts were made and one of the manifestations of those efforts is today’s National Logistics Policy”, the Prime Minister said. The resulting improvement in coordination will lead to the desired speed in the sector. The Prime Minister noted that in India, which has become the 5th largest economy in the world, things are changing rapidly. Referring to this morning's release of Cheetah, the Prime Minister said we all want that luggage should move quickly like a cheetah. The Prime Minister said “the echo of Make in India and India becoming self-reliant is everywhere. India is setting big export targets and is also fulfilling them. The notion that India is emerging as a manufacturing hub, is stabilizing in the mind of the world. If we study the PLI scheme we will find that the world has accepted it.” In such a situation, the Prime Minister said, the National Logistics Policy will bring new energy to

all sectors. He said that policy is a beginning and policy plus performance is equal to progress. When parameters, roadmap and timeline for performance come together then policy plus performance equal to progress emerges, he elaborated. “Today’s India prepares the ground before bringing any policy, only then a policy can be implemented successfully. National Logistics Policy has not come out of the blue and there are 8 years of hard work behind it. There are policy changes, major decisions, and, if I talk about myself, it has my 22 years of governance experience behind it”, he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated that schemes like Sagarmala, Bharatmala, expedited the work of Dedicated Freight Corridors to improve logistics connectivity for systematic infrastructure development. Shri Modi pointed out that the total capacity of Indian ports has increased significantly and the average turn-around time of container vessels has come down from 44 hours to 26 hours. For promoting export, 40 air cargo terminals have been constructed. 30 airports have been provided cold-storage facilities. 35 multimodal hubs are coming up in the country. “Through waterways, we can do eco-friendly and cost-effective transportation, for this many new waterways are also being built in the country”, the Prime Minister added. He also mentioned Kisan Rail and Kisan Udan experiments during the Corona time. Today 60 airports have the facility of Krishi Udan.

Stressing the need to adopt technology to strengthen the logistic sector, the Prime Minister said that the government has worked towards initiatives like paperless EXIM trade process through e-sanchit, faceless assessment for customs, provisions for e-way bills, FASTag etc. that have greatly increased the efficiency of the logistics sector. He also underlined the importance of a unified tax system like GST in smoothening the issues of the logistics sector. Change in drone policy and connecting it with the PLI scheme is promoting the use of drones in the logistics sector. “Only after doing so much, we have come out with a National Logistics Policy, " he explained. “From 13-14 per cent logistics cost, we should all aim to bring it to single-digit as soon as possible. This, in a way, is a low-hanging fruit, if we have to become globally competitive”, the Prime Minister emphasised.

The Prime Minister said that Unified Logistics Interface Platform ULIP will bring all the digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal, freeing the exporters from a host of very long and cumbersome processes. Similarly, under the policy a new digital platform Ease of logistics Services -E-Logs has also been started. “Through this portal, industry associations can directly take up any such matters which are causing problems in their operations and performance with the government agencies. A complete system has also been put in place for the speedy resolution of such cases”, he said.

Shri Modi pointed out that the PM Gatishakti National Master Plan will be supporting the National Logistics Policy in all earnest. The Prime Minister also expressed happiness while mentioning the support that states and union territories have provided and that almost all the departments have started working together. “A huge data of information related to different infrastructure projects of state governments has been prepared. Today, data from the central and state governments in about 1500 layers are coming on the PM Gatishakti portal”, the Prime Minister informed. “Gatishakti and National Logistics Policy together are now taking the country towards a new work culture. The talent that will come out of the recently approved Gatishakti University will also help it a lot”, he added.

The Prime Minister said that today, the world is looking at India as a 'democratic superpower'. He highlighted the 'extraordinary talent ecosystem' of India that has impressed the field experts who praise the 'determination' and 'progress' of India. The Prime Minister said “today the world's attitude towards India is changing. Today the world is evaluating India very positively, it is keeping a lot of expectations from India”

The Prime Minister remarked that the resilience shown by India and the Indian economy in the midst of a global crisis has filled the world with new confidence. “The reforms that India has done in the last years, the policies implemented are unprecedented. That is why the faith of the world has increased in us”, the Prime Minister said. He urged the nation to fully live up to the trust of the world. “This is our responsibility, we all have a responsibility. The National Logistics Policy, launched today, will help the country a lot in this”, he added.

The Prime Minister urged competitive behaviour in Indians and said “India, which is determined to become developed, now has to compete more with developed countries, so everything should be competitive.” He continued “be it service sector, manufacturing sector, automobiles, electronics, we have to set big goals in every sector and achieve them”, the Prime Minister remarked. The Prime Minister also pointed out the increasing attraction of the world toward products that are made in India. “Be it India's agricultural products, India's mobile or India's BrahMos missile, they are discussed in the world today.” The Prime Minister also mentioned the Made in India covid vaccines and medicines that helped in saving millions of lives across the globe.

The Prime Minister underlined that for the products manufactured in India to dominate the world market, it is crucial to have a strong support system. “The National Logistics Policy will greatly help us modernize this support system”, he said. Shri Modi also pointed out that the issues related to logistics are reduced and when the country's exports increase, small industries

and the people working in them benefit the most. “Strengthening of the logistics sector will not only make the life of common man easier but will also help in increasing the respect of labour and workers”, the Prime Minister added.

In concluding his address, the Prime Minister said “The National Logistics Policy has immense potential for the development of infrastructure, for expansion of business and increasing employment opportunities. We have to realize these possibilities together” the Prime Minister said.

Representatives of Logistics sector, Shri R Dinesh, Managing Director, TVS Supply Chain Solutions; Shri Ramesh Aggrawal, CEO, Agarwal Packers and Movers; Shri Amitabh Saha, Founder and CEO of XpressBees Logistics also expressed their views on the occasion. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Finance, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Road, Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyodiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Port, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Prakash were those present on the occasion.

Background

The need for a national logistics policy was felt since the logistics cost in India is high as compared to other developed economies. It is imperative to reduce the logistics cost in India for improving the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export markets. Reduced logistics cost improves efficiency cutting across various sectors of the economy, encouraging value addition and enterprise.

Since 2014, the government has put significant emphasis on improving both, Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living. National Logistics Policy, a comprehensive effort to address issues of high cost and inefficiency by laying down an overarching interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and multi-jurisdictional framework for the development of the entire logistics ecosystem, is yet another step in this direction. The policy is an endeavour to improve the competitiveness of Indian goods, enhance economic growth and increase employment opportunities. It has been the vision of the Prime Minister to develop world-class modern infrastructure through the integration of all stakeholders in holistic planning and implementation so that efficiency and synergy are achieved in the execution of the project. The PM GatiShakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal

connectivity - launched by the Prime Minister last year, was a pioneering step in this direction. PM GatiShakti will get further boost and complementarity with the launch of the National Logistics Policy.

INDIAN EXPRESS,SEP17,2022

HashtagPolitics | Happy birthday, PM, but ‘ideological and political’ battles will continue, says Oppn

While senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is in the midst of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, shared a restrained "happy birthday" message, his colleagues were more critical. As wishes poured in for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Saturday, members of the Opposition wielded sarcasm in full measure while wishing him and maintained that "ideological and political battles will continue". While senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is in the midst of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, shared a restrained "happy birthday" message, his colleagues were more critical. Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor shared a picture with the Prime Minister on Twitter and said, "Wishing our @PMOIndia Shri @narendramodi ji a very happy birthday, good health & long life. May he work to remove the darkness enveloping so many of our fellow citizens & bring them the light of progress, development & social harmony instead."

Wishing our @PMOIndia Shri @narendramodi ji a very happy birthday, good health & long life. May he work to remove the darkness enveloping so many of our fellow citizens & bring them the light of progress, development & social harmony instead. pic.twitter.com/3vaYXtGcu7

— Shashi Tharoor (@ShashiTharoor) September 17, 2022

Jairam Ramesh, Congress's general secretary in charge of communication too wished the PM but added, "ideological and political battles against him(Modi)" would continue. His (Modi) personal vendetta against us (Congress) intensifies." Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who has made his national ambition evident and has been meeting leaders of Opposition parties, too, conveyed his birthday greetings to the PM. "On behalf of the government and people of Telangana and my personal behalf, I wish you a very Happy Birthday. May God bless you with good health and long life for serving the nation for many more years," he said.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee — two of the BJP's most strident rivals — also wished the PM a happy birthday. AAP's social media handle, however, was unsparing in its criticism of the PM. Sharing a

compilation of four short video clips from the Prime Minister's interviews over the years, the post read, "Happy Birthday to the innovator in chief, technology geek, scientist par excellence, the one and only – Modi ji". Happy Birthday to the innovator in chief, technology geek, scientist par excellence, the one and only – Modi ji #HappyBdayModiji pic.twitter.com/QPhvn7DpJq

— AAP (@AamAadmiParty) September 17, 2022

For each of the interview snippets, the party, which is positioning itself as the principal opposition in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, had a taunting caption. In the first clip, the PM can be seen talking about "using a digital camera in 1987 and 1988" and having an "email", which "only a few had at the time". The AAP's caption to the clip read: "He could email in 1987-88."

In the next clip, Modi is seen talking about "using a utensil, making a hole into it and fixing a pipe" in the next clip. He says: "Gas would come out of the gutter and through this pipeline and we would use it to make chai in our tea stall". The caption with this clip reads: "He could make tea using gas from the gutter." And so on.

Others in the Opposition too went all out in their criticism of the PM. Wishing the PM on a day that he released cheetahs in the Kuno National Park, TMC MP Mahua Moitra said, "May he look out for our rapidly extinguishing constitutional protections much the same way as he does for extinct cheetahs." The PM's party members were all praise for him.

In a tweet in Hindi, Amit Shah said, "@narendramodi has worked to take the country forward in every field by connecting it to its original roots. New India has emerged as a world power under the vision and leadership of Modi ji. Modi ji has made his mark as a global leader, who is respected by the whole world." Saying that Modi was the creator of a "safe, strong and self-reliant New India", "a symbol of service and dedication," Shah added, "For the first time after independence, by giving their rights to crores of poor, Modi ji has instilled a sense of hope and faith in them. Today every section of the country is standing with Modi ji like a rock."

एक सुरक्षित, सशक्त व आत्मनिर्भर नए भारत के निर्माता @narendramodi जी का जीवन सेवा और समर्पण का प्रतीक है।

आजादी के बाद पहली बार करोड़ों गरीबों को उनका अधिकार देकर मोदी जी ने उनमें आशा और विश्वास का भाव जगाया है।

आज देश का हर वर्ग चट्टान की तरह मोदी जी के साथ खड़ा है।

— Amit Shah (@AmitShah) September 17, 2022

Almost all the CMs of BJP-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, wished the PM.

ECONOMIC TIMES,SEP18,2022

EWS in the Spirit of the Constitution

With the apex court examining the constitutional validity of Articles 15(5) and 16(6) of the Constitution inserted by the 103rd Constitution Amendment Act 2019 that enabled the State to provide reservations to the economically weaker sections, the debate about reservations is back on the centre stage again.

The question is whether providing for reservations purely based on economic criteria goes against the basic structure of the Constitution and should therefore be struck down as ultra vires.

While the best judgement would prevail in the end, certain facts should not be lost sight of. The Constitution of India opens with a solemn affirmation of providing JUSTICE, social, economic and political in the Preamble. Article 39 ascends above the social discrimination to direct provision of adequate means of livelihood for all men and women.

The entire focus of the planning process for the last 50 years: since the 5th Five-Year Plan (1974-78) has been on identification of poverty and affirmative action for elimination of poverty. The 9th Five-Year Plan (1997-2002) has made drastic reduction of poverty as its central theme. The concept of below poverty line (BPL)

and prioritised allocation of the governmental schemes for those in poverty (irrespective of caste) has been central to the developmental administration in the country.

The Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) conducted in 2011 has found deprivation, though mostly concentrated in the socially excluded categories, existed elsewhere too. So, firstly it is fallacious to argue that reservations based on economic criteria were suddenly brought into the Constitution. The country has always been engaged with the need to provide adequate opportunities for livelihoods for those who are deprived only because they could not afford them.

The 103rd Constitution Amendment has only reaffirmed the attempts of the past five decades to fight against poverty. It has also rectified a basic flaw in the design of reservations for the economically weaker sections attempted first by the Parliament in 1991. This was nullified by the *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India* judgement of 1993, which has laid down that "under the constitutional scheme of reservation, economic backwardness alone could not be a criterion".

The main reason for the 1991 Act falling foul of the legal scrutiny is that there was no constitutional mandate for such reservation purely on economic criteria. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment addressed this flaw by inserting Articles 15(6) and 16(6) in the Constitution that have enabled the State to provide special provisions for advancement of any economically weaker section of citizens. It is at once apparent that legislative intent was always present for providing level-playing field to those who lose out only due to economic deprivation.

The data of SECC 2011 has proved that deprivation is concentrated in the SC and ST pockets in the country. However, it would be factually incorrect to argue that deprivation has only a social base. In the fast-growing economy, everyone needs just access to growth. Opportunities for growth shall not be the exclusive domain of the rich and the well-endowed. Whereas those who are most deprived shall get the most attention through

affirmative action, the disadvantages faced by others cannot be ignored. Continued economic deprivation runs contrary to the aims and aspirations of the nation, and the mandate of the Constitution.

The argument that the 103rd Constitutional Amendment runs contrary to the basic structure of the Constitution and that deprivation has only a social/educational base, ignores the long history of this nation's fight against poverty.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TELEGRAPH,SEP12,2022

Hide and seek: Editorial on India's becoming of fifth largest economy & a reality check. According to Oxfam, 63 million Indians are pushed back into poverty due to lack of access to health facilities alone

India has recently overtaken the United Kingdom to become the fifth largest economy of the world. This higher rank is considered by the Government of India as a grand success. The nation, however, ought to reflect on this achievement more closely. First of all, the size of the gross domestic product hides more than it reveals. The absolute size does not tell the nation what is available to each citizen, even on average. It does not say how the goods and services are distributed, and the levels of poverty and unemployment. Finally, it does not reveal anything about the degradation of the natural environment. In other words, the focus on GDP does not help unveil the true nature of the economic condition of citizens and the long-term availability of natural resources. India's recent attainments in other measures of economic performance leave much to be desired.

In terms of the latest data on per capita incomes, India is ranked 144 out of 194 countries and has a rank of 33 among Asian nations. The richest country in per capita terms has an income 60 times higher than that of India. In terms of economic inequality, the World Inequality Report 2022 and an Oxfam study reveal that the top 10 per cent of Indians earned 57 per cent of all income and owned 77 per cent of national wealth. The bottom 50 per cent earned only 13 per cent of income. According to the International Monetary Fund, India's per capita income at current prices stood at \$2,191 in 2021 and was expected to increase to \$2,358 in 2022. If the degree of inequality is taken into account and the incomes of the top 10 per cent excluded, then the per capita income would fall to a little less than half the total. It is estimated that if a minimum-wage earner were to

aspire to earn the remuneration of a senior CEO in the garment industry, it would take the person 941 years to do so. There cannot be starker evidence of embedded inequality in the country.

Then, there is the enduring challenge of poverty. According to Oxfam, 63 million Indians are pushed back into poverty due to lack of access to health facilities alone. Poverty has actually increased during the pandemic with estimates showing that between 200 to 250 million people fell below the poverty line. Finally, in today's world, the environmental performance of a nation is of great significance. It is a pity that India is ranked on this index at the bottom out of 180 countries in 2022. Becoming the fourth or even the third largest economy may not change matters for the average Indian citizen, especially the poor.

PIB,SEP12,2022

Gujarat Governor shares his Agritech innovations with Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

Dr Jitendra Singh discussed ways to promote Agri-tech Start-ups in India in a big way, crucial to India's future economy

Acharya Devvrat, a great votary of natural farming endorsed the idea of an integrated approach to promote Agri-tech Start-ups to make farming easy and more profitable. Dr Jitendra Singh informs the success of Purple Revolution in J&K is now being replicated in other hilly States with similar climatic conditions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and in North-Eastern States as a pilot project

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, who is also a deep-rooted researcher, shared with Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh, some of the Agritech innovations developed by him, when the latter called on him at Raj Bhavan here. Dr Jitendra Singh said, Acharya Devvrat, besides being Governor of an important State can be appropriately described as an Agritech StartUp, who has developed innovative methodologies in natural farming which are quite different from organic farming and at the same time, much more lucrative compared to several other avenues of livelihood. Acharya Devvrat, who is a great votary of natural farming as a way to avoid the ill effects of chemicals used in conventional farming, informed Dr Jitendra Singh that only last week, he launched a PhD programme in Natural Agriculture by Gujarat University at the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS). He said, it will cover its various aspects like rural management, environment management, innovation, Agri-entrepreneurship, Agribusiness and Value Chain Management.

Acharya Devvrat supported the proposal of Dr Jitendra Singh for an integrated approach to promote Agritech Start-ups to make farming easy and more profitable by pooling the resources and experiences of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and Department of Science and Technology at the Centre and other similar research bodies at Agricultural colleges and Universities. Dr Jitendra Singh briefed the Gujarat Governor that a trend of Agri-tech Start-ups has come up in India in the last few years due to active encouragement provided by the Modi government to address the problems of Indian agriculture such as supply chain management, use of outdated equipment, improper infrastructure, and inability of farmers to access a wider range of markets with ease. He also pointed out that Prime Minister PM Modi launched 100 Made in India agricultural drones across the country in February this year, which carried out farm operations in unique simultaneous flights. The Minister said, many young entrepreneurs are now quitting their jobs in IT sectors and MNCs to establish their own StartUps in agriculture, dairy and other allied sectors with huge profit margins.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed Acharya Devvrat that the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) became architect of “Purple Revolution” in India by introducing high-value essential oil-bearing lavender crop through its Jammu based laboratory, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM) for cultivation in districts Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Ramban, Pulwama, etc. In a brief span of time, aroma/lavender cultivation has become a popular option in farming for agricultural Start-up and it is now being replicated in other hilly States with similar climatic conditions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and in North-Eastern States as a pilot project. Dr Jitendra Singh said, Agritech Startups are providing innovative ideas and affordable solutions to a number of challenges faced all across the agricultural value chain and it has the potential to change the face of Indian agriculture sector and eventually raise farmers’ incomes.

Dr Jitendra Singh strongly advocated the use of modern and new technology in Agricultural sector and pointed out that countries like Israel, China and the US have transformed several agriculture practices in their country with the use of technology. He said, Startups are now providing solutions such as biogas plants, solar powered cold storage, fencing and water pumping, weather prediction, spraying machines, seed drills and vertical farming, which is bound to increase farmers income.

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP14, 2022

India’s food production industry worth over \$400 billion, but food processing significantly low-BCG FICCI Report

India's food production industry is worth over \$400 billion, the primary source of livelihood for over nearly half of the country's population but the level of food processing across categories is significantly low, said a recent study. India's share of agri-production is 9.5% globally, while its share in the export of overall food products is 2-3% - with share in export of processed food category even lower at 1-2%, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in association with Federation of India Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). "We live in an increasingly connected world, where consumers can access products from across the globe. With fundamental shifts in consumer behavior owing to the pandemic, growing awareness, convenience and lifestyle changes and health consciousness, consumers are gravitating towards processed and packaged foods. These newly created opportunities in the food processing industry make it crucial for India to focus strongly on exports and seize the opportunity to capture a burgeoning global market" said Hemant Malik, Chairman – FICCI, Food Processing Committee and CEO- Food Division, ITC Ltd.

The total agriculture and food related exports from India were valued at nearly \$50 billion in FY22. Some of the key challenges contributing to this trend include low-cost competitiveness, product quality concerns, limited brand strength in overseas markets, lack of infrastructure for processing, storage and logistics, as well as limited compliance to sustainability and ethical requirements. "Given India's strong position in production of agriculture products, there is a huge opportunity for India to develop its food processing industry with a strong focus on the export markets. However, there are multiple key inhibitors to this growth, and a concerted effort from both public and private stakeholders is required to address these challenges. A structured plan of action in this regard, can help India tap the huge potential that can subsequently be unlocked in this sector, and propel growth in a global market", said Rachit Mathur, Managing Director and Partner, Boston Consulting Group.

TELEGRAPH, SEP15, 2022

Still High: Editorial on inflation rates being persistently higher than RBI's tolerance limit

Economists are of the opinion that CPI inflation will not cool off in the next two to three quarters

In a recent remark, the Union finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, suggested that high rates of inflation were due to the states not managing their economies well. While this comment may itself lead to debate, it is important to identify and understand the underlying causes of the current spurt in inflation rates. The consumer price index inflation rate has moved to 7 per cent in August 2022, halting a three-month downward trend. The number is higher than the CPI inflation rate of 6.9 per

cent last year in August and 6.71 per cent in July 2022. Inflation rates have been persistently higher than the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance limit of 6 per cent — for the eighth month in a row — prompting monetary policy interventions in terms of hikes in the policy determined repo rate. There has been a 140 basis points rise in the repo rate since May 2022 and more is expected in the coming months. Economists are of the opinion that CPI inflation will not cool off in the next two to three quarters. The high CPI inflation rate has been propped up by high inflation in the fuel and food subcategories in the bundle of goods that make up the measure of CPI.

There are a number of reasons for the current bout of inflation. The recovery from the pandemic has led to a rise in consumer demand emanating from households. The disrupted supply chains are still not quite repaired. These are global phenomena, and the degree differs from commodity to commodity and location to location. Earlier this year, in India and globally, prices of crude oil and of food such as rice and sugar spiralled up significantly. In India, export restrictions are still in effect for some food items. Even though the international price situation appears to be relenting a little in recent weeks, domestic prices are yet to soften. Food prices have been rising due to the extreme heat wave leading to a drought as well as patchy monsoons. Rural inflation has been higher than urban inflation rates because of the greater number of people housed in rural India since the pandemic began and the massive migration that took place. Not all the migrants have returned to the urban areas. There is another change that has occurred during the pandemic. A very large portion of the small and medium enterprises has collapsed. These units are finding it difficult to recover. This is arguably the largest lingering supply chain disruption. Attempts to contain inflation would do well to keep these changes in mind.

MINT,SEP15,2022

Fitch Ratings sharply lowers India's FY23 growth forecast to 7%

Gireesh Chandra Prasad

According to the RBI, assuming a normal monsoon and average price of \$105 a barrel for the Indian basket of crude, the inflation is projected to be at 6.7% for FY23. The central bank expects India's economy to grow at 7.2% in FY23

EW DELHI: Fitch Ratings on Thursday slashed India's economic growth forecast for FY23 to 7% from 7.8% projected in June, and said it expects key policy rates of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to peak in the near future and remain at 6% through next year. In August, the RBI had raised the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.4%. Fitch Rating also lowered India's

GDP growth rate for FY24 to 6.7% from 7.4% it forecast earlier. The changes are in line with a cut in global economic forecast for the current year by Fitch. The rating agency cut its global economic growth forecast due to the European gas crisis, high inflation and a sharp acceleration in the pace of global monetary policy tightening which are taking a heavy toll on economic prospects. The agency now expects world GDP to grow 2.4% in 2022, revised down by 0.5 percentage point, and to expand just 1.7% in 2023, down by one percentage point.

Fitch Ratings said that India's central bank has already front-loaded its policy rate hikes, tightening by a total of 140 basis points since the start of 2022 to 5.4% in August. "We expect the RBI to continue raising, to 5.9% before year-end. The RBI remains focused on reducing inflation, but said that its decisions would continue to be "calibrated, measured and nimble" and dependent on the unfolding dynamics of inflation and economic activity. We therefore expect policy rates to peak the near future and to remain at 6% throughout next year," said the agency's latest global economic outlook.

It said that India's economy recovered in the June quarter with a growth of 13.5%, but this was below its June expectation of an increase of 18.5%. Seasonally adjusted estimates show a 3.3% quarter-on-quarter decline in June though this seems to be at odds with high-frequency indicators, it said. The rating agency also said that both manufacturing and services purchase managers' indices improved in the June quarter. The manufacturing PMI index also recovered strongly in July and remained upbeat in August, the agency said.

"Nevertheless, we expect the economy to slow given the global economic backdrop, elevated inflation and tighter monetary policy," Fitch Ratings said. According to the RBI, assuming a normal monsoon and average price of \$105 a barrel for the Indian basket of crude, the inflation is projected to be at 6.7% for FY23. The central bank expects India's economy to grow at 7.2% in FY23. The RBI's confidence in the projected growth is based on expected improvement in rural consumption, recovery in contact-intensive services and the improvement in business and consumer sentiment which could bolster discretionary spending and urban consumption.

ECONOMIC TIMES,SEP15,2022

GST collection may top Rs 1.5 lakh crore from October: Revenue secretary Tarun Bajaj

The Finance Ministry expects goods and services tax (GST) collections to top the Rs 1.5-lakh-crore-mark from October. Collection from GST has been trending at over Rs 1.4 lakh crore in the past six months consecutively but has not

crossed the Rs 1.5-lakh-crore-mark yet on a consistent basis. The August collection of Rs 1.43 lakh crore is up 28 per cent on-year but lower than Rs 1.49 lakh crore in July. Only once the collection crossed the Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark-- a record Rs 1.67 lakh crore mopped in April 2022.

Addressing a CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs) function here this evening, Revenue secretary Tarun Bajaj said, "For the last couple of months, we've been trying very hard to reach that milestone of Rs 1.5 trillion (lakh crore). But we have been failing a bit sometimes by Rs 2,000 crore and sometimes by even Rs 6,000 crore." "The revenue that we will collect in October, the data of which will come on November 1, I am sure from that month onwards the CBIC on a regular basis shall deliver Rs 1.5 trillion revenue for the government," the Union secretary said.

Addressing the same event presided over by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her junior minister Pankaj Chaudhary wherein she handed over the keys of an apartment complex for CGST officers and staff here, CBIC chairman Vivek Johri said, the Mumbai zone the CBIC is the largest in the country with four sub zones manned by 41 commissioners. The Mumbai zone contributes 18 per cent of CGST and 25 per cent of customs duty collections and the megapolis also chips in with 7 per cent of the national GDP, Johri said underlining the importance of the financial capital.

GST collections rose 28% in August to Rs 1.43 lakh crore, remaining above the Rs 1.4-lakh crore-mark for the sixth straight month, on the back of rising demand and inflation, higher rates, and greater compliance. In the year-ago period the mop-up was Rs 1,12,020 crore. "Better reporting coupled with economic recovery will have a positive impact on GST revenue on a consistent basis," the finance ministry said in a statement. Of the gross GST collection in the month, CGST is Rs 24,710 crore, SGST is Rs 30,951 crore, IGST is Rs 77,782 crore (including Rs 42,067 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,168 crore (including Rs 1,018 crore collected on import of goods), the ministry said.

PIB,SEP16,2022

India committed to reach \$300 bn worth of electronics manufacturing and exports by 2025-26: MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar
MoS visits India's first lithium cell manufacturing plant at Tirupati Personally, fitting to be in India's first lithium cell manufacturing plant - a day before Prime Minister's Birthday Emphasising that India can achieve the target of \$300 billion worth of electronics manufacturing and exports by 2025-26, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology,

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh today, that the Government is committed to work in partnership with all states to support startups and entrepreneurs keen on investing in this sector - to reach this mark.

Shri Chandrasekhar was speaking on his visit to India's first lithium cell manufacturing facility of Munoth Industries at the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Tirupati. He said "it's an honour and privilege to be on this blessed land of Tirupati - abode of Sri Venkateswara. It is also one day before the birthday of our Prime Minister. For me, it is personally very fitting to be in Tirupati EMC and in India's first lithium cell manufacturing plant." "Our vision is to edge past the target of \$300 bn worth of electronic manufacturing and exports by 2025-26. It translates to Rs 25 lakh crores, 24 times more than what it was when PM Modi took over in 2014 - 1.10 Lakh crores," he said.

The Government's proactive policies and well-calibrated programmes will support every startup, every entrepreneur to make this dream a reality, he said. The commercial production and formal opening of the lithium-ion factory is slated for next month. The installed capacity of the plant at present is 270 Mwh and can produce 20,000 cells of 10Ah capacity daily.

Shri Chandrasekhar praised the Electronics Manufacturing Clusters for being a step in the direction for realizing Prime Minister Modi's vision of making India the global hub of electronic manufacturing. "The Electronics Manufacturing Clusters are fast becoming centres of creation of electronics manufacturing, innovation and jobs. They will be playing a big role in the future and shape India's Techade in both design innovation and electronics manufacturing that are important areas of interest for our youth," he explained. This state-of-the-art facility has been set up by the Chennai based Munoth Industries Limited an outlay of Rs 165 crores. The facility is located one of the two Electronics Manufacturing Clusters set up in the temple town, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015. Also present on the occasion were Shri Lalchand Munoth, Chairman, Shri Jaswant Munoth, Vice Chairman, Shri Vikas Munoth, Managing Director and Shri Sashi, Director. Shri Chandrasekhar also planted a sapling in the plant premises. Later the Minister also visited the facilities of Dixon Technologies and United Telelinks located in the two EMCs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TELEGRAPH, SEP12, 2022

ISRO developing intelligent GSATs, says space agency chairman Somnath

Geosynchronous satellites would allow shaping of spot beams, which are targeted, high-power radio signals sent by satellite. ISRO is developing intelligent geostationary communication satellites that can be re-configured by changing frequencies and bandwidth as per the demand profile from customers, a top official said on Monday.

Geosynchronous Satellites are the mainstay of India's communications requirements in diverse sectors including telecommunications, television broadcasting, satellite news gathering, societal applications, weather forecasting, disaster warning and search and rescue operations. "We are also looking at certain intelligent Geosynchronous satellites (GSAT) in the years to come which we will be able to reconfigure, and remodel based on the demand. This is already a subject of discussion on our design front," ISRO chairman S Somnath told reporters here. He was interacting with the media after the nationwide launch of Hughes Communications' High Throughput Satellite Broadband Service.

He said the 'intelligent' GSATs would allow shaping of spot beams, which are targeted, high-power radio signals sent by satellite, as per the demand from customers and would also allow shaping of antennas receiving the beams. Since the coverage area is smaller for spot beams, there is also a reduced risk of interference with other transmissions using the same frequencies, or interception by third parties. The future satellites that we are going to put in orbit will be different where you will be able to shape the beams as per the demand or even change the frequency or even change the bandwidth as per the demand profile on what exists on the ground on a dynamic basis, Somnath said. He said these will be software-driven high throughput satellites that will be built in the days to come. Somnath said while ISRO would do a technology demonstration internally, it would encourage the private sector to build and market such services. "We would like to put it as a commercial product and not as a technology demonstrator. Of course, we will do technology demonstration internally to satisfy ourselves, but we will like to offer it as a commercial solution for a user immediately," Somnath said. The chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) refused to give a timeline for the launch of the intelligent' GSATs.

PIB, SEP12,2022

MeitY Startup Hub and Meta collaborate to accelerate XR technology startups in India

MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) in collaboration with Meta will launch a program to support and accelerate XR technology startups across India. The program will be announced on 13 September 2022. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Joel Kaplan, Vice President,

Global Policy, Meta, will be present on the occasion. This collaboration is part of the Government's efforts for skilling in emerging and future technologies.

India is uniquely placed to play a pivotal role in the metaverse with a large talent pool of creators, developers and a vibrant technology ecosystem. The world looks to it for supply technology, innovation and talent to cater to the greater demand for digital products. The MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of MeitY, is a national platform focused on promoting technology innovation, start-ups, and the creation of intellectual properties. Today, it has around 3000+ tech startups supported, with a vision to ramp it up to more than ten thousand startups in the next three to five years.

PIB,SEP15,2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Dashboard of Department of Science & Technology for countrywide monitoring and feedback to ensure effective implementation of projects, schemes, scholarships and fellowships funded by DST

The Minister says, the Dashboard contains every single minute detail of over Rs 20,000 crore disbursed by DST to 2,768 Agencies in 35 States/UTs in the last five years .Terming the DST Dashboard as a good beginning, Dr Jitendra Singh calls for a Common Dashboard for all Science Ministries and Departments in near future.Impact analysis of the schemes and scholarships both age wise and gender wise for SC/ST/OBCs and General Castes is embedded in the Dashboard for suggesting reformative measures to states: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today launched Dashboard of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, for countrywide monitoring and feedback to ensure effective implementation of projects, schemes, scholarships and fellowships funded by DST.

The Minister said, through the Dashboard, details of each of the schemes and programmes for any group in every State can be accessed on a real time basis and remedial measures, if any, can be taken promptly. He said, impact analysis of the schemes and scholarships both age wise and gender wise for SC/ST/OBCs and General Castes is embedded in the Dashboard for suggesting reformative measures to states, if any.

Harping on the idea of greater integration, Dr Jitendra Singh said, DST Dashboard is a good beginning and efforts would be made in future for a Common Dashboard for all Science Ministries and Departments. The Minister informed that in the last five years, over Rs 20,000 crore were disbursed by DST to 2,768 Agencies in 35 States/UTs and every single minute detail is available on the Dashboard.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Dashboard is an institutional mechanism of the DST to drive the process of building, harnessing as well as augmenting and monitoring the statistical and data analytical capabilities of the Department. He said, this is in compliance to the directives of NITI Aayog issued in February 2021. The Minister, however, pointed out that DST had established a similar setup - Data Management Cell with the same objectives in January, 2019.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Data & Strategy Units (DSUs) creates different dashboards for different target groups and these dashboards have helped DST in taking evidence-based decisions. Many special calls have been taken on programmes seeing the gaps in the outreach of the programmes and in many programmes mid-course corrections have been prompted based on the data analysis done through dashboards, the Minister added. The most important outcome of these dashboards is that the Department is made aware of the outputs and outcomes of the decisions taken, projects funded or scholarship/fellowship awarded on a regular basis and in a user-friendly manner.

Secretary, DST, Shri S. Chandrasekhar said, Data & Strategy Unit (DSU) is assisted by an Expert Advisory Group consisting of eminent data scientists from academia, public and private sector institutions. DSU also provides opportunity to budding data scientists by engaging them as interns. Ministries/Departments were advised to set up a Data & Strategy Unit (DSU) as a central unit to steer the development and implementation of an action plan or data strategy to improve their data preparedness levels in general and reach DGQI 5.0 scores by December, 2022 in specific.

Apart from data analysis and creating dashboards, Data & Strategy Unit of DST is also engaged in creating awareness on data by organising training programmes and workshops. DSU also invites eminent data scientists and data champions for lectures and interactions with the scientists, data officers and other officials of DST. A weekly thematic poster on the

schemes/programmes of DST and on S&T topics in general with a QR code of the related dashboard is placed on important sites of Technology Bhawan to keep the Scientists and other officials aware of the schemes in an interactive way.

PIB,SEP16,2022

Cooperation between the Institut National de la Propriété Industrielle, France and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on Access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge

The Institut National de la Propriété Industrielle (INPI; the National Industrial Property Institute), France and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) entered into a cooperation on the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Access through an Agreement in the gracious presence of Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR. The Agreement was exchanged by Mr. Sebastien Connan, Regional IP Counselor for India and Dr. Viswajanani J Sattigeri, Scientist-H and Head, CSIR-TKDL Unit. Through this Agreement, the INPI, France gains access to the complete TKDL database towards examining prior art related to Indian traditional knowledge for the purposes of patent grant procedure.

Speaking on the occasion, DG, CSIR welcomed the collaboration with France in the area of traditional knowledge. She encouraged concerted efforts for upcoming health care challenges. Mr. Connan while thanking India for the cooperation stated that the TKDL database would be an important instrument not only for the INPI but also for the traditional industrial entities in France. He stated that France also looks forward to strengthening ties with the CSIR for scientific pursuits in traditional areas. The signing of the TKDL Access Agreement with the INPI, France marks the beginning of a new partnership and mutual cooperation in the domains of Intellectual Property Rights as well as traditional knowledge between France and India.

About TKDL:

The TKDL database, first of its kind worldwide, was established in 2001 by the Government of India, through a collaboration between CSIR and Ministry of AYUSH. The key objective of the TKDL is to prevent the erroneous grant of patents on Indian traditional knowledge (TK) and deter misappropriation of the country's traditional knowledge. Currently, the TKDL contains information on over 4.2 lakh formulations and techniques of Indian Systems of Medicine such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa Rigpa as well as Yoga from the traditional texts. The TK information from diverse languages and subject areas are

transcribed into value-added information correlated with modern terminologies. The TKDL information is presented in a digitized format in five international languages including English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish, and format easily understandable by patent examiners. As per the extant approvals in place, the TKDL database is available only to patent offices through TKDL Access Agreements. With this cooperation with Danish Patent and Trademark Office, the number of patent offices worldwide that have access to the TKDL database rises to fifteen.

The TKDL is a global benchmark in the defensive protection of traditional knowledge and has been successful in protecting India's interest against any possible misuse of its heritage. The impact has been significant, with over 265 patent applications world-over being revoked, amended, withdrawn or abandoned, based on the prior art evidences presented from the TKDL database.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

TRIBUNE, SEP12, 2022

Government working on developing electric highways powered by solar energy: Nitin Gadkari

Said the govt is strongly encouraging solar and wind energy-based charging mechanisms for electric mobility

The government is working on developing electric highways powered by solar energy that will facilitate the charging of heavy duty trucks and buses, Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday.

Addressing an event organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Gadkari reiterated that the government wants to develop India's public transport system on electricity. "The government is strongly encouraging solar and wind energy-based charging mechanisms for electric mobility. "We are also working on developing electric highways, which will be powered by solar energy and this will facilitate charging of heavy duty trucks and buses while running," he said.

An electric highway generally refers to a road which supplies power to vehicles travelling on it, including through overhead power lines. Gadkari said that the government is also encouraging toll plazas to be powered by solar energy. The minister said the road ministry has conducted route optimisation exercises across major corridors and has designed a newer alignment.

Emphasising that a well developed infrastructure enhances economic activities, creates new businesses and promotes job creation, Gadkari said, "We are constructing 26 greenfield expressways." With the launch of PM Gati Shakti Master Plan, he said projects will get faster clearance and it would cut down logistic costs. Stating that both India and the US are natural partners, the minister invited the US private investors to invest in India's logistics, ropeways and cable car sectors. He informed that around 3 crore trees would be planted along the national highways and the government is adopting tree plantation practices while construction and expansion of highways. "And till now we have successfully transplanted 27,000 trees in national highways projects," he said. According to Gadkari, the government is formulating a new policy called 'Tree Bank' for tree cutting and tree plantation.

As per policy, authorities such as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) will have to maintain a tree bank account of planting trees during the project development. Gadkari said the government's emphasis has been on creating a sustainable business ecosystem with an inclusive growth model. He said there is a need to encourage out-of-the-box thought processes and promote creative agenda to weave new pathways.

The minister said the government is bringing innovative and investor friendly products like InvIT to allow retail investors participate in the funding drive. "We are designing the products so that retail investors can get good annual returns which are more than the fixed deposit rates," he said. According to Gadkari, India is becoming the largest EV market for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and cars. The minister called upon the US companies to contribute in the development of low-cost and reliable electrolyzers and hydrogen fuel cell technology

PIB,SEP16,2022

India observes 28th World Ozone Day

India has played a proactive role in the phase-out of production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to collaborate with eight IITs for research and development of chemicals with low global warming potential Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) for the Space Cooling in Buildings Released

India's contribution to the Montreal Protocol in terms of policy formulation is noteworthy, India has played a proactive role in the phase-out of production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances. This was stated by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment Bhupendra Yadav at a programme organized to observe the 28th World Ozone Day in Mumbai today. The Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ashwini Kumar Choubey were also present on the occasion. The event was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Environment Minister said that India has not been a traditional contributor to global emissions, but that in our actions, we are showing the intent to be a problem solver. Stating that the world is facing climate crisis because of wasteful use of energy, the Minister called for adopting the mantra of L.I.F.E (Lifestyle for Environment) which was coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in line with the concept of sustainable lifestyle, encouraging us to adopt mindful and not mindless consumption and utilization of resources.

The Union Minister said that the Prime Minister has again and again focused on mindful consumption, for instance, how to economically use energy in warehouses and refrigeration, which are in line with our fight against climate change. India is among the countries which has stated that the country's sustainable development will be such that net zero is achieved by 2070, stated Shri Yadav. The Minister also said that India played a key role in the finalization of the Kigali Amendment. After ratifying the same in September 2021, the central government is working towards developing a national strategy, in close consultation with the industry stakeholders, for phasing down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The Minister informed that the Ministry will soon be entering into collaboration with eight Indian Institutes of Technology (Bombay, Roorkee, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Guwahati, Banaras, Madras and Delhi) to promote research and development of chemicals with low global warming potential, including blends. These can be used as alternatives to substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. The collaborative research will be done in line with industry requirements through engagement of research scholars, leading to the development of a robust R&D ecosystem in this area, and will also help promote the Make in India initiative of the Government.

The Minister also highlighted the goals of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), which is a vision document developed by the MoEFCC to provide socio-economic and environmental benefits related to reduced refrigerant use, climate change

mitigation and Sustainable Development Goals over the period 2037-38. He highlighted the progress on the implementation of the recommendations.

The Union Minister released the 23rd edition of “The Montreal Protocol: India’s Success Story”. The other publications of the Ozone Cell of the MoEFCC released on the occasion include:

- i) Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) for the thematic Area Space Cooling in Buildings
- ii) Study Report on Public Procurement Policies for Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (RAC) Equipment using non-ODS based refrigerants
- iii) Study Report on Cold Chain sector in India for Promoting non-ODS and Low-GWP Refrigerants
- iv) Booklet on Good Servicing Practices for Energy Efficient operation of Room Air conditioners

The winning entries were announced for a national level poster making and slogan writing competition for school children on ‘Save Our Ozone Layer’, which was jointly organized by the National Museum of Natural History and the Ozone Cell of MoEFCC. The Union Minister also released the first prize winning poster on the occasion. A short video film on India Cooling Action Plan and an animated message on energy-efficient cooling have also been released.

United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)’s India Representative Ms. Shoko Noda and Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra Smt. Manisha Mhaiskar were also present on the occasion. The Regional Director of United Nations Environment Programme (Asia Pacific) Dechen Tsering in a video message said that India has been successful in implementing the programme for Ozone Depleting Substances.

About World Ozone Day

World Ozone Day is celebrated on 16th September each year to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol that came into force on this day in 1987. World Ozone Day is celebrated every year to spread awareness among people about the depletion of Ozone Layer and the measures taken and to be taken to preserve it. The theme of World Ozone Day 2022 is “Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth”.India’s achievements in Implementation of the Montreal

Protocol. India, as Party to the Montreal Protocol since June 1992, has been successfully implementing the Montreal Protocol and projects and activities for phasing out of ozone depleting substances, in line with the phase out schedule of the Protocol.

India phased out Chlorofluorocarbons, Carbon tetrachloride, Halons, Methyl Bromide and Methyl Chloroform for controlled uses as on 1 January 2010, in line with the Montreal Protocol schedule. Currently, Hydrochlorofluorocarbons are being phased out as per the accelerated schedule of the Montreal Protocol. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage - I has been successfully implemented from 2012 to 2016 and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage - II is under implementation since 2017 and will be completed by 2023. Stage III of the HPMP, the last of the HPMPs to phase out remaining HCFCs, will be implemented from 2023 - 2030. The phase-out of HCFCs in all manufacturing sectors, comprising refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturing sectors, will be completed by 1.1.2025 and the activities relating to the servicing sector will be continued till 2030.

The study on reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) under the Montreal Protocol implementation in India. The study carried out by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change estimates that the reduction of GHG emissions due to phase-out of ODS till 2022 is 465 million tonne CO₂ equivalent, while it is expected that the reduction of GHG emissions till 2030 is expected to be 778 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

Implementation of actions emerging from India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) will supplement efforts in adopting climate-friendly alternatives and promotion of energy efficiency during the implementation of HFC phase-out under the Kigali Amendment. This will significantly contribute to India's climate action in achieving the net zero emissions by 2070, through the 'Panchamrits', committed by the Prime Minister of India, at the Climate Change Conference of Parties in 2021.

CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,SEP12,2022

EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE "PRAYAS" INAUGURATED AT ARMY HOSPITAL (R&R)

To alleviate the suffering and instil confidence in parents in dealing with differently abled children a model "Early Intervention Centre- Prayas" has been established at Army Hospital (Research & Referral). The "Early Intervention Centre" is a comprehensive state-of-the-art facility which is dedicated to the children with special needs. Children of Armed Forces

personnel upto six years of age suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, sleep and language delay and other disabilities will benefit immensely from this venture. The Centre was inaugurated by Mrs Archana Pande, President, Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) in the presence of Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff on 12 September 2022 at the Army Hospital (R&R). The event was also attended by Surg Vice Admiral Rajat Datta, Director General Armed Forces Medical Service (DGAFMS).

The newly established Centre has facilities of advanced screening for hearing and visual defects, detection of Autism, clinical identification of various syndromes and therapeutic facilities like Special Education, Sensory Integration Occupational and Physiotherapy, Behaviour Modification and Nutritional Guidance. It is integrated with Vatsalya, a paediatric super speciality discipline, which has been redesigned with a child friendly Walt Disney theme. A multi-disciplinary approach combining expertise of various therapists will work together to enhance the capabilities of the special children.

Army Hospital (R&R) provides tertiary care referral facilities and is the Centre of Excellence in various subspecialties. Addition of EIC "Prayas" will help in early diagnosis and institution of necessary therapeutic interventions to differently abled children during the best window of opportunity, which is between birth and 6 years of age. This Centre will achieve a quantum leap in therapeutic outcome of children with developmental delay and thereby aims to achieve immense improvement in caregiver satisfaction.

PIB,SEP13,2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, the ongoing Coastal Clean-up Campaign receives a huge response from across the sections of society and besides others, Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, celebrities, Film and Sports personalities, Civil Society Groups etc join the campaign with overwhelming enthusiasm. All pledge their support to the longest and largest beach cleaning campaign in the world titled “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar”: Minister thanks PM Modi for his support to the campaign through social media. Interacting with the press persons in New Delhi, the Minister sought full support of the media in the noble mission of achieving the target to remove 1,500 tonnes of garbage, mainly single use plastic from the sea coasts on "International Coastal Clean-up Day"

Prime Minister Modi stressed on keeping India's coasts clean as he praised efforts of volunteers to remove garbage from the Juhu beach in Mumbai yesterday .The 75-day long ongoing Coastal Clean Up Campaign is receiving a huge response from

across the sections of society and besides others, Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, celebrities, film and sports personalities, civil society groups etc. are joining the campaign with overwhelming enthusiasm and pledging their support to the longest and largest beach cleaning campaign in the world titled “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar”, coordinated by Union Ministry of Earth Sciences with collaboration from all the other Union Ministries, departments as well as governments of the coastal States.

Addressing a press conference today, three days ahead of "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he will join the campaign at Juhu beach in Mumbai on 17th September and informed that Governor Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis, BJP MP Poonam Mahajan and several personalities as well as NGOs will also join at Juhu.

The Minister also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his support through social media. The PM has stressed on keeping India's coasts clean as he praised efforts of volunteers to remove garbage from the Juhu beach in Mumbai. Responding to a video posted by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh about the clean-up at the beach, Modi tweeted, “Commendable... I appreciate all those involved in this effort. India is blessed with a long and beautiful coastline and it is important we focus on keeping our coasts clean”. The Minister said, "A cleanathon was organised at Juhu Beach in Mumbai, saw participation in large numbers especially by youngsters and Civil Society.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will take a lead in the clean-up campaign at world famous Puri beach, while Pratap Chandra Sarangi, former union minister will be at Chandipur. BJP MP from Hooghly, West Bengal Ms Locket Chatterjee will be at Digha on D-Day. R.K.Mission head will lead the campaign at Bakkhali in southern Bengal. Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendrabhai Patel will be at Porbandar (Madhavpur), while Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala will join the clean-up operation at Jafrabad, Amreli.

Governor of Goa P. S. Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will take part in beach cleaning campaign in South and North Goa beaches on 17th September. Similarly, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan will be at Kochi, while MoS External Affairs V. Muraleedharan will be at Kovalam beach at Thiruvananthapuram. Governor of Karnataka Thawar

Chand Gehlot will join the campaign at Panambur beach in Mangalore, while the Governor of Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan will lend her helping hand at Puducherry beach.

Governor of Mizoram Dr. K. Hari Babu will take part in Vizag beach while L. Murugan, Union MoS, Information and Broadcasting will join the event at Chennai. Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the campaign has entered the mode of whole of Government approach plus whole of nation participation.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, apart from active cooperation of Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, Health and Family Welfare, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, organisations and associations like National Service Scheme (NSS), Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Seema Jagran Manch, SFD, Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gatividhi (PSG), along with other social organizations and educational institutions are participating in the clean-up campaign.

The MPs of coastal states have also pledged full support to the first-of-its-kind and longest running coastal clean-up campaign in the world and they also advised the Ministry of Earth Sciences to undertake a variety of activities by involving local NGOs.

PIB,SEP13,2022

Launch of Special Campaign 2.0 Portal by Hon'ble MOS PP, Dr Jitendra Singh Ji, on 14.9.2022 at CSOI, Chankyapuri

Part of Special Campaign 2.0 Launch by Government of India Between October 2nd – October 31st, 2022 .67,000 Cleanliness Sites Already Identified by Ministries/Departments for Special Campaign 2.0. Focus of the SCDPM 2022 will Field/Outstation Offices of the Ministries/ Departments and Their Attached/Subordinate Offices. 67,000 Cleanliness Sites Already Identified by Ministries/Departments For Special Campaign 2.0

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh will launch the website, www.pgportal.govlin/scdpm22, tomorrow in CSOI, Chankayapuri in a Government function attended by Joint Secretary Level Officers of 85 Ministries/Departments of Government of India in the presence of Secretary, DARPG.

In the same gathering three reports of DARPG, the Special Campaign July Progress Report, the CPGRAMS 7. 0 Brochure and the CPGRAMS Monthly Progress Report for August, 2022 will also be launched in the same function.

The Government of India has announced Special Campaign 2.0 from 2nd October to 31st October, 2022 with a focus on Swachhata and Reducing Pendency in Government. Cabinet Secretary has addressed all Secretaries of Government of India on 23rd August, 2022 and DARPG Guidelines note for the same was issued on 25th August, 2022. The Special Campaign 2.0 will focus more on field/outstation offices in addition to the Ministries/ Departments and their attached/subordinate offices. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) will oversee implementation of the Special campaign 2.0.

The Preparatory Part of the Special Campaign 2.0 will commence with this launch of the Special Campaign 2.0 portal by Dr. Jitendra Singh and it will continue till September 30, 2022 when, Ministries and Departments will identify the pendency in selected categories and finalize the campaign sites across their offices and complete necessary procedural requirements to conduct the Campaign. Every Ministry/ Department is expected to use the portal during the preparatory phase to enter targets of their cleanliness campaign sites, Files to be Weeded out, and various pendency Figures like MP's References, State Government References etc. Until now more than 67,000 Sites have been identified by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India for conducting the cleanliness campaigns.

The Special Campaign 2022 reinforces importance of timely disposal of references and a clean work space. The Campaign 2022 is expected to cover over 1.5 lakh Post Offices, overseas mission/posts, Railway Stations, and other public offices in mission mode during the month-long campaign. Training of nodal officers with respect to the portal of the Special Campaign has already been conducted by DARPG. The Minute to Minute program of the event is enclosed.

PIB,SEP15,2022

MoS Chandrasekhar to launch India's first Lithium Cell Manufacturing Plant in Tirupati

The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar will launch the pre-production run of India's first lithium cell manufacturing facility at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, tomorrow. This state-of-the-art facility has been set up by the Chennai based Munoth Industries Limited with an outlay of Rs. 165 crores. The facility is located in one of the two Electronics Manufacturing Clusters set up in the temple town, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.

The installed capacity of the plant at present is 270 Mwh and can produce 20,000 cells of 10Ah capacity daily. These cells are used in power bank and this capacity is around 60 per cent of India's present requirement. Cells for other consumer electronics like Mobile Phones, hearable and wearable devices will also be produced. Currently India imports complete requirements of lithium-ion cells primarily from China, South Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong. The inauguration of this plant will be a step in the direction for realizing Prime Minister Modi's vision of making India the global hub of electronic manufacturing, Shri Chandrasekhar said before leaving for Tirupati.

Shri Chandrasekhar will also be visiting the Dixon Technologies and United Telelinks facilities located in the two EMCs. He will also address the media after inaugurating the lithium cell manufacturing facility by Munoth Industries.

PIB,SEP16,2022

English Translation of Remarks by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the SCO Summit

Excellencies,

I heartily congratulate President Mirziyoyev for SCO's effective leadership in this year's challenging global and regional environment.

Today, when the whole world is facing the challenges of economic recovery after the pandemic, the role of SCO becomes very important. SCO member countries contribute about 30 percent of global GDP, and 40 percent of the world's population also lives in SCO countries. India supports greater cooperation and mutual trust among SCO members. The pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine caused many obstacles in global supply chains, due to which the whole world is facing an unprecedented energy and food crisis. SCO must make efforts to develop reliable, resilient and diversified supply chains in our region. This will require better connectivity, as well as it will be important that we all give each other full right to transit.

Excellencies,

We are making progress on making India a manufacturing hub. India's young and talented workforce makes us naturally competitive. India's economy is expected to grow by 7.5 percent this year, which will be the highest among the world's largest economies. A lot of focus is also being given on the proper use of technology in our people-centric development model. We are supporting innovation in every sector. Today, there are more than 70,000 Start-ups in India, of which more than 100 are

unicorns. Our experience can also be useful for many other SCO members. For this purpose, we are ready to share our experience with SCO member countries by establishing a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation.

Excellencies,

The world faces another major challenge today – and that is ensuring the food security of our citizens. One possible solution to this problem is to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets. Millets are a superfood that has been grown for thousands of years, not just in SCO countries, but in many parts of the world, and is a traditional, nutritious, and low-cost alternative to dealing with the food crisis. The year 2023 will be celebrated as the UN International Year of Millets. We should consider organizing a 'Millet Food Festival' under the SCO.

India is today one of the most affordable destinations for medical and wellness tourism in the world. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine was inaugurated in Gujarat in April 2022. This will be WHO's first and only global centre for traditional medicine. We must increase cooperation on traditional medicine among SCO countries. For this, India will take the initiative for a new SCO Working Group on Traditional Medicine. Before I conclude, I would again like to thank President Mirziyoyev for the excellent conduct of today's meeting and his warm hospitality.

Thank you so much!