

# SAMBHAV

WHATEVER IT TAKES  
MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR CIVIL SERVICES  
ASPIRANTS



LIBRARY

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

NEW DELHI

# Trusted Contents

Compiled and curated by IIPA library

Sr.No	Subject	Page No.
1	Polity and Governance	3-08
2	Economic and Social Development	09-19
3	Science and Technology	20-28
4	Environment and Climate	29-32
5	Current Events	33-35

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,FEB27,2023

Government continuously bringing reforms to facilitate the pensioners and their families, says Dr Jitendra Singh

“The intention is to free the regulatory regime of feudal mindset”

PM Modi pursuing the interest of pensioners since the Government came to power in May 2014

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 here today that the Government has been continuously bringing reforms to facilitate the pensioners and their families. Addressing the 49th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop here today, he said now divorced daughters are eligible for Family Pension and the seven year service eligibility for entitlement of pension/family pension has been done away with. “The intention is to free the regulatory regime of feudal mindset,” he added.

The Minister mentioned that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been pursuing the interest of pensioners since the Government came to power in May 2014. The minimum pension was fixed at Rs.1,000 within a month PM Modi assumed office; similarly Family Pension has also been revised, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said today there are more pensioners, about 77 lakhs, than active service personnel, which is about 50-60 lakhs. Today, about 6,000-7,000 pensioners are in the age bracket of ‘above 100 years’ and they are drawing the same amount as pension as what they earned as salary. And nearly one lakh



pensioners are in the age bracket '90 and 100 years', he said. "I am looking forward to the day when there will be more than one lakh pensioners above 100 years of age," he said.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Integration of Pensioners Portal of Canara Bank with Bhavishya portal and also the New Services on SBI Integrated portal. He also unveiled the CCS (EOP) Rules Book, 2023. The Central Civil Services Extraordinary Pension Rules, 2023 is the revised/streamlined version of “Extraordinary Pension Rules, 1939”. In his address, Secretary, Pensions & Pensioners’ Welfare, Shri V. Srinivas said the Government aims to bring all 11.25 lakh pensioners online. This will facilitate the DoP&PW to remain in touch with the pensioners for their welfare. “The task of Integration of Pension Seva Portal of SBI and Canara Bank with Bhavishya portal has been completed. With this integration, the pensioners can now get their pension slip, status of submission of Life Certificate and Form-16 through the Integrated Pensioners’ Portal. All 18 Pension disbursing banks will be integrated in Integrated Pensioners’ Portal,” he said. The BHAVISHYA portal (An online tracking system for pension sanction and payment developed by DOPPW) has bagged the 3rd Rank as per the NeSDA Assessment 2021 among all the Central Government e-Governance Service Delivery Portals.

In line with the Government’s objective of transparency, digitization and service delivery, the Bhavishya platform has ensured End-to-End digitization of the Pension processing and payment. From the retiree filing his/her papers online till issue of the PPO in electronic format going into the Digilocker, this platform has showcased the intention of complete transparency and efficiency of the Government. The ‘Bhavishya’ platform, an integrated online pension processing system was made mandatory for all central government departments w.e.f. 01.01.2017. This system is at present being successfully implemented in the main Secretariat of 97 Ministries/ Departments including 818 attached offices, 7,941 DDOs on board. As on date, more than 1,89,494 cases have been processed i.e. PPOs issued which includes more than 1,23,249 e-PPOs.

PIB, FEB 27, 2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India will reaffirm unified action to ensure zero tolerance against corruption and deepen G20 commitments towards countering corruption globally at the upcoming G20 Working Group Meet in Haryana

Dr Jitendra Singh to inaugurate the First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting (ACWG) of G20, being organized by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) at Gurugram, Haryana from 1st to 3rd March, 2023

Under India's chairmanship, G-20 Nations will deliberate on areas of future action like bringing in processes, where fugitive economic offenders can be traced and extradited faster, and their properties situated abroad brought within the reach of the law of the land from which such offenders escape: Dr Jitendra Singh

Amidst global gloomy economic outlook, India has emerged as a bright spot as described by IMF and therefore, India will play its rightful role to bridge the North-South divide and become the voice of the Global South

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, India will reaffirm unified action to ensure zero tolerance against corruption and deepen G20 commitments towards countering corruption globally at the First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting (ACWG) of G-20, being held in Gurugram, Haryana from 1st to 3rd March, 2023.

In a Statement issued ahead of the First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India's G-20 Presidency is marked by unprecedented economic, geopolitical and climate challenges. He, however added that amidst global gloomy economic outlook, India has emerged as a bright spot as described by IMF and other world agencies and therefore, India will play its rightful role to bridge the North-South divide on pressing issues. India will reaffirm unified action to ensure zero tolerance against corruption and deepen G20 commitments towards countering corruption globally

Referring to the theme of India's G20 Presidency - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth. One Family. One Future", Dr Jitendra Singh said that moving forward with India's G-20 Presidency under the guidance of the Prime Minister, DoPT is organizing the First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting. The Minister stated that during the three-day event at Gurugram, over 90 delegates from 20 members countries, 10 Invitee countries and 9 International Organizations will engage in detailed deliberations on strengthening International Anti-corruption mechanisms. The delegates will experience India's culture through specially curated Yoga Sessions, visit to historic sites, cultural events and local cuisine.

Dr Jitendra Singh stated that since its inception in 2010, G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) has been at the forefront of guiding the anti-corruption initiatives of G20 countries. G 20 ACWG meetings have one Chair (Presidency country) and one co-chair country. The co-chair for the G20 ACWG 2023 is Italy. The Minister pointed out that as the Mother of democracy, India's G-20 Presidency gives her a golden opportunity to become the voice of the Global South in unison with other 19 powers by fast-tracking global anti-corruption efforts by addressing issues like money-laundering, asset recovery

and beneficial ownership. Under India's chairpersonship, G-20 Nations will deliberate on areas of future action like bringing in processes, where fugitive economic offenders can be traced and extradited faster, and their properties situated abroad brought within the reach of the law of the land from which such offenders escape

Dwelling on the subject of the Working Group, Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized that corruption is a scourge that impacts effective utilisation of resources and overall governance and affects the poorest and marginalized most acutely. India's Presidency aims to strengthen international cooperation for action against corruption and economic crimes, and recovery of stolen assets. He stated that the G20 ACWG will explore proactive sharing of information, improving existing Mutual Legal Assistance framework and simplifying mechanisms for sharing of information between domestic law enforcement authorities in criminal matters.

India's chairpersonship will support G20 countries in prioritising recovery and return of stolen assets in their broad strategy against corruption. Enhancing the effectiveness of asset-tracing and identification mechanisms, developing mechanisms for rapid restraint of illicit assets, and promoting effective use of open-source information and asset recovery networks will be key focal areas. The importance of informal cooperation among G20 countries and creation of a knowledge hub to facilitate training and capacity building of member countries in enhancing the use of existing mechanisms of cooperation will be highlighted, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that transparent regulatory frameworks and effective internal control mechanisms to combat corruption are the need of the hour. He informed that as part of the 1st ACWG meeting, a 'Side Event' on Leveraging ICT for Combating Corruption in Public Sector' has also been planned to elaborate on role of ICT in fighting corruption worldwide and initiatives that India has adapted to reduce and address corruption. India will utilize its experience from implementing citizen-centric governance model to demonstrate the role of Information and Communication Technology in preventing, detecting and fighting corruption by creating common ICT platforms for higher transparency and for sharing experiences and best practices will be showcased during the side event, he added.

The Minister hoped that the 1st ACWG meeting will generate a concerted effort for enhancing awareness about anti-corruption, imparting education, capacity building and for incorporating optimally the benefits of experience of forums like Civil Society 20, Think Tank 20, Women 20 and Business 20.

TRIBUNE,MAR3,2023

Mixed bag in NE

BJP, regional players are biggest gainers

Voters of three northeastern states that recently went to the polls have largely reposed faith in the ruling parties/alliances. The BJP and its allies have managed to retain Tripura and Nagaland, even as the saffron party has fallen short in its ambitious bid to make big inroads into Meghalaya. Among the three states, the electoral battle in Tripura was regarded as the most significant as the BJP was pitted against the Congress-CPM alliance as well as a new entrant, the Tipra Motha Party. In the 2018 elections, the BJP and its local ally had stormed the Left stronghold with a thumping victory. This time, the BJP-led combine's performance was just good enough to retain power. The fact that the Congress and the Left failed to oust the BJP despite joining hands is bad news for the Opposition, which is trying to regroup a year ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Tipra Motha Party not only made its presence felt but also dented Congress-CPM prospects, thereby paving the way for the BJP's triumph.

In Nagaland, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party has emerged on top; the BJP, in a junior role, has done fairly well. It's in Meghalaya that the BJP has reason to be disappointed with its electoral show. The party had parted ways with the National People's Party (NPP) before the polls. The BJP's tirade against NPP leader and Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, whom it had accused of running the 'most corrupt' state government in the country, has gone in vain. Adding insult to injury, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has outshone the BJP in Meghalaya. The NE poll results are a fresh setback for the Congress, which had suffered embarrassing losses in Punjab and Gujarat last year. The single largest party in the 2018 Meghalaya polls has tamely ceded Opposition space to the United Democratic Party and the TMC. The Congress, however, can take some consolation from the bypoll results of five other states, where it has won three seats out of six. Overall, the BJP continues to be a dominant force in the North-East, along with influential regional parties.



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PIB,FEB27,2023

Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 7 National Highway projects with an investment of 6500 crores in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari today inaugurated 7 National Highway projects with an investment of 6500 crores in Chitbada village, Ballia , Uttar Pradesh.Speaking on the occasion Shri Gadkari said with the construction of Ballia Link Expressway it will be possible to reach Patna from Lucknow through Purvanchal Expressway in just four and a half hours. He said Ballia to Buxar can be reached in half an hour, Ballia to Chhapra in one hour and Ballia to Patna in one and half hour. With the construction of Greenfield Highway, eastern Uttar Pradesh will get better connectivity with Chhapra, Patna, Buxar in Bihar, he added.The Minister said the vegetables of the farmers of Ballia will be able to reach the mandis of Lucknow, Varanasi and Patna easily. He said vegetable producing farmers will get direct benefit of three multi-modal terminals Varanasi, Ghazipur and Haldia through this expressway.

Shri Gadkari said the greenfield road from Chandauli to Mohania being constructed at a cost of Rs 130 crore will provide connectivity to Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh and Kaimur district of Bihar through the Delhi-Kolkata GT Road. He said with the construction of Saidpur to Mardah road there will be direct connectivity of Mau to Varanasi via Saidpur. He said due to better connectivity with other cities of the state economic and social condition of the state will improve as well as backward areas of Azamgarh district will get new connectivity.

On this occasion, Shri Gadkari also announced the new connectivity route between Ballia-Ara through 28 km greenfield spur road at a cost of 1500 crores.

ECONOMIC TIMES,MAR1,2023

India's core sector output increases by 7.8% in January

India's output of eight core industries registered a 7.8 per cent growth in January 2023, against 4.0 per cent growth during January 2022, the ministry of commerce and industry said on Tuesday.

The output had seen an increase of 7.4 per cent in December 2022, a three-month high. The production of fertilizers, coal, electricity, steel, natural gas, cement and refinery products increased in January 2023 over the corresponding month of last year. Core sector or key infrastructure industries, which have a 40.27 per cent weight in the overall index of industrial production (IIP), also have a bearing on industrial production data.

STATESMAN, MAR 1, 2023

Is Capex expansion good for growth?

A look at the estimated receipt and expenditure position of Budget 2023-24 would make it clear that the Government is consciously ignoring the fiscal consolidation measures enunciated in the last year's budget.

Udayan Hazarika

The Union Budget of 2023-24 has sufficiently shown that the Government is now in election mode. Obviously, this is the last full budget of this government before the general elections of 2024. As per convention, there will be a vote on account next year, where there is no scope to go for implementation of any new schemes.

The finance minister has listed about 185 schemes of which six are "core of the core" schemes; 32 are core schemes and the remaining 147 are major central sector schemes. In the first category, there has been a drastic cut of funds to the tune of 33 per cent in respect of the MGNREGA programme from the current year's revised estimate of Rs 89,000 crore to Rs 60,000 crore for 2023-24. Another notable reduction has been made in respect of the Umbrella Programme for the development of minorities where the current year's BE of Rs 1,800 crore has been revised downward to Rs 530 crore and a fresh allocation of Rs 610 crore has been made for 2023-24.

There are also few continuing schemes targeted at the poor which have been reduced drastically e.g., fertiliser subsidy has been reduced from Rs 2.35 lakh crore to Rs 1.75 lakh crore, food subsidy from Rs 2.87 lakh crore to Rs 1.97 lakh crore, PM Health safety scheme from Rs 8,270 lakh to Rs 3,365 lakh, and Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana from Rs 5758 crore to Rs 2273 crore etc. Fund constraints undoubtedly have hit these allocations and in future unless the receipts position improves substantially, this shortage may also lead to non-implementation of even some new schemes.

A look at the estimated receipt and expenditure position of Budget 2023-24 would make it clear that the Government is consciously ignoring the fiscal consolidation measures enunciated in the last year's budget. The recessions caused as a fallout of lockdowns during 2020-22 and the subsequent inflationary disruptions of the macro-economic variables have now become a forgotten chapter for the Government. The finance minister during her budget speech talked only once about the fiscal consolidation programmes referring to her budget speech of the year 2022-23.

As per the budget estimates, Rs 27.20 lakh crore are proposed to be collected from various tax sources of central Government as against the estimated expenditure for the year of Rs 45.03 lakh crore thereby leaving a huge gap of Rs 18 lakh crore as a deficit. The FM proposes to collect this deficit amount through borrowings, much of which will come from market borrowing. (69 per cent). This would inevitably lead to huge fiscal deficits of 5.9 per cent of GDP in excess of the ceiling limits (i.e., 3.5 per cent of GDP) as fixed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.

One notable feature of Budget 2023-24 is the allocation of enhanced outlay for capital expenditure. Capital expenditure (CAPEX) is looked upon as a long-term growth engine contributing greatly towards investment in infrastructure and creation of employment in an economy. In her printed budget speech, the FM has added a full-page note describing the government's success story of increasing capital expenditure in the last two years. Budget 2023-24 has allocated an enhanced capital outlay of Rs 10 lakh crore, a 33 per cent jump from the budget estimate (RE) of Rs 7.2 lakh crore in 2022-23. This would undoubtedly be a quantum jump if even 75 per cent of this allocation is spent.

Our common experience shows that every year government budgets provide more amounts for capital expenditure enthusiastically, but at the fag end of the year it is either not spent or revised downward. In fact, outlay from capital fund is the most reluctantly and slowly spent fund. In the current year itself (2022-23), the total budgetary provision on the capital account of Rs 7.50 lakh crore has already been revised downward to Rs 7.28 lakh crore. The actual expenditure figure when received, will be much lower than this. This is the normal scenario in the case of Government spending from capital outlay.

If we look at the percentage share of capital expenditure to total expenditure, the data reveals that the proportion of capital expenditure to total expenditure in actuality revolved around 12 to 15 per cent from 2015-16 to 2020-21. In the year 2021-22, the government gave incentives to the States for expanding their infrastructure expenditure from the budgetary fixation of Rs

10,000 crore which was later revised upward to Rs 15,000 crore. Marginal improvement could be noticed as a result of this additional incentive, with an increase in share of capital expenditure to total expenditure from 14.4 percent in 2020-21 to 15.62 percent in 2021-22. This was encouraging for the Government and assuming that the same normal conditions would also prevail throughout the year 2023-24, Government is expecting a multiplier effect of the proposed increase in capital expenditure. In India, the effect of the capital expenditure multiplier is calculated at 2.4. In simple parlance, if one dose of capital expenditure is increased, it keeps the capacity to transform the economic activities 2.4 times.

Enhancement in economic activities always generates income which finally adds up to GDP. This is for the short term only; as per the calculation made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for seven years from 2013, the multiplier effect for the whole seven years together comes to 4.5. This indeed is more theoretical than practical because government spending on capital is always budget-dependent while the budget is dependent on the receipts side. Natural calamities, monsoon failures, other disasters, war, etc. always are there to play their roles. Moreover, not all government spending on capital is employment generating and last but not the least, unless the government invested funds from capital outlay fail to attract private investment in the capital account, the whole premise of multiplier effect will fall apart. So smooth sailing is not easy. The abovementioned factors are to be neutralised to achieve expected growth. It appears that the government has already decided to take the challenge and therefore came up with the proposal of borrowing as much as 40 per cent of the total amount to meet the expenditure requirement for 2023- 24.

The result of this borrowing would be expansion of fiscal deficits further from 5.9 per cent. Because with every increase in capital expenditure, there is a corresponding increase in revenue expenditure. Considering this, allocation on revenue account could have been enhanced further. But the Government did not do so. The amount allocated for revenue expenditure, Rs 35.02 lakh crore is only 1.2 percent more than the current year's revised allocation of Rs 34.59 lakh crore. This being the penultimate year of general elections and the last budget of the present Government, revenue expenditure is bound to increase. So, the government will be pushed to the wall and will have no alternative but to borrow further.

(The writer is a former IAS officer and retired as Secretary, Finance, Government of Assam.)

STATESMAN, MAR 1, 2023

Budget incentive will mark a new beginning in planned and systematic urbanisation: PM

The Prime Minister said it was unfortunate that in 75 years of Independence, India was able to get only one or two planned cities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the Union Budget-2023-24 has provided an incentive of Rs 15,000 crore for urban planning and this should mark a new beginning in planned and systematic urbanization in the country.

He was addressing a post-Budget webinar on ‘Urban Development with focus on planning,’ the sixth in the series of 12 post-Budget webinars organized by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for effective implementation of initiatives announced in the Budget. The Prime Minister said it was unfortunate that in 75 years of Independence, India was able to get only one or two planned cities. India’s standing in the world would have been different if there were 75 planned cities in 75 years of its Independence, he said. He said development of new cities and modernization of old systems in old cities comprised the major challenges of urban development in the country. Poor planning of cities or lack of proper implementation after planning can create problems in the development of the nation. The Prime Minister told the webinar participants they must consider how to strengthen the urban planning ecosystem in states, how to properly use the expertise available in the private sector and how to develop such Centres of Excellence which will take urban planning to a new level.

All state governments and urban local bodies must know that they will be able to contribute to the development of the country only when they develop planned urban areas. “We also have to understand very well that in ‘Amrit Kaal’ only urban planning will determine the fate of our cities and only well planned cities of India will determine the fate of India,” the Prime Minister said. “Our new cities should be garbage free, water secure, and climate resilient,” he said. Therefore, investment in urban infrastructure and planning should be increased in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Be it architecture, zero discharge model, net positivity of energy, efficiency in land use, transit corridors or use of AI in public services, this is the time to set new parameters for the future cities. “We must see if children are being taken care of in Urban Planning or not. Children no longer have sufficient space for playing or cycling. We also have to take care of this aspect in Urban Planning,” the Prime Minister told the urban development experts. The Prime Minister said that in this year’s Budget, a commitment has been made to spend about Rs 80,000 crore for the PM-Awas Yojana. Whenever a house is built, several related industries like cement, steel, paint and furniture get a boost along with it, he said.

He said the role of futuristic technology had increased in the field of urban development. “Our startups and the industries need to think in this direction and act fast. We must take advantage of the possibilities that exist, and also create new possibilities. From sustainable house technology to sustainable cities, we have to find new solutions,” he said.

In the development of cities, it was necessary to keep in mind the possibilities of development of the people in urban areas. “That is, the schemes and policies that we are framing should not only make life easier for the people of the cities, but also help in their personal development,” Modi said. He told the experts to think of innovative ideas, be it GIS-based master planning, development of different types of planning tools, efficient human resources or capacity building. Today urban local bodies needed the experts’ help and this would create many opportunities for them. Transport planning is an important pillar of the development of cities, he said. The mobility of the cities should be uninterrupted. The condition of metro connectivity in the country before 2014 was known. “Our government has worked on metro rail connectivity in many cities. Today we have gone ahead of several countries in terms of metro network. Now there is a need to strengthen this network and provide fast and last mile connectivity,” he said. Components like road widening in cities, green mobility, elevated roads, junction improvement have to be made a part of transport planning.

Circular economy is now a major tool for urban development. Every day thousands of tonnes of municipal waste is generated in the country, including battery waste, electrical waste, automobile waste and tyres, as well as things that can be used for making compost. In 2014, only 14-15 per cent waste processing was done in the country, but today 75 per cent waste is being processed, he said. “If this was done earlier, the outskirts of our cities would not have been filled with heaps and heaps of garbage,” Prime Minister Modi said. By processing the waste, cities will be freed from these mountains of garbage. There were a lot of opportunities for recycling and circularity for many industries. Several startups are also doing a great job in this field. We need to support them. Industry should use the full potential of waste management. After the success of the AMRUT scheme, ‘AMRUT-2.0’ was launched for clean drinking water in cities. With this plan, there was a need to plan beyond the traditional models of water and sewage. Today in some cities the used water was being treated and supplied for industrial use. Immense possibilities were there for the private sector in this area of waste management as well, he said.

PIB, MAR 2, 2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addresses the "Kashmir Festival" in the Gujarat University

Expressing gratitude to PM Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, J&K had to wait for seven long decades before a distinguished son of the soil from Gujarat came and liberated the people of J&K from the shackles of Article 370

The Minister says, festivals like this provide an opportunity to the youth from different regions of the country to come together and exchange their experiences as well as best practices: hails the aspirational Start-Ups of the new genre "Kashmir Festival" will hopefully provide a very valuable exposure for the youth from Jammu & Kashmir: Dr Jitendra Singh

The Minister referred to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University and University of Kashmir for establishment of an institution IIS Kashmir at University of Kashmir

The mission of IIS is to train and educate the citizens in tune with a sustainable society and a sustainable planet by bringing best practices for air, water, soil, space, climate, forest, environment, natural resources, forestry, smart cities and agriculture: Dr Jitendra Singh

Addressing the "Kashmir Festival" organized by the Gujarat University here, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh hailed the aspirational StartUps of the new genre and said, festivals like this provide an opportunity to the youth from different regions of the country to come together and exchange their experiences as well as best practices in the emerging avenues.





The Minister said, the "Kashmir Festival" will hopefully provide a very valuable exposure for the youth from Jammu & Kashmir because Gujarat is a State traditionally known to be ahead of other States in terms of entrepreneurship and futuristic vision for innovative initiatives. The very fact that the event is being held in Gujarat University, said the Minister, assumes significance since this is the University whose alumni include eminent scientists and innovators like Vikram Sarabhai and Dr K Kasturi Nandan who laid the foundation for post-independence India to emerge as a front-line nation of the world through scientific and technological excellence. Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Jammu & Kashmir had to wait for seven long decades before a distinguished son of the soil from Gujarat in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi came and liberated the people of J&K from the shackles of Article 370 and gave them the sense of esteem of being the citizens of India. Similarly, he said, another son of the soil from Gujarat, Home Minister Amit Shah ensured the extension of the Central Laws to the UT of J&K so that the people of J&K could enjoy the same rights and privileges as people in other parts of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Dr Jitendra Singh, will go down in the history as the leader who showed courage of conviction to correct a constitutional anomaly and an abrasion of democracy by abrogating Article 370 and 35 A and thus ensuring the mainstreaming of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of India. The event of Kashmir Festival in the Gujarat University and the enthusiasm of the participants is an indication of this and the people of J&K, particularly the youth who do not wish to miss the opportunities in new India, will always remain indebted to Prime Minister Modi, he added. Dr Jitendra Singh said, after more than three and half years of that path-breaking decision, it is evident that Jammu and Kashmir today is better placed than it was before August 5, 2019. He said, more than 800 central laws have become applicable to Jammu and Kashmir after it got the Union Territory status. The Minister referred to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University and University of Kashmir for establishment of IIS at University of Kashmir. He said, the mutual collaboration for joint studies, research, study program, the training program, entrepreneurship, Policy Design and Analysis, policy advocacy, implementation of SDGs etc will get a new high after the MoU.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted that the mission of IIS is to train and educate the citizens in tune with a sustainable society and a sustainable planet by bringing best practices for air, water, soil, space, climate, forest, environment, natural resources, forestry, smart cities and agriculture. IIS promotes excellence through innovative and applied research and impacting the world through policy, practice, training and continuous engagement. He also pointed out that Indian Institute of Sustainability, Gujarat University has made collaborations with 27 organizations like, LBSNAA, Niti Ayog, DRDO, UNITAR, Pidilite, and many more prestigious organizations and this collaboration will help a lot to the students of University of Kashmir. Dr Jitendra Singh said, Gujarat is at the forefront of innovation, entrepreneurship, co-operative culture and sustainability and is making all efforts for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our university system. He said, Gujarat is the first state to have developed the Student StartUp & Innovation Policy (SSIP), and climate change department of the country. The farmers of Kashmir can learn a lot from this co-operative culture of Gujarat, it will help them to improve product and service quality. They can learn about the various business and marketing methods.

Gujarat University is the State's oldest and largest University catering to the needs of higher education of about 4 Lakh students scattered across 300 plus affiliated colleges. The idea of setting up the university was conceived in the 1920s by Mahatma Gandhi and the seed of inception was laid down by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 1949. The glory of the university is reflected in some of the eminent alumni like PM Narendra Modi, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of India's Space Program, Dr. K. Kasturirangan former Chairman, ISRO, Dr. Ila Bhatt (SEWA), Justice Ahmedji former Chief Justice of India, Pankaj Patel CEO, Zydus Cadila, Mr. Kharekwal Wockhardt, Dr. Ravindra Dave former Chairman, UNESCO and many others.

The University secured 13th rank amongst State Universities in NIRF ranking, 1st in GSIRF ranking and Top 25 in ARIIA ranking. Gujarat university took a lot of initiatives such as establishing the GUSEC, India's number one incubator, social enterprise focused incubator, AIC GUSEC, Research park, defense initiative IDSR (Institute of Defense Studies and Research) etc., which are playing a vital role in the development of the country. Dr Jitendra Singh thanked Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University Prof. Himanshu Pandya, Dr. Manjoor Ahmed Mir, Coordinator and Mr. Sudhanshu Jangir, Director IIS, Gujarat University for the collaborative program of both the Universities and lauded the Gujarat University for taking the initiative of setting up an institution with great possibilities of solving the grand challenges of society.

**ECONOMIC TIMES, MAR3, 2023**

**Gujarat well on course to print better fiscal numbers in FY24: India Ratings**

Even though the revenue surplus will likely be half of the budget estimate, fiscal deficit of Gujarat will be much lower than the projected 1.8 per cent of the gross state domestic product, shows an analysis. India Ratings expects fiscal deficit of the state to come in at 1.2 per cent as against the FY24 budget estimate of 1.8 per cent of gross state domestic product (GSDP), because of the "implausible capex target" put forth in the budget. The Centre caps a state's fiscal deficit at 3 per cent of GSDP and additional 0.5 per cent subject to certain conditions.

However, the agency is of the view that revenue surplus is expected to be just 0.2 per cent of GSDP, which is just half of the budgeted 0.4 per cent for FY24 owing to "the optimistic assumptions on nominal GSDP and revenue expenditure growth". The revised estimates for FY23 shows revenue surplus at 0.3 per cent or Rs 6,694 crore, much better than the budgeted 0.05 per cent. In FY22 it was 0.3 per cent. Revenue receipts grew at a strong 17.6 per cent in FY23 on the back of a 15.5 per cent uptick in nominal GSDP in FY23. But so did revenue expenditure which grew at a higher 18.1 per cent in the year.

A better-than-budgeted revenue surplus has helped the state in reducing its deficit in its fiscal account despite higher capex in FY23. FY23 fiscal deficit is likely to be at 1.5 per cent, 10 basis point lower than budgeted. The state was able to mop up higher receipts than budgeted in FY23. Accordingly, the state increased expenditure as well. Even so, increase in expenditure was lower than the uptick in receipts. While the total receipts were higher by Rs 14,242 crore, the total expenditure was higher by Rs 11,542 crore than the budgeted for FY23.

Within revenue receipts, the state's own tax revenue (SOTR) and tax devolution were higher by Rs 13,537 crore and Rs 4,631 crore, respectively. But increase in tax revenue was capped by deficiency in non-tax revenues. The state's own non-tax revenue and grants from the Centre were lower by Rs 2,595 crore and Rs 1,431 crore, respectively in FY23. Both current and capital expenditure were increased by Rs 8,454 crore and Rs 3,088 crore, respectively, in FY23. FY24 budget proposals are based on a 13.3 per cent nominal GSDP growth assumption as against FY22 growth of 15.5 per cent. But the agency believes that this is stretched, given the average GSDP growth of 11.5 per cent during FY16-22. Revenue expenditure is budgeted to grow at 4.8 per cent in FY24 over FY23. The state's average revenue expenditure growth during FY16-20 was 10.2 per cent.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,FEB27,2023

Big scope for collaboration between India and the UK in Weather Forecasting, says Dr Jitendra Singh

“Both societies face similar situations, which makes us look at issues including weather forecasting, with a common perspective”

Stressing on continuous improvisation, Dr Jitendra Singh says weather forecasting has become an essential part of the life of the common citizen. 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 has said there is big scope for collaboration between India and the United Kingdom in Weather Forecasting.

Inaugurating the 4th WCSSP-India Annual Science Workshop – 2023 in New Delhi today, he said not only both countries are in the same hemisphere but it is easier working with the UK as the comfort level in our relationship is high. “Both societies face similar situations, which makes us look at issues including weather forecasting, with a common perspective,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said weather prediction has become a science of precise modelling and involves critical technology and data assimilation. “Weather forecasting has become an essential part of the life of the common citizen,” he said, stressing on the need for continuous improvisation. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Christina Scott, Minister Deputy High Commissioner to India, hoped the Workshop will help formulate the right kind of response to severe and extreme weather



phenomena affecting both countries. The two countries are also working closely on building Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, she said. Addressing the workshop, Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said this Workshop is being held after a two year interruption due to the Covid pandemic. It will focus on Understanding, Modelling and Assimilation of Data for Weather Forecasting, he said. The Workshop is being held as part of the Implementation Agreement related to the project “Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership India (WCSSP-India)”, signed on 7th February 2019. It followed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Weather and Climate Sciences signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India and Met Office, UK on 28th January 2019.

Around 25 UK scientists and around 70 Indian scientists/researchers will physically participate in the workshop in addition to more than 50 online participants. The deliberations and discussion during the meeting are expected to give new ideas and directions for this collaborative effort to improve the weather and climate forecast capabilities, especially of the high impact weather over the Indian region. The key science objectives of WCPSS-India Project through India-UK collaboration include research on natural hazards in the South Asian Monsoon system and improving tools and techniques for risk based forecasting of natural hazards at a range of prediction timescales.

Considerable and significant progress has been achieved through this project including the implementation and successful testing of the global coupled Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) system and improvements in the operational sub-km resolution fog forecast model of NCMRWF. Extensive model intercomparison has led to new knowledge related to monsoon hazard processes and co-development of prototype tools for Flood Hazard Impact Modelling.

PIB, FEB 28, 2023

**Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches VAIBHAV Fellowships for Indian Diaspora abroad to mark the National Science Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

**Vaibhav Fellowship aims at collaboration between best of Diaspora Minds with Domestic Minds to deliver world class projects and Products: Dr Jitendra Singh**

The Minister says, India's Scientific Prowess will define and determine India's Future Economy in the Amrit Kaal of next 25 years

On the occasion of the "National Science Day" today, 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 VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme for the Indian Diaspora abroad.

Speaking at an event at Vigyan Bhavan, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Vaibhav Fellowship aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world through mobility of faculty/researcher from overseas institutions to India. He said, the best of Diaspora minds will collaborate with domestic Minds to deliver world class projects and products. The Minister said, the applicant should be Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and she or he must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University. Moreover, the applicant must be a researcher engaged in an overseas academic / research / industrial organization with a proven track record of research & development and plan to work for a minimum of 1 month to a maximum of 2 months a year in a research institution / academic institution in India.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Jitendra Singh said, since May, 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge, there has been a visible change in priorities and shift in goals for the Science and Technology Ministry and other Science Departments like Space, Atomic Energy, and Ministry of Earth Sciences. He said, there was no dearth of talent and capabilities, but the vindication came in 2014, both at the policy planning level as well as at the political dispensation.

Dr Jitendra Singh reminded the august audience that in each of his nine Independence Day addresses as Prime Minister till now, Modi has announced the pathbreaking Scientific Initiatives. He recalled starting from 15th August, 2014, when the Swachh Bharat Mission was announced to build individual household toilets, thus giving a huge sigh of relief to the rural poor, especially the young girls and women in terms of health and hygiene. Similarly, the other historic announcement "Start-Up India, Stand-Up India" was made by him on Independence Day of 2015, then Digital India, which led to DBT, JAM Trinity and UPI, followed by Gaganyaan Mission, Digital Health, Deep Sea Mission and last year his pitch for Innovation with the clarion call of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan". Subsequently, PM Modi spoke of Digital Health Mission and in his two consecutive Independence addresses of 2021 and 2022 he spoke of Deep Sea Mission, added the

Minister. Dr Jitendra Singh said, out of 130 countries, we were at number 81 in the Global Innovation Index till 2015, but we have jumped to 40th position in 2022. Today India is among the top three countries in the world in terms of PhDs and among the top three countries in the world in terms of start-up ecosystem". The Minister also added that there has been a significant rise in the country's overall performance in terms of a number of publications (globally ranked 3rd now from 6th in 2013 based on National Science Foundation database), patents (globally ranked 9th in terms of resident patent filing) and quality of research publications (globally ranked 9th now from 13th in 2013) during the last 9 years. Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by saying that India's Scientific Prowess will define and determine India's Future Economy in the Amrit Kaal of next 25 years.

In his address, Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India said that the theme of this year's National Science Day "Global Science for Global Wellbeing" was chosen by Dr Jitendra Singh to coincide with India's Presidency of G-20. He said, India is committed to working with G-20 and other countries to drive scientific progress for the betterment of All. He said, Science, Technology and Innovation has become the core pillar of India's Economic Progress. Dr S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, DST said, STI has a critical role to play in realizing Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He also informed that the Government of India is giving huge priority to the Science Streams and even this year budget for S&T ministry also got enhanced allocation. Former PSA, Prof K Vijay Raghvan, Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr M Ravichandran, former Secretaries and scientists took part in the celebrations.

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAR3, 2023

This scientist from Uttar Pradesh village has developed world's fastest laser sheet imaging tech to capture combustion

Yogeshwar Nath Mishra and his colleagues have created a system that will offer widely-applicable avenues in the study of combustion.

Bijin Jose

For young scientist Yogeshwar Nath Mishra, the journey from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh to California was not easy. His father, a farmer, made a lot of sacrifices to let him achieve his dreams. The struggle, however, bore fruit as Mishra is now part of a team at NASA, Caltech that has invented the world's fastest laser sheet imaging technology that can help in the study of nanoparticles in flames. "Right from a young age, I was fascinated by the world of science. The late aerospace scientist and



former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam deeply inspired me,” Mishra, a scientist at NASA-Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech, told indianexpress.com. Scientific innovations over the years have helped in addressing critical issues that have been impacting humanity and the planet. Mishra has achieved something that can make a significant change in the understanding of combustion. “Regular cameras have 30 frames per second when it comes to capturing images. We have achieved 12.5 billion frames per second. Unlike existing systems that only throw images that come in the line of sight via a laser beam limiting the area, we work on laser sheet imaging. It essentially gives two-dimensional information of a plane,” said Mishra whose research has been published in the peer reviewed journal Nature Light Science & Application.

Ultra-fast imaging for more use-cases

The team used a light sheet to cut through a three-dimensional object, to give information about a specific segment of the object. The invention, according to Mishra, is the fastest camera for planar imaging. The modern ultra-fast cameras that are used for similar imaging are limited to million frames per second. In the latest innovation, the team has combined compressed sensing with streak camera technology.

ICYMI | NASA astronaut captures stunning image of auroras from space, calls it ‘absolutely unreal’

“One can only see the light’s origin and where it goes, however, its movement in real-time is impossible to trace. But this camera lets you see light in action. Essentially how light travels in a material or a medium. And all this is possible, because of the 12.5 billion frames per second capability,” said Mishra adding that they combined compressed sensing algorithm and streak technology to make this camera single-shot and two-dimensional.

Mishra, whose research interests include laser spectroscopy, light-matter interaction, and sustainable technologies, believes that the new imaging system can give significant leverage to studies on combustion. According to the scholar, combustion leads to the formation of several chemical species from hydrocarbons. Similarly, flying an aeroplane or launching a rocket leads to the burning of hydrocarbons, making it imperative to understand the phenomenon.

Laser Imaging system The team used a light sheet to cut through a three dimensional object, to give information about a specific segment of the object. Course correction for global warming

“It is a very complex process with a lot of fluid mechanics, chemistry and physics involved. So it is important to understand it better as it may help us in improving engine performance,” he said. The scientist also said that the burning of fuel leads to soot formation. Soot formed in nanoparticles can contribute to numerous health hazards after they get into the bloodstream. It is also a catalyst to global warming. This soot, according to Mishra, gets transported to glaciers and other surfaces with ice forming a layer on them. Since they trap sunlight, soot increases the temperature resulting in the melting of glaciers.

“The soot formation process starts from the Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) which are nano-sized particles that are formed just before soot. So this new technology with its ultra-fast imaging will let us track how PAH is responsible for the formation of soot particles. Ultra-fast imaging is needed as the formation lasts within nanoseconds and sub-nanoseconds,” explains Mishra adding that the ultra-fast imaging could prove to be a boon to other areas such as biomedical imaging, or tracking any process which is induced by light. Speaking about the cost of technology, Mishra said that the latest system came at a considerably lower cost than existing imaging systems enabling effortless adoption across labs and research facilities. Mishra said that his colleagues at Caltech have been extremely supportive and were key to his invention.

India needs more scientists

Although beaming with pride over his achievements, Mishra rued the dearth of acknowledgement back home. While India has produced some of the brightest scientists, as of today, science as a career seems to be fast losing a foothold among youths. During his stint at Lund University in Sweden, Mishra said that there were five research fellows from China, while he was the only Indian scientist. “When it comes to fostering scientists, in India the biggest thing that we lack today is adequate funding.” According to Mishra, there is a need for more scholarships for PhD scholars to conduct research abroad the way China and other nations facilitate their academicians. When asked what is stopping Indian youth from pursuing science, Mishra believes that it has more to do with the mindset. There are brilliant students who ace in math and physics, but at the end of the day, they will be persuaded by their parents to settle for high-paying IT jobs. However, in science, from masters to PhD, it is a long-winding route and there are no shortcuts. Most parents in India bear hefty education costs, hence it is only plausible for youths to gravitate towards high-paying jobs.

“My father is a farmer and he managed to give me a good education for which I am truly grateful. From selling lands to many other sacrifices, my family supported my vision and ensured that my academic pursuits were smooth,” said Mishra who is also affiliated to the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The research scientist is greatly inspired by APJ Abdul Kalam, Kalpana Chawla, and CV Raman. For him, getting to study at the University of Texas Arlington, where late astronaut Kalpana Chawla also studied, was a moment of pride. “Walking into the Kalpana Chawla Hall at the University of Texas was an emotional moment for me.”

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAR 3, 2023

Bill Gates is a fan of ChatGPT, says he likes to play around with the AI chatbot when friends come over

The billionaire philanthropist said he's already gained access to the next version of ChatGPT while interacting with Anant Goenka during the fifth Ramnath Goenka Lecture. ChatGPT is undoubtedly the craze these days and is already being used by students and professionals alike from all over the world. But who would've thought that one of the wealthiest people in the world is a fan of the AI chatbot too? Philanthropist Bill Gates in a rapid-fire interaction with Anant Goenka, Executive Director of Indian Express Group, admitted that he recently used a newer version of ChatGPT to write in Hindi. “I was using the version that comes after that (current version of ChatGPT) last night and I was telling it to write things in Hindi. Of course, I had no idea what it was writing but I play around with it whenever I have friends over,” Gates said. Bill Gates and Steve Jobs are two of the most prominent tech titans of this century and they knew each other for a very long time. They also had a famous intense rivalry, which eventually turned into friendship. When asked what was the one thing Gates learned from Jobs, he said that he was inspired by his sense of design and marketing.

“I learned a lot from Steve...we were utterly different...I mean he never wrote a line of code but his sense of design, marketing, his intuitive feel for who is a good engineer...Steve was such a unique person and he was able to get a lot out of people.” Gates added, “he would overwork people so he wasn't a perfect thing, but Steve was amazing, I learned a lot from him.”

China has transformed from a technological backwater to one of the leading innovation hubs in the world. The country's third most populous city, Shenzhen, is often referred to as a second Silicon Valley. When asked which authoritarian regime is better for innovation – Russia or China – Gates responded: “The degree of innovation in China is quite significant, nothing like US levels. Russia (has a) lower population (and is) very good in mathematics, but beyond that, they never really learned how to scale things up.” “They completely exited from medical innovation even though 50 years ago they were very good. So you know, I feel sorry for the young generation there that should be contributing to health advances and IT advances. And now that's going to be largely blocked from them and some of them are leaving the country because of that.”

The current version of ChatGPT is based on OpenAI's GPT-3.5 LLM (Large Language Model). Rumours suggest that its next iteration will be based on GPT-4 and will be a major advancement as it may be trained on billions of more parameters. Gates's response suggests that a few people have already been granted access to ChatGPT's next version for testing purposes.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,FEB28,2023

G20's second Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting to be held in Gandhinagar from 27-29, March 2023

The Second Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting will be held at Gandhinagar from 27-29 March 2023. The Second ECSWG will commence with a side event on water resources management wherein presentations on Best Practices in Water Resources Management by G20 member countries will take place. This will be followed by an excursion and site visit to Adalaj Vav which demonstrate the ancient water management practices of India and India's long-standing tradition of conserving its water resources in a beautiful ambience.

This will be followed by a site visit to 'Sabarmati siphon and escape on Narmada main canal', which demonstrates India's engineering prowess as the Narmada river's waters flow through a huge tunnel built under the bed of the river and continues on the other side. Delegates will also visit Sabarmati River front, to witness the waste water management practices like use of treated water from the sewage treatment plants to replenish the river. Over the subsequent two days, technical discussions on India ECSWG themes- Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and Enriching Biodiversity; Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy; and Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy will take place. Delegates will also get a glimpse of Gujarat's vibrant cultural traditions through its dances and music performances, specially curated for the delegates. To review the preparedness for the Second ECSWG meeting, a meeting was held today between Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Ms. Leena Nandan and Chief Secretary to Government of Gujarat, Shri Raj Kumar. Secretary, MoEF&CC also held discussions with Head of structures/arrangement for G20 Summit meetings, Smt. Mona Khandhar. During the meeting, Addl Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Shri Arunkumar Solanki; PCCF& HoFF, Shri S K Chaturvedi, and PPCF(WL), Shri Nityananad Srivastava from Forest department were also present. Aspects pertaining to branding, security, venue management, cultural events showcasing Gujarat's traditions and other logistic arrangements were deliberated. The State Government assured full preparedness for a warm welcome to all G-20 delegates and to ensure that the event is a grand success.

India shall be holding the Presidency of G20 for one year, till 30th November 2023. The forum will bring together the G20 member countries, guest countries and international organisations invited by India. Through the Sherpa Track, 13 Working Groups and 2 initiatives will meet under India's Presidency to discuss priorities and provide recommendations.

Environment and Climate Sustainability is one of working groups under the Sherpa track. Four Meetings of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) are scheduled to be held at Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Chennai. These meetings will be hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The first G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting concluded in Bengaluru on a positive note with all G20 countries expressing support on the themes outlined by MoEF&CC for India's Presidency.

PIB,FEB28,2023

Shri Bhupender Yadav says Indo-Danish Green Strategic Partnership is an appropriate forum to exchange ideas, best practices, knowledge, technology, capacity building, for promoting sustainable lifestyles including LiFE not only in Denmark and India, but for Europe and the whole world

The two countries can show the world that delivering on ambitious climate and sustainable energy goals is possible: Shri Yadav

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav said the Indo-Danish Green Strategic Partnership is an appropriate forum to exchange ideas, best practices, knowledge, technology, capacity building for promoting sustainable lifestyles including LiFE, not only in Denmark and India, but for Europe and the whole world.

Addressing The India – Denmark: Partners for Green and Sustainable Progress Conference today in New Delhi Shri Yadav said that since the launch of the “Green Strategic Partnership” during the Virtual Summit on 28 September 2020 between Prime Minister of Denmark, Her Excellency, Ms. Mette Frederiksen and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the bilateral cooperation is focussed on promoting green and sustainable development. He said that during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Denmark in May, 2022, India and Denmark agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and waste water management. The Minister said that Green Strategic Partnership between the Denmark and India opened a new chapter in the friendly and cooperative relations between the countries.

Shri Yadav said that India and Denmark have set very ambitious national targets on climate and energy that will contribute to an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. Together, the two countries can show the world that delivering on ambitious climate and sustainable energy goals is possible. It is also necessary, at the same time, to commit ourselves to the founding principles of the Rio Convention, he added. The Minister said that unsustainable production and consumption needs urgent attention, if we are to confront the global environmental and climate change related challenges that we face today. We need to act fast before it is too late. Shri Yadav said that at the recently concluded COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, the importance of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production (SCP) in global efforts to combat climate change was underscored. In this connection, Shri Yadav called the attention of the gathering to LiFE or Lifestyle for Environment, announced and launched by the Prime Minister. He said that in line with the global commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030, Mission LiFE contributes directly or indirectly to almost all the SDGs, including on sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), climate change (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), and life under water (SDG 14).

Shri Yadav emphasized that everyone needs to ensure that lifestyles are in sync at all levels with the resources available on the planet. “Let’s resolve to work together tirelessly, to build a sustainable and inclusive future, where no one is left behind!”, He further said that as the world’s most populous democracy and a vibrant emerging economy, India seeks to lead by example, and invited the global community to be a part of Mission LiFE for individual, family and community-based actions. He said that India is making rapid strides towards inclusive and overall sustainable development, especially in the environment dimension and this is being done both at national level and globally through international partnerships.

The Minister said that India and Denmark’s shared commitment to address climate change is exemplified by strategic sector cooperation on offshore wind and renewable energy, as well as the India-Denmark Energy Partnership (INDEP) on capacity building and technology transfer in the areas of offshore wind, energy modelling, and integration of renewable energy.

The event was attended by their Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark.

PIB,MAR3,2023

G20 RIIG experts discussed mechanisms to collaborate and work for Sustainable Energy Technologies

Delegates deliberated on ways of working jointly to solve the energy challenges collectively to achieve carbon emission net-zero goals for environment protection and sustainability at the G20 conference on Materials for Sustainable Energy on 2nd March 2023 at Ranchi. Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) and RIIG Chair, said that many G20 nations, including India, have enormous minerals and materials wealth that is required to be sustainably used for meeting our energy requirements. Highlighting the theme of the G20 under India's Presidency, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future" Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR said it underlines the need for the entire world to come together and focus on sustainable energy so that we can have one global future with net zero emissions.

As G20 delegates from Indonesia and Brazil, the other two troika countries, reiterated the importance of the conference, delegates from several countries called upon the G20 nations to join hands for furthering research and developing technological solutions in sustainable energy storage, distribution and management. Various facets of 'Materials for Sustainable Energy' were discussed under three sessions ---21st century challenges related to energy materials & devices, solar energy utilisation and photovoltaic technology, and materials and processes for green energy. A total 21 foreign delegates from 16 G20 members countries, invited guest countries and international organisations participated in the conference along with about 40 Indian experts. The Conference was coordinated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi.

Following this Conference on 'Materials for Sustainable Energy' in Ranchi, three more RIIG events will be held in Dibrugarh (Assam), Dharamshala (HP) and Diu on the themes 'Circular-bio-economy', 'Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition' and 'Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards Achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy' respectively.



## CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,FEB27,2023

### PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE 14TH RASHTRIYA SANSKRITI MAHOTSAV AT BIKANER

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav at Bikaner, Rajasthan today (February 27, 2023). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that festivals like Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav not only promote the art and culture of the country, but also strengthen the feeling of national unity. Such cultural events provide opportunities to people to know and understand our rich and prosperous culture and the characteristics of different regions. The President said that combining technology with traditions and science with art is necessary. New experiments are being done in every field with the help of science and technology. Technology is also being adopted in the field of art and culture. We can widen the reach of our country's art, traditions and culture through new technology. We all should be proud of India's rich and prosperous culture. At the same time, we should give place to new ideas and thinking in our traditions, so that we can connect our youth and future generations with these traditions. It is very important that our youth and children understand the importance of the precious heritage of the country.

The President said that we all know that change is the law of life. Changes in arts, traditions and culture also come with time. It is natural for art style, lifestyle, dress, food and drink to change with time, but some basic values and principles should continue from generation to generation, only then we can keep Indianness alive. The spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', peace and non-violence, love for nature, compassion for all living beings, moving ahead with determination - there are many values that bind all of us in one thread. The President said that life and time of today's people are running very fast. That's why it is not easy to pass on the heritage of our art and culture to the coming generations. She urged the prominent personalities, scholars, art lovers and artists to identify the talent of rural artists and widely showcase their talent. She further asked them to find ways and make efforts so that today's generation, especially youth and children, could understand and learn the art and culture.

PIB,FEB27,2023

NeGD organises its 34th CISO Deep Dive Training Programme under MeitY's initiative Cyber Surakshit Bharat

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials, across all government departments, for ensuring adequate safety measures to combat the growing menace - Organizations need to defend their digital infrastructures and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks.

National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its Capacity Building scheme, organised the 34th CISO Deep-Dive training programme from January 20-24, 2023 with 44 participants from Central Line Ministries and States/UTs at the Netaji Subhas Administrative Training Institute, Kolkata. The 5-day intensive training programme is designed for designated CISOs from Central and State/UT Governments, subordinate agencies/PSUs, including public sector banks and insurance companies, technical wings of police and security forces, CTOs and members of technical/PMU teams; also, officers responsible to observe security of IT systems in their respective organisations. The deep-dive training specifically aims at educating and enabling CISOs to understand cyber-attacks comprehensively and thoroughly, get necessary exposure in latest technologies of safeguard, and translate the benefits of a resilient e-infrastructure to individual organizations and citizens at large. The training also focuses on providing a holistic view of legal provisions, enabling CISOs to formulate policies in the domain of cyber security and build concrete cyber crisis management plans. The programme was inaugurated by eminent dignitaries - Shri Satya Narayan Meena, COO & Director Finance & Capacity Building, NeGD, MeitY and Shri BG Gupta, Course Director, NISG, who graced the occasion.

The training programme will bring together an array of subject matter experts from the industry, the academia and the government to speak on key domain issues of cyber security, such as, Governance Risk and Compliance, , Landscape of Cyber Security Products in India, End Point & Digital Workplace Security, Network Security, Application and Data Security, CCMP & Incident Response, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security Testing and Audit, Cyber Security related Provisions of IT Act and ISMS Standards including ISO 27001, Security Logging and Operation & Monitoring of Security Operation Centre.

Launched in 2018, the CISO training is the first-of-its-kind of partnership between the Government and industry consortium under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Since June 2018 until February 2023, NeGD has efficaciously conducted 34 batches of CISO deep-dive training programmes for over 1375 CISOs and frontline IT officials.