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SAMBHAV

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,MAY22,2023

National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) commences 60th CBP for civil servants of Bangladesh; So far, 2,145 officers from Bangladesh imparted training by NCGG

DG, NCGG, Shri Bharat Lal motivates civil servants to work with dedication in the making of ‘Century of Asia’

Instead of management, providing lasting solutions key to sustainable socio-economic development, says Shri Bharat Lal

The 2-week Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for civil servants of Bangladesh (60th batch) was inaugurated at the NCGG campus, Mussoorie. Following the successful completion of the first phase of training, NCGG has signed an MoU with the Government of Bangladesh to enhance the skills and capabilities of an additional 1,800 civil servants by 2025. As part of the agreement, in the last two years, NCGG has already imparted training to 517 officers from Bangladesh.

Aligned with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's governance mantra of being ‘pro-people’ and putting citizens at the forefront of the development strategy, NCGG’s programme reinforces the principle of citizen-centric governance among civil servants. It aims to foster the exchange of information, knowledge, and innovative ideas while promoting the adoption of best practices and digital governance. By enhancing the sensitivity and responsiveness of civil servants, the programme seeks to bring about greater efficiency and effectiveness in public administration.

A group of people in a lecture hallDescription automatically generated with medium confidence

The inaugural session was chaired by Shri Bharat Lal, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance. In his address, he highlighted that the capacity building programme has been developed in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and the Indian High Commission, Dhaka. The primary objective of this programme is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and innovations that have been implemented in India to enhance governance and public service delivery. Shri Bharat Lal encouraged the participating officers to actively engage and make the most of this opportunity, emphasizing the importance of leveraging the programme to its fullest potential.

In his address, the DG emphasized the pivotal role played by partnerships like India and Bangladesh in making the 21st Century the 'Asian Century.' He highlighted the tremendous potential, growth, and influence these democratic countries possess in contributing to the progress and development of the continent as a whole. He underscored the role of civil servants in ensuring that citizens receive essential facilities promptly and efficiently. He urged them to work with speed and scale to provide access to basic amenities such as housing, water, toilets, cooking gas, education, healthcare, financial services, and skill development among others.

Underlining the instrumental role of women in nation-building, he urged civil servants to empower women. He emphasized the importance of creating an environment that fosters gender equality, ensuring that women have equal access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making processes. A group of people in a roomDescription automatically generated with medium confidence

As frontline responders and implementers of policies, civil servants have a critical responsibility in disaster management. Recognizing the devastating impact of natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, he highlighted the urgent need for civil servants to act as enablers in creating resilient infrastructures and response systems. By embracing data-driven approaches and leveraging the power of technology, civil servants can enhance their decision-making processes, facilitate efficient resource allocation, and ensure the safety and well-being of communities affected by such natural disasters.

Acknowledging the officers as change agents working at the district level, Shri Bharat Lal emphasized their position at the forefront of policy implementation. He encouraged the participating officers to identify 4 – 5 key learnings from this programme that they can adapt and replicate with modifications as per the needs of their working environments. Their role as catalysts for change, combined with their deep understanding of local contexts, positions them to effectively implement policies and drive positive outcomes in their respective areas, he said.

Giving the overview of the programme, Dr. A. P. Singh, Course Coordinator said that in the 60th capacity building programme, NCGG is sharing various initiatives taken in the country such as changing paradigm of governance, digital governance: case studies of passport seva & MADAD, housing to all: leveraging digital technology, best practices from various development schemes, Planning and building eco-friendly smart cities – case studies, composite culture of India: A transcendental journey, Aadhar: a tool of good governance, disaster management with special reference to coastal region, overview of all India services, technical, sociological, and tourism project: case study of statue of unity project, public-private partnerships, Swamitva scheme: property validation for rural India, performance optimization in health sector, leadership, coordination and communication, e-governance and digital India UMANG, PM Gati Shakti yojana, GeM: bringing transparency in governance, PMGSY: A Programme for rural connectivity, green energy, digital governance and public service delivery, vigilance administration, women-centric governance, anti-corruption

strategies, circular economy, election management among others. He also said that as a part of the programme, the participants will have the opportunity to embark on exposure visits to witness various developmental projects and institutions. These visits will provide them with valuable insights and first-hand experiences of notable initiatives and organizations. Some of the planned visits include the district administration in Saharanpur, the Parliament of India, and the Pradhanmantri Sanghralaya, among others.

NCGG in partnership with MEA, NCGG has imparted training to civil servants of 15 countries viz. Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Seychelles, Gambia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Laos, Vietnam, Nepal Bhutan, Myanmar and Cambodia. Recognizing the increasing demand, NCGG is proactively expanding its capacity to accommodate a greater number of civil servants from an expanding list of countries. This expansion is aimed at meeting the rising demand and ensuring that more nations can benefit from the expertise and resources offered by the NCGG. The entire capacity building programme will be supervised by Dr. A. P. Singh, Course Coordinator for Bangladesh, Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Co-course Coordinator and the capacity building team of NCGG.

PIB, MAY 23, 2023

“100 Smart Cities-real incubators of the New Urban India” ~Shri Hardeep S. Puri

~ Building smart cities is a journey, not a destination~

~Meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee held~

Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas apprised the members of the consultative committee of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs about the progress of Smart Cities Mission. He further stated that the implementation of the Mission at city level is done by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), playing an instrumental role in monitoring the projects to utilize the full potential of

this path-breaking mission. The Minister stated that India's urban future will draw heavily from the innovations being nurtured in these 100 smart cities. Smart Cities Mission launched on 25 June, 2015, is aimed at providing core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'. 100 cities selected through a two-stage competition to be developed as Smart Cities are showing satisfying progress.

Smart Cities Mission, monitored by an Apex Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, regularly report implementation status of projects through the Real Time Geographical Management Information System (GMIS). As per SCM Statement and Guidelines, a Smart City Advisory Forum (SCAF) is established at the city level to advise and enable collaboration among various stakeholders. It consists of Member(s) of Parliament, Member(s) of Legislative Assembly, Mayor, District Collector, local youth, technical experts, other stakeholders, etc. All 100 Smart Cities have established their SCAFs. So far, the Smart Cities have convened more than 756 meetings of SCAF.

Moreover, at State level, High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary has been established. Besides, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Nominee Directors on the Boards of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs) regularly monitor the progress in respective cities. Furthermore, the Ministry regularly interacts with the States / Smart Cities through video conferences, review meetings, field visits, regional workshops, etc. at various levels to assess the performance of cities and to handhold them for improvement.

Smart Cities Mission Strategy

Further, the Committee visited various project sites including 'Mandovi Riverfront Promenade', 'Flood Mitigation Works', and Integrated Command and Control Centre in Goa and deliberated upon the current status and progress as on 1 May, 2023 wherein it was highlighted that the Mission has around 7,800 projects

worth Rs.1.8 lakh crores of which 5,700+ projects (73% by number) worth Rs. 1.1 lakh crores (60% by value) have been completed. All remaining projects are expected to be completed by 30 June, 2024. Also, it was outlined during the meeting that ₹38,400 crore have been released under Smart Cities Mission upto 1 May, 2023, out of which ₹35,261 crore has been utilized. The meeting chaired by Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas. Sh. Kaushal Kishore, Minister of State, MoHUA; Members of Parliament from across the States, Sh./Smt. MVV Satyanarayana, AKP Chinraj, Ramesh Bidhuri, Sanjay Kaka Patil, Abir Ranjan Biswas, Kalpana Saini, Vandana Chauhan and other senior officials from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI, attended the Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting, here last evening. Smt. Shalini Agarwal, Commissioner, Surat; Sh. Divyank Singh, CEO, Indore Smart City; Sh. M. Prathap, CEO, Coimbatore Smart City; Sh. Ankit Khandelwal, CEO Agra Smart City, also made insightful presentations on best practices adopted in their respective cities.

The Minister of State, Sh. Kaushal Kishore lauded the pioneering effort of the Mission in successful deployment of the Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) in all 100 smart cities. “ICCCs build better situational awareness by the use of cutting-edge technologies and provide consolidated visualization for civic officials across urban functions to handle day-day work/ issues/ exigencies through detailed SOPs”, he said. He further added that ICCCs have become the nerve centres of these smart cities and embodies effective use of technology towards strengthening the urban management.

Furthermore, Smt. Kalpana Saini stressed on the need of adding more to Smart Cities Mission; whereas Smt. Vandana Chauhan appreciated ICCCs and their functioning during COVID-19 and other crises for effective management of the pandemic; Sh. AKP Chinraj stressed on the need for creation of expertise in crucial areas such as mobility, water and waste management, etc. in these cities; Sh. Ramesh Bidhuri lauded effective implementation of smart city initiatives pioneering frameworks like the Ease of Living Index and the Climate Smart Cities. Further, in order to foster outcome-driven works, he outlined the need of extensive publicity

efforts for amplifying exemplary pivotal initiatives of this mission. The enactment of the Smart Cities Mission, marked the beginning of a new era in Urban Development Sector as a step towards reforming the sector, encouraging improved economic standards, smart governance, climate-sensitive sustainable environment, vibrant public spaces, digital access and health & hygiene, thus empowering the cities framework. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India is committed to enhance the ease of living index in the service of citizens.

PIB, MAY 27, 2023

9 years of Modi government youth centric with plethora of opportunities knocking at their doors: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Youth at 2023 to define India @2047: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Youth are catalysts of change and India's future will be driven by the youth power, says Dr. Jitendra Singh

J&K on the path of renewed growth and development, successful culmination of G20 Meeting in Srinagar is a testament to this: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Government is providing enabling environment and right direction for youth to grow, not provided by the previous governments: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Change of mindset is imperative for optimum utilisation of avenues provided by the government like the start-up ecosystem growing in India offering attractive & lucrative career, says Dr. Jitendra Singh

India ranks third in the start-up ecosystem in the world, possible only by the youth of this nation under the direction of PM Narendra Modi, says Dr. Jitendra Singh



Youth of India is aspirational but didn't have right kind of milieu and aspirational environment earlier as provided now by PM Narendra Modi: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that StartUp avenues unfolded in 9 years call for change of mindset. The Union Minister said, the nine years of Narendra Modi- led government have been, without any doubt, youth centric but what is required is the change of mind set for optimum utilization of avenues and various initiatives provided for the youth of this country. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing Y20 (Yuva Utsav) with the theme India@2047 organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra at Kathua in Jammu. While addressing a large gathering of the youth, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, with plethora of opportunities knocking at the doorsteps of the youth of this country, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government is steadfast and dedicated for providing a level playing field for the youth at different levels. The best example being the abolition of interviews for the non-gazetted posts, more than 2000 rules scrapped many of which were hurdles for the youth of this country to grow, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, under PM Narendra Modi, the start-up ecosystem in India is now ranked third in the world with more than 100 unicorns has been possible only because of the youth of this nation who has aspirations but earlier did not have the right kind of milieu and aspirational environment as provided under PM Narendra Modi. Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the Aroma Mission is attracting Start-ups whose birthplace is J&K as thousands of persons have been trained and several and huge amount of farmers' revenue generated so far throughout the country. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir must see Aroma Mission as one of the best opportunities in terms of start-ups knocking at their doors as the purple revolution in J&K offers attractive start-up avenues for the youth of J&K, Dr. Singh added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh today said, youth are catalysts of change and India's future will be driven by the youth power as India is a youthful nation whose strength lies in its Yuva Shakti. The Minister said, the image of India has changed due to the bold leadership of the prime Minister Narendra Modi, adding the Prime Minister has emerged as the tallest leader of the world, capable of handling any challenge through stable governance and administration. Dr. Jitendra Singh said, before 2014, there were 145 Medical Colleges in the country and 265 more were added in the last nine years. Similarly, there were 725 universities in the country and 300 new universities were added. Road length of seven lakh kilometres was added in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna in the last nine years and Mudra loan of Rs. 23 lakh crore has been provided to the beneficiaries in the last nine years under Mudra Loan Scheme.

Dr. Singh further said, Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of renewed growth and development and successful culmination of G20 Meeting in Srinagar is a testament to this change as the Government is committed to transforming Jammu and Kashmir.

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 28, 2023

CPM's Brinda Karat writes: Opposition's boycott of inauguration of new Parliament is a form of democratic protest

A parliamentary majority is being used as a bulldozer. Inauguration of the new Parliament building by the prime minister, instead of the president, shows disregard for constitutional propriety

Brinda Karat

Symbols are important in public life. The choice and projection of symbols reflect ideologies, cultures, histories, a worldview and much else. At the historic midnight session of the Constituent Assembly 75 years

ago, in a solemn ceremony, the national flag was handed over to the president of the Assembly, Rajendra Prasad, by Hansa Mehta, freedom fighter and one of the 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly.

She said, “It is in the fitness of things that this first flag that will fly over this august House should be a gift from the women of India...”. This symbolised then and for all these years, the recognition of the role played by India’s women in the glorious struggle to free India from British rule. But looking at that historic event today, there is another apparent significance. It was not Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s first Prime Minister, who received the flag, it was independent India’s first president of the Constituent Assembly, Rajendra Prasad. This was before the Constitution of India was adopted, establishing the post of the President of India. There would have been no reason for Nehru, the acknowledged leader of the Assembly, not to have received the flag, since there were no set rules. Propriety and norms of respect for the president of the Assembly would have determined who received the flag.

In 1947, even without the formal Constitution, the president of the Assembly was accepted as the head. Today despite the Constitution, this role and status of the president is sought to be usurped by the prime minister. The decision to inaugurate the new Parliament building himself, instead of the President, is symbolic of the utter disregard and, indeed, contempt for constitutional propriety. The Constitution of India in Article 79, states categorically, “There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People.” Clearly, a symbolic occasion such as the inauguration of a new Parliament building should have the president at the centre. This is even more so because the president is a symbol of social inclusion, as a member of an Adivasi community and as a woman. This has been repeatedly utilised by the prime minister to claim a mantle of social sensibility, now so easily discarded. The president may be too gracious to make a fuss, but the Opposition is absolutely correct to do so and to follow up with a united declaration from 19 Opposition parties that they would boycott the function.

This decision should not be construed as the tu tu, main main kind of debate that has become a common feature of India's current political scenario. It is a democratic protest against the insult it constitutes to the President of India, against the flagrant violation of constitutional propriety and also the usurping of a role for the head of state, the President of India, by the prime minister. The NDA which rarely meets has been rounded up to sign a statement which determinedly avoids answering the question: Why the PM and not the president? His colleagues have expectedly jumped in to counter the criticism with the usual chorus of abuse against the Opposition. One minister thought it fit to compare the inauguration of the Parliament annexe and the library by former prime ministers with the "if they could do it why are you objecting now" sort of illogic, the reduction of the "temple of democracy" to a library itself an indication of the contempt for Parliament, and further underlining their hapless state of having to defend the indefensible. It is no secret that the BJP in its different avatars has been a votary of the presidential form of government. Essentially, in such a system, the president is both the head of state and head of the executive while holding a crucial veto over decisions of the legislature, giving overriding powers to an individual. While there may be a debate on the pros and cons of such a style of governance and its different models practised in countries across the world, in the contemporary political situation in India, it fits in well with the regressive guru-shishya, raja-praja model of governance based on unquestioning obedience to the ordained higher authority, so close to the hearts and minds of the Sangh Parivar. When the Constitution of India establishing a sovereign, democratic republic was adopted with parliamentary democracy and a federal structure, it was the RSS which had been its strongest critic on grounds that it was not "Bharatiya" enough — "Bharatiya" as defined in the Manusmriti.

The last decade of the Modi regime has seen an unprecedented centralisation of power in the hands of the central government, and within that government in the hands of the prime minister. The rights of state governments are flattened. Parliament has been reduced to a shameful arena of sycophancy, where the undignified raucous heckling by the Treasury Benches when anything critical of the prime minister is spoken, has become the norm. A budget representing Rs 45 lakh crore of the people's money is passed within 10

minutes because ruling party MPs have been given the order to disrupt the proceedings. Every tried and tested mechanism to ensure scrutiny and consultation on every legislation, such as parliamentary committees, has been virtually dismantled. The role of the Rajya Sabha has been emasculated by fraudulently including a host of Bills as Money Bills so as to deny the right of vote in the Rajya Sabha where the government has had a tenuous majority, if at all. A parliamentary majority is being used as a bulldozer to fashion an autocracy, the new India version of a presidential form of governance. The replacement, at the forthcoming inauguration, of the real president of the Indian republic by the prime minister may symbolise more than the ego of an individual.

TELEGRAPH, MAY 28, 2023

Fractured house: Editorial on controversy regarding the inauguration of new Parliament building

The government's arrogance cannot conceal the fact that the nobility of the ceremony has been destroyed by the absence of 19 parties and the president. But was that the government's plan?

It could have been harmonious. The inauguration of the new Parliament building might have been attended by all parties, creating a few hours of transitory peace in the midst of acrimony. The symbolism of the ceremony was considered more important than the fact that the building was constructed without discussion with members of Parliament and against their strenuous objections during a catastrophic period when thousands were dying in the pandemic, many because of the lack of medical supplies. But the prime minister and his men thrive on controversy. Nineteen Opposition parties have refused to attend the ceremony because it is the prime minister who will inaugurate the new venue of Parliament, and not the president, as is constitutionally proper. They also cite the government's attacks on constitutional principles and democratic practices, of which excluding the president is further confirmation. The Constitution envisages a democratic

edifice of two Houses under the president. Not to invite her, let alone ask her to inaugurate the building, is a flagrant breach of the Constitution at the brink of a new beginning.



The government's arrogance cannot conceal the fact that the nobility of the ceremony has been destroyed by the absence of 19 parties and the president. But was that the government's plan? Is it flaunting an intention to dismantle the Constitution, or is this part of the prime minister's urge to inaugurate everything that sits or moves? That, too, is undemocratic since it is a personality cult. Worse — it recalls the Bharatiya Janata Party's fanfare around the election of the first tribal woman president. Her exclusion could be construed as an insult to the Indian people at the moment the temple to the Constitution and the people's will is being inaugurated. Her election, in hindsight, could well be an example of opportunistic tokenism.

It cannot be without planning that a new myth, masquerading as history as is the government's wont, has been produced around the Sengol, a sceptre of the Chola kings gifted to Jawaharlal Nehru by a Hindu organisation. Now projected as a symbol of the transfer of power from the British, its installation in the new building is a way to tinge government with the colour of the majority religion. And suggest royalty too, perhaps? Its presence in Parliament would falsify the history of a secular republic and undermine its rationale. But some parties outside the BJP alliance find nothing wrong with the ceremony. Mayavati of the Bahujan Samaj Party thinks that parties mourning the president's absence should not have offered a rival candidate during her election. Apart from this amazingly senseless argument, Naveen Patnaik of the Biju Janata Dal feels that improprieties can be discussed later — a pretty cover for having a cake and eating it too. A fleeting moment of hope and health in the polity amid growing economic distress, discrimination, nepotism, hatred and the stifling of dissent would have been meaningful for many. But that does not inspire the government.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PIB,MAY22,2023

Union Ministers Dr. Jitendra Singh and G. Kishan Reddy addresses side event on ‘Film Tourism for Economic Growth and Cultural Preservation’ during 3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting at Srinagar

Indian film actor, producer and entrepreneur, K. Ram Charan takes part in fireside conversation with film critic and journalist Mayank Sharma

The youth of Kashmir is highly aspirational, forward looking, can see enormous opportunities unfolded by PM Narendra Modi for the people of this country: Dr. Jitendra Singh

India will be one stop for film production having beautiful locations, talented technicians, state-of-the-art post production facilities that can create amazing visuals: G. Kishan Reddy

PM Narendra Modi believes that tourism has the biggest multiplier effect being the biggest job creator and this G20 meeting will lead to more job creation in J&K: Amitabh Kant

Also unveils Draft National Strategy for film tourism

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh and Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and the Development of the North Eastern Region, Shri G Kishan Reddy today addressed the side event on ‘Film Tourism for Economic Growth and Cultural Preservation’ during 3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting at SKICC, Srinagar.

Speaking during the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the youth of Kashmir is highly aspirational, sensitive and forward looking who can see the enormous opportunities unfolded by PM Narendra Modi for the people of this country. This 3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting at Srinagar along with its side events will create job opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir as the new and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir is attracting the film makers not only from India but across the world due to its pristine beauty. This is the best time happening in Jammu and Kashmir under PM Narendra Modi as such events will have a multifarious enrichment for J&K, said Dr. Jitendra Singh. Dr. Jitendra Singh said, under PM Narendra Modi, Kashmir is going to be most profitable, cost effective and economically viable film destination. In this address, G. Kishan Reddy said, India will be one stop for film production having beautiful locations, talented technicians, start of art post production facilities that can create amazing visuals with the world-class sound effects.

Quoting Kalhana's Rajtarangini, Sh. Reddy said, the Gods often descended to sit on the banks of lakes of Srinagar as this place has captured imagination of artists, nature lovers and now film makers who will revive the film making in Jammu and Kashmir. Many famous national and international films have been shot in Jammu and Kashmir and the biggest aim of the government is now to revive film tourism not only in Kashmir but all over the country. Sh. Reddy said, the event is of utmost importance as it will explore the immense potential of film tourism and its contribution to our vibrant tourism industry. Winning two Oscars this year was a historic moment for us for 'Naatu Naatu Song' and for 'The Elephant Whisperers' documentary, said Sh. Reddy. Sh. Reddy further said, film tourism is a powerful medium to promote tourism potential as films have a great impact on the travel choices attracting tourists all over the world.

Indian film actor, producer and entrepreneur, K. Ram Charan who was present during the occasion took part in fireside conversation with film critic and journalist Mayank Sharma. During his conversation, Sh. Charan said, the beauty of Kashmir is magical as it attracts people towards its pristine beauty, magical mountains and what not.

PIB,MAY25,2023

ADB, India sign \$141.12 million loan for industrial corridor development in Andhra Pradesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed, on 23.05.2023, a \$141.12 million loan to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh. This financing is the second tranche of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the program approved by ADB in 2016 to build infrastructure in three industrial clusters in the Visakhapatnam and Srikalahasthi-Chittoor nodes in the state.

The ADB financing through adopting multi sectoral approach will help the state in promoting industrialization to increase the share of manufacturing in the state's gross domestic product, build competitiveness and creating jobs in the project target areas. Specifically, this financing will help strengthen industrial infrastructure in Visakhapatnam node with the development of internal infrastructure in the start-up area of the 160-hectare (ha) Rambilli and 441-ha Nakkapalli industrial clusters, widening of 13.8-kilometer (km) of the Atchuthapuram–Anakapalli road and improvement of 4.4-km access road to the Nakkapalli cluster. Internal infrastructure in the proposed clusters will include internal roads, storm water drains, water supply systems, and electric power distribution systems. In Srikalahasthi-Chittoor node, the project will help develop the start-up area of the 938-ha Chittoor–South industrial cluster, and improve a 9.5-km access road to the Chittoor-South industrial cluster and an 8.7-km access road to the Naidupeta industrial cluster.

Among the outputs, the project will support the state in rolling out an updated marketing action plan for investment promotion, and enhance skills of people including the socially and economically vulnerable sections. To strengthen industrial cluster resilience under extreme weather, the project will help establish a green corridor model operational guidelines and develop a disaster risk management plan. For long term sustainability, the program will formulate a plan to improve operation and maintenance of start-up industrial clusters, and will roll out a toolkit with gender-responsive and socially inclusive guidance to integrate industrial and urban planning including industry housing in areas adjacent to industrial clusters.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,MAY23,2023

MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar holds Digital India Dialogues in Mumbai on the Principles of the Digital India Act

DIA will be an enabler for startups/innovations. We will not ban anything in the innovation space : MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

We want to lead the charge in Web 3.0 and in AI, with guardrails defined : MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Enforcement is not the theme of DIA. It's about obligations and rights: MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar today held Digital India Dialogues on the Principles of the Digital India Act, a future ready legislation that aims to replace the existing IT Act and provide a strong legal framework for protecting the rights of the Digital nagriks while ensuring an enabling environment for innovation and growth.

Referring to DIA basic principles, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the Act seeks to harmonise everything that's going on in the tech space. Talking about Safety & Trust, the Minister mentioned "Safety and Trust will be at the heart of the DIA, and it is going to be a huge section in the DIA. Online harm is also being dealt with by regulators globally. India is soon going to have 1.3 billion people accessing the internet and these Digital Nagriks should approach the internet without any fear and mistrust, especially as many government services also move to the internet. A safe and trusted internet is a win-win for all stakeholders. Weaponisation of misinformation and disinformation is also a major concern that needs to be addressed, especially with the added catalyst of AI-driven deepfakes"

While responding to questions from stakeholders on the issue of sectoral regulation, the Hon'ble Minister also clarified various other issues including:

On the issue of intersecting regulation by sectoral regulators: DIA will allow sectoral regulators such as RBI and SEBI and other ministries to create additional safeguards. The DIA will result in harmonization of different laws and sectoral regulators will be consulted for this purpose. On the issue of regulating emerging technologies: AI will be regulated through the prism of user harm. The objective is to ensure that emerging technologies should not cause any harm to Digital Nagariks. Similarly, the industry can suggest guardrails for blockchain and Web 3.0. We will not ban anything in the innovation space, unless it is linked with user harm. We want to lead the charge in Web 3.0 and in AI--with guardrails defined. I am not a big fan of regulators in the sense that it shouldn't create another layer of compliance. On the issue of compliance for startups: The Hon'ble Minister emphasized that in all recent laws, such as the CERT-In directions released in April 2022 or the upcoming Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, startups have either been provided exemptions or an extended time period for compliance.

The proposed law will be an important pillar of the Global Standard Cyber law framework that is being formulated by the Government for catalyzing India's digital economy goals. Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, National Data Governance Framework policy, the recent amendments to the IT Rules, CERT-In guidelines will form the other elements of this framework.

The session was attended by a diverse range of stakeholders of the technology ecosystem including industry associations, startups, IT professionals, think tanks and lawyers. Around 300 stakeholders attended the consultation, with 125 people attending in-person and 175 attending virtually. A similar dialogue was held in Bengaluru in March this year. These consultations are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consultative approach to law and policy making. This is the first time the consultations are taking place on the principles of the Bill.

STATESMAN, MAY 24, 2023

Time to act

One way of looking at it is that ChatGPT and other generative AI tools have democratised technology by bringing previously unfathomable computing power to search, data analysis, video and audio generation, and software development among other areas.

A few days ago, Open AI's CEO Sam Altman testified before the US Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law asking, in effect, to be regulated. His submissions, along with those of IBM Vice President Christina Montgomery and New York University Professor Gary Marcus, went some way in explaining generative artificial intelligence (AI) and gave American legislators an opportunity to express their concerns about its impact on society, the economy, and the political system. These high-profile appearances also underlined the importance of generative AI and the sensitivities surrounding its development. One way of looking at it is that ChatGPT and other generative AI tools have democratised technology by bringing previously unfathomable computing power to search, data analysis, video and audio generation, and software development among other areas. Generative AI has the power to alter how people find information, generate new audio and videos, create new products, and respond in real time to emerging events.

But, as has been established, several issues have emerged that concern consumers, academic experts, and policymakers. Among the worrisome problems of mindless adoption of AI include harmful content, disinformation, favouritism and biases of all kinds, lack of transparency, workforce impact, and intellectual property theft. Writing recently, governance and technology expert Darrell M. West pointed out that those making the submissions saw these issues as quite serious and in need of meaningful action. More surprisingly, he added, there were bipartisan calls for tougher regulation and greater disclosure of AI utilisation; this, at a time when Washington political conversations are highly polarised and partisan. Nearly all lawmakers agreed there needed to be stronger guardrails that safeguard basic human values if advanced and emerging technologies are to be a common good. So, once again, the USA has taken the lead in confronting an emergent technological development. Whither India?

The question acquires considerable significance given there are no excuses this time around. Which is to say, India missed out on being in the forefront of the three previous industrial revolutions the world has witnessed: Steam Power, Electricity, and Computing. But the country is very much in the mix in the ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0, which is the digital revolution. The application of advanced technologies provides an opportunity for India to escape the technology 'lower end' and build a knowledge society to meet the aspirations of millions. Harnessing digital technologies such as generative AI have become a vital component of comprehensive national power. Research in and access to advanced technologies, and their integration into our national priorities, could be the gamechanger. India can leapfrog the traditional, linear growth paths if it can put in place adequate safeguards and engage with the world to establish the global rules of the game, as it were. But to do that, we first need a national debate and consensus on the way forward. There is, unfortunately, no sign of it yet.

PIB,MAY26,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, in the last 9 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has traversed unlimited "Space": Quantum jump in Space sector surpasses the progress made in the preceding nearly six decades before that

Addressing the India Defence Conclave 2023, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Modi has taken several policy initiatives in the past nine years to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment, thereby promoting Atmanirbharta in defence sector

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that in the last 9 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has traversed unlimited "Space".



Addressing the India Defence Conclave 2023 here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Modi has taken several policy initiatives in the past nine years to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment, thereby promoting Atmanirbharta in defence sector. As a result, there is a quantum

jump in Space sector in the last 9 years which surpasses the progress made in the preceding nearly six decades before that, he said. It is pertinent to mention that India's defence industry is now capable of manufacturing wide variety of high-end requirements e.g., Tanks, Armoured vehicles, Fighter aircrafts, Helicopters, warships, Submarines, Missiles, Electronic equipment, Special alloys, special purpose steels, and variety of ammunition.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Defence and Space sectors are intertwined and both of them got an enabling milieu from the Prime Minister for its faster and indigenous growth by bridging the policy gaps. Referring to the strategic relevance of Space in view of recent global conflicts, the Minister said, Space, a dual-use technology domain, is emerging as an important multi-faceted enabler that provides unprecedented reach. He added that many nations are today focusing on developing their military space capabilities to ensure its safe, secure, and friendly use along with deterrence capability to deny it to adversaries, when necessary.

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out that Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a total cost of Rs.6003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31, aiming to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT). This will accelerate QT led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA). The Minister pointed out that India has joined the elite club of a handful of countries in Quantum Technologies and currently R&D works in quantum technologies are underway in the US, Canada, France, Finland, China and Austria, therefore all the countries are at par as far as initiation of the Mission is concerned.

Referring to the Space Sector, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, similarly, Prime Minister Modi opened up the Space sector for private participation leading to more than 105 StartUps in the Space sector within just about three years. He said, starting from the SAARC Satellite Mission of 2017, five PSLVs are being domestically produced by L&T and HAL, while 104 satellites were launched in one go.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's other flagship space programmes also include Human Space Flight Centre or what we call in India as Gaganyaan project under which we are planning to send our first crewed flight in space in 2024 after the two trial flights. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the strength and innovative potential of our young and private industrial enterprise will take a lead in the global space technology disruption in times to come. He expressed hope that India's young technology wizards shall breach new barriers in the field of Space Technology while they set out to address the limitless opportunities offered by the Space Domain.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB, MAY 22, 2023

Imperative for G20 countries to collectively address the interrelated matters of climate change and biodiversity loss through joint international efforts: Kapil Moreshwar Patil

Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil addresses G20 delegates in the inaugural session of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group in Mumbai

“The impacts of degrading biodiversity and environment are becoming increasingly apparent globally, presenting significant obstacles to preserving development progress and promoting well-being and prosperity. It is therefore imperative for G20 countries to collectively address the interrelated matters of climate change and biodiversity loss through joint international efforts. India’s G20 Presidency is committed to be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented” said Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil. He was presenting the inaugural address on the second day of the third meeting of the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG).

Shri. Kapil Moreshwar Patil appreciated the hard work done by the ECSWG in the area of climate change and environment issues. He congratulated the Working Group on the success of the Mega Beach Clean Up Event and meaningful discussion on the Ocean 20 Dialogue. He said the ECSWG has been working actively towards meaningful outcomes across its identified thematic priorities and aims to forge a successful communique that is consensus driven.

Pointing to the importance of involving rural communities in protecting the environment the Minister said, “To attain sustainable development, it is crucial, that we focus not only on the urban centers but also on the well-being and progress of our rural communities. Rural areas, with heavy reliance on agriculture are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Changing rainfall patterns, droughts and water scarcity, heatwaves and extreme temperatures and increased extreme weather events have posed serious challenges to the livelihood, food security and overall well-being of the rural communities. Living in harmony with nature has been the way of life in the rural and non-urban areas. India is traditionally known to practice a sustainable Life-style as a nation. Keeping in tune with this tradition, our Panchayati Raj institutions are actively engaged in promoting renewable energy projects as well as involving rural communities in activities like afforestation drives, waste management, and conservation of water resources to foster a sense of environmental stewardship among citizens. In this regard, it is important to mention that the Ministry of Local Self Government i.e Ministry of Panchayati Raj is anchoring the process of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals or LSDG’s in Local Self institutions i.e Panchayati Raj Institutions. To this end, it has been our endeavour to bring together different stakeholder at one forum in a ‘Whole-of-Government’ & ‘Whole-of-Society’ approach.” He stated Vibrant Village Assemblies initiative and the Revamped Incentivization of Panchayats as illustrative examples of the same.

The Minister concluded by stating that the quest to ensure a secure future for the planet requires collaboration amongst nations. Evoking the theme for India’s G20 Presidency, he said , “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ – One earth, one family, one future, corroborates the above with an intention to collectively address such challenges. India looks forward to the support of participating countries and organizations in achieving success through the initiatives being taken up by the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group.”

In her opening remarks for the day, Ms. Leena Nandan, G20 India Chair and Secretary, MoEFCC expressed her gratitude to the delegates for engaging actively in the first two ECSWG meetings as well as multiple rounds of virtual consultations in the interim. With a steadfast resolve of being collaborative and inclusive, she shared that a series of Focus Group Discussions had been conducted by the Indian Presidency, over the past three weeks across all the three thematic priorities, where the outcome documents were discussed line-by-line. Further, she appreciated the deep involvement and commitment of all G20 members for the same and added that their participation had followed a constructive process across the Presidency and made the discussions so far fruitful. She urged the G20 countries for their continued participation to ensure inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive outcomes as the Working Group moves closer towards the last leg of the proceedings under the India Presidency.

The ECSWG has placed a consensus driven approach at the heart of its modus operandi. Appraising the delegates on the draft Ministerial Communique, Ms. Nandan shared that moving through the various stages through the ECSWG meetings, the current meeting is crucial for the process of further aligning on the Communique and other thematic outcome documents commences will need to be undertaken. She also took this opportunity to run a quick recapitulation of the progress made thus far on the thematic priorities and requested the countries to align themselves on the outcomes for the thematic priorities.

Later at the end of day two, Ms. Leena Nandan, also addressed a press conference to brief the media. During the conference she stated, “The ECSWG is committed to facilitating tangible outcomes that will build a good foundation before the baton is passed on to the next Presidency. The discussions held during the ECSWG meetings are expected to contribute to the G20 Leader’s Summit to be held later this year.”

PIB,MAY22,2023

Shri Bhupender Yadav says international Biodiversity Day is about need to create environmental consciousness

Shri Yadav proposes setting up People's Biodiversity Registers in every village under Mission LiFE

Union Minister for Environment , Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav has said international Biodiversity Day is about need to create environmental consciousness. Speaking at a special function held to celebrate the International Day of Biological Diversity in Mumbai he said we often take the best from the environment but give back waste, with development our consumption increases.

Shri Yadav said if we encourage unnecessary consumption, one earth will not be enough. In the years to come we need to pave way for conservation of biodiversity along with development, he added. Shri Yadav proposed setting up People's Biodiversity Registers in every village under Mission Life. Also present on the occasion were Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Secretary for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ms. Leena Nandan, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority Shri C. Achalender Reddy and other senior Central and State government officials.

Congratulating the Maharashtra Government for its unique gene bank initiative the Shri Yadav said, "The Western Ghats situated in Maharashtra are rich in biodiversity. There are six National Parks, forty eight Wildlife Sanctuaries and three Ramsar Sites in Maharashtra. Therefore there could not have been a better place to celebrate the International Day of Biodiversity." Elaborating on the theme for this year's World Environment Day, the Minister stated that the Ministry plans on combining the celebrations of World Environment Day with Mission Life. Noting that nature and environment are very important to our life he added that with Mission Life the Government endeavours to take a 'whole society' approach.

A person standing at a podium with a microphone Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Speaking on the importance of millets Shri Yadav said, “Millets promotes vocal for local. It is a crop that is suited to Indian climate and soil. Along with being drought resistant millets are important to reduce nutritional deficiency. The Biodiversity Board has given special importance to millets. This aims to enable access and benefit sharing with vulnerable communities.” Shri Yadav reiterated that protection of environment is an article of faith for the country. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that we have access to natural resources because our previous generation protected them. And it is our duty to protect them for our future generations. That is the most important message for today”. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey said, “If we protect the environment, the environment in return will protect us. If we don’t give back as much as we take from the environment, the balance in nature will be destroyed and we will have to face natural disasters. If nature survives, we survive and the earth survives.” Referring to Millets the Minister further added, “The whole world is attracted to millets today because of India’s initiative. Through a mass movement we have to increase the knowledge, demand and supply of millets. We need to create a mass movement and take the knowledge of millets to common man.” The Minister gave the mantra of ‘Nature, Culture and Literature towards a bright future. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Ms. Leena Nandan stated, “Today is a day we acknowledge that our lives are largely dependent on biodiversity. Minister for Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar also addressed the gathering through a video message.

Two publications of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change namely, ‘Biodiversity Heritage Sites of India’ and ‘Other Effective Area Based Management’ were released by the dignitaries on the occasion.

The celebration witnessed the inauguration of a Biodiversity Exhibition with a special focus on Millets by Shri Bhupender Yadav, in the presence of other dignitaries. The exhibition showcased the work of various

bodies such as the Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, State Biodiversity Board, Maharashtra Gene Bank Project, Botanical Survey of India and others. Various public and private organisations involved in promotion of Millets were also part of the exhibition.

PIB,MAY23,2023

National Campaign for Updation and Verification of People's Biodiversity Register Launched in Goa

Conserving biodiversity is key to maintaining balance in Nature : Union MoS Ashwini Kumar Choubey

The National Campaign for Updation and Verification of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) was launched in Goa today, marking a significant step towards the documentation and preservation of India's rich biological diversity. The function, organized by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in association with the Goa State Biodiversity Board, the National Biodiversity Authority, and the Government of Goa, witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries. Among the distinguished guests were the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey; the Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant; the Minister for Environment and Climate Change of Goa, Nilesh Cabral; Chairman of the National Biodiversity Authority, C. Achalender Reddy and other senior Government representatives.

During the event, Union Minister of State Shri. Ashwini Kumar Choubey emphasized the importance of maintaining the delicate balance present in nature. He remarked, "It is important to maintain the delicate balance present in nature. One must return to it as much as one takes away from it." Stressing the significance of conserving biodiversity, he stated, "Conserving biodiversity is key to maintaining balance in nature." He further highlighted the need for people's participation in achieving success in implementing the provisions of the Biodiversity Act 2002, saying, "It is important to not only spread awareness but also ensure people's participation to make the idea behind these provisions a success."

Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed the audience that so far 2,67,608 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) have been prepared in the country, by Biodiversity Management Committees entrusted with the crucial task of documenting natural resources and traditional knowledge associated with them. He also mentioned the progress being made in digitizing the People's Biodiversity Registers, transforming them into e-PBR.

Furthermore, he highlighted the significance of the concept of "Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE)," introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 in Glasgow on November 1, 2021. This concept calls upon individuals and institutions globally to promote mindful and deliberate utilization of resources to protect and preserve the environment. The Minister pointed out how exercises such as preparation and updation of PBRs are also an integral part of the philosophy of Mission LiFE. Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant expressed his pride in Goa being chosen as the site for launching this national campaign. He acknowledged the remarkable efforts of the people of Goa in preserving biodiversity and emphasized the role of local communities in achieving success in this sector. He stated, "The successes of Goa in this sector are the successes of the enthusiasm of the people at the ground. Government can only support local communities in their endeavour to preserve biodiversity, and therefore, every success belongs to the community."

In addition to the campaign launch, an exhibition showcasing unique products from each Biodiversity Management Committee was inaugurated during the event. The occasion also witnessed the distribution of special awards for the Best Biodiversity Management Committee in North and South Goa, the Green Journalist Award, and individual contributions to preserving biodiversity.

About People's Biodiversity Register

The People's Biodiversity Register serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity, including the conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, micro-organisms, and the accumulation of knowledge related to the area's biological diversity. As per the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) are created for "promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity" by local bodies across the country. BMCs have been constituted by the local bodies in the States and Union Territories and are entrusted with preparation of the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), in consultation with local communities.

PIB, MAY 24, 2023

Urban Climate Film Festival to Show Environmental, Social & Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Urban Settlements

Festival being organised under U20 with support from MoHUA, AFD and European Union

The first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival, that aspires to employ the powerful medium of film to enlighten audiences about the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change on urban settlements, is going to take place in New Town, Kolkata from 3rd to 5th June 2023. 16 films from 12 countries are scheduled to be screened, along with Q&A sessions with filmmakers in order to spark conversations about building climate-resilient cities and invite inputs from the public; further encouraging the citizens to undertake 'environmentally responsible behavior' in line with the U20 priority areas and the Hon. Prime Minister's clarion call through the LiFE Mission.

Launched in New Delhi in March 2023, the film festival is being organised by National Institute of Urban Affairs, through the CITIIS program under the engagement events of U20 (the urban track of G20). The festival is supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency (AFD), the European Union and the New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Limited. The global call for entries for the festival had received an overwhelming response with 150 films submitted from 20 countries. These were evaluated by a jury that comprised:

Dr Surbhi Dahiya (Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication)

Dr Pranab Patar (Chief Executive, Global Foundation for Advancement of Environment)

Mr Sabyesachi Bharti (Deputy Director, CMS Vatavaran)

The festival will also celebrate World Environment Day on 5th June with a special closing ceremony, which will be graced by Mr. Didier Talpain, Consul General of France in Kolkata; Mr. Debashis Sen, Managing Director, West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation; Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs; Mrs. Meghna Pal, CEO, NKGSCCL; and Mr. Naim Keruwala, Program Director, CITIIS.

Entry to the Urban Climate Film Festival is free and open for all.

Attendees can view the screening schedule and register themselves for the festival here: <https://citiis.niua.in/event/urbanclimatefilmfestival>

The Urban Climate Film Festival was launched on 24th March at Alliance Française in New Delhi. After a successful run in Delhi, the festival travelled to Mumbai, where it was hosted at Alliance Française de Bombay. The festival in Delhi and Mumbai showcased a curated selection of films by a diverse pool of filmmakers from countries like India, France, Iran, and the USA. The screenings were complemented by panel discussions and special sessions where audiences interacted with filmmakers.

PIB, MAY 25, 2023

“We launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission because we believe in the environment”: New and Renewable Energy and Power Minister

Net Zero is important, but what is more important is that we provide enough electricity for our growth: New and Renewable Energy and Power Minister R. K. Singh

“India is a world leader in energy transition, we will adhere to our pledge of making 50% of energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030”

The Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh has reiterated the need for India to keep adding energy capacity so that the nation can keep growing in the times to come. “What we need to be concerned about is the requirement of energy for our growth. There can be no compromise on this. Our electricity demand is growing rapidly. By 2030, energy consumption is expected to double. We will need to add capacity so that our country can grow. Net Zero is important, but what is more important is that we ensure enough electricity for our growth. The living standards of our people will need to improve - and that will require higher per capita consumption of electricity”. The Minister said this while addressing a plenary session on “Renewables - Powering the Net Zero Agenda of India”, on the second and final day of the CII Annual

Session 2023, in New Delhi today. The Power Minister recalled that the country has added 1.84 lakh MW of power from 2014 till now, but that this is not sufficient. Our per capita carbon emissions are one third of global average, and there is going to be no compromise in ensuring 24/7 electricity, said the Minister.

“No problem in investing, power sector is sounder than it was before”

The Minister assured the investor community that India is one of the fastest growing countries with fast-growing energy demand, making it a big market for investors. “The demand is there, come and invest. We have addressed the challenges. We have taken care of the challenge of viability, addressing payment of both legacy dues and current dues. We have brought down legacy dues to almost 50% of what it was earlier, and we seek to wipe it off in 8-9 months or so. Losses of discoms too have been brought down; we have transformed the power sector. There is no problem in investing in power sector now, market is growing. We have changed the systems in such a way that the sector is sounder than it was before” asserted the Minister.

Systems to ensure sector does not become vulnerable

The Minister spoke against the practice of promising free power, which he said means that taxpayers bear the brunt of the same. “There is no such thing as free power, somebody has to pay for it. State Government which announce free power will have to pay for it from their budget. We have put in place a system that if the discoms do not pay for the electricity they consume, the electricity will get cut off automatically, without any human intervention.” The Minister pointed out to the industry that India is a world leader in energy transition. “We had pledged that by 2030, we will have 40% of our capacity from non-fossil fuels, we achieved this by 2021, nine years in advance. We have pledged that 50% of our capacity will come from non-fossil fuels by 2030. This trajectory will be adhered to.” The Minister made it clear that India is at the forefront of the transition, since “we believe in the environment”.

Measures to Ensure Trajectory for Renewable Energy Transition

The Minister said that the government has taken care of challenges in adding capacity to renewables. “There was some reluctance on the part of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions in laying down renewable purchase obligations commensurate with the Renewable Purchase Obligations of the Government of India. Amendment in Energy Conservation Act has a provision for mandatorily laying down trajectories for transition, so State Electricity Regulatory Commissions cannot set any separate trajectory, if the trajectory is not followed, there will be huge fines, so there is no question of it not being followed. And this makes sense, since the demand is bulging.” The Minister spoke of the importance of hydro power, in balancing the huge capacity addition being made to renewable energy. Stating that hydro energy is environment-friendly, the Minister informed that results of surveys show that landslides have come down and slopes have stabilized where hydro projects came up.

Lowering Costs of Energy Storage

Elaborating about the policy approach of the government, the Minister said that the Ministry will ask the States for the type of power they will need and design bids in line with their requirements. “We are taking steps to lower cost of energy storage. We are going to come up with more bids using Viability Gap Funding. We believe in the environment. That is why we announced Net Zero. By 2030, we have said that 50% of our capacity will be from non-fossil fuels, and in fact, it will not be just 50% it will be much more; hopefully storage too would have become viable by then.” We are actively pursuing ways and means of diversification in addressing supply chain issues and we are also interested in alternative technologies, the Minister added.

“We will become champion in Green Hydrogen”

The Minister said that countries of the developed world which give lectures on free market have started putting up huge barriers in terms of subsidies to green hydrogen, for example. “Despite the fact that we face so many barriers, we will become a champion in green hydrogen production as well. We shall continue to be the leader in energy transition. We need to add capacity, and adding capacity by renewables with Make in India is another of our priorities.”

Explaining challenges in capacity addition, the Minister said that the government will be changing bidding rules to provide that failing in meeting Scheduled Commercial Operation Date will result in the bidder not being able to bid for one year, and failing second time will result in not being able to bid for three years. “So, when you bid, bid carefully and with foresight and deliberation.” Speaking about reforms in the sector, the Minister informed industry that renewable capacity obligation is now obligatory and that no discom will think about waiting till price becomes lower in future because there will be a uniform rolling tariff.

“Big opportunity in transitioning to Open Access”

The Minister highlighted that an area of opportunity in achieving Net Zero is through transitioning the commercial and industrial sectors through open-access. He said that he wants the industry to start buying renewables. “It is much cheaper. If any discom or SERC hesitates in giving you open access within time limit, just send us a letter. The demand is there, I would urge you to come and meet it”. Responding to a question on nuclear power, the Minister said that the country welcomes nuclear power. “It is totally clean. Most developed countries have nuclear as a part of their equation when they contemplate Net Zero.”

Speaking on the role of green hydrogen in India’s energy transition plan, the Minister said that while we have the lowest cost of producing renewable energy in the world, we cannot contend with countries which give 100% subsidy. “How to cope with protectionism is something we need to think about.”

Answering a question on how to address consumers' preferences for products manufactured using green energy, the Minister reminded the audience that 25% of the electricity we consume today is already green. "By 2030, nearly 50% of electricity shall be green. Further, we are coming out with policy for states going green." On the role of R&D, the Minister said that to be effective, R&D has to be in partnership with industry, involving scientists, engineers and academia. He also said that we need to launch our own green bonds.

PIB, MAY 26, 2023

India's National Climate Research agenda released at International Climate Research Conclave

India's National Climate Research agenda was released at the inauguration of the two-day International Climate Research Conclave (ICRC-2023) at DST's Centre of Excellence in Climate Studies at IIT Bombay on 26 May 2023, paving the way forward for coordinating national efforts towards understanding and addressing climate change 2030 and beyond.

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, highlighted that the damage caused by climate change has already taken its toll, and our response has been delayed. He pointed out that valuable lessons to tackle the situation can be taken from our experiences of positive changes in the environment due to altered human behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said these serve as a reminder that if we act responsibly, there is a real possibility of passing on a sustainable planet to future generations. Dr. Chandrasekhar emphasised that addressing climate change is not the responsibility of climate scientists alone. "It is a collective responsibility that extends to all individuals and sectors of society. Climate change is influenced by peripheral activities surrounding climate science, and it becomes the duty of scientists to identify the areas that have the most significant impact on the climate and work towards mitigating them," he stressed at the conclave jointly organised by The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Earth Sciences and hosted by DST's Centre of Excellence in Climate Studies at IIT Bombay.

“By acknowledging the collective responsibility and adopting sustainable practices across various sectors, we can make meaningful progress in mitigating climate change and preserving a healthy planet for future generations. It is a call to action for everyone to play their part in creating a more sustainable and resilient world,” he added while releasing the report on “India’s Climate Research Agenda: 2030 & Beyond’. Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Ravichandran, emphasised the importance of understanding the cryosphere and the implications of climate change. He highlighted the importance of formulating policy decisions to address various aspects such as water resources, extreme rainfall, heat waves, and marine waves. These complexities need to be quantified and communicated with reduced uncertainty to facilitate better policy decision-making. Dr. Ravichandran underscored the interconnectedness between different regions and bodies, including the Arctic, Antarctic, and Himalayas, as they directly impact water bodies. Recognizing this, the conclave aims to generate a multitude of recommendations that will benefit the country as a whole.

“This conclave serves as a platform to discuss and propose recommendations that will contribute to effective policy formulation. By addressing these complex challenges and providing actionable insights, the conclave aims to enhance policy decision-making and benefit the nation as a whole in its quest for a more sustainable and resilient future,” he added.

Over 200 climate scientists, students, experts, and policymakers from different parts of the country and around the globe are participating in the International Climate Research Conclave (ICRC-2023) to discuss India’s recent progress in climate research and its agenda and vision for 2030. The conclave also discussed a long-term research agenda for the country in the priority areas of climate research and plans for creating a Climate Consortium of several departments and ministries of the Government of India for facilitating climate Research.

Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser, DST and Secretary, Science Engineering Research Board (SERB), highlighted the significance of the day, reflecting on the historic celebration of the 10th anniversary of the ICDP (International Centre for Development and Performance) Centre of Excellence at IIT Bombay. This center, established in 2012 as the first Center of Excellence by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has since paved the way for a broader climate change program. Referring to the progress made over the years, Dr. Gupta said that today, there are not only 12 Centers of Excellence but also 20 major programs dedicated to climate change research. This extensive network encompasses a staggering 1,400 institutes where climate change studies and research take place, with recent expansions to private institutions. "This event is, however, immensely significant as its purpose is to unveil the National Climate Research agenda -- a crucial step forward in guiding and coordinating National efforts towards understanding and addressing climate change," Dr. Gupta explained. "It is already evident that India is making significant strides in climate research and demonstrating its commitment to combat this global challenge. The conclave serves as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and setting the course for future research endeavors, all in pursuit of a more sustainable and resilient future," Dr. Gupta added.

CURRENT EVENTS

PIB, MAY 22, 2023

Ministry of Education and PARAKH (The National Assessment Centre) organize the 1st National level workshop on assessment with States and UTs

PARAKH has been set up as the organisation under NCERT. It will work on bringing the school boards across the States and the Union Territories on a common platform. As a first step, a workshop on school assessments, examination practices and equivalence of boards across the country was organised by the Ministry of Education and PARAKH today in New Delhi. PARAKH will act as a common platform for interaction of all concerned stakeholders in order to develop a holistic approach that ensures a fair assessment system which promotes equity in performance and equivalence in assessment of students.

The workshop was chaired by Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy and attended by officials from Ministry of Education, CBSE, NCERT, NIOS, NCVET and NCTE. State Education Secretaries, State Project Directors School, SCERT and officials from State Examination Boards across India also attended the meeting. While addressing the participants, Shri Sanjay Kumar emphasized the need for equivalence of boards. In India, currently there are around 60 school examination boards that are operating in different states/UTs. The aim is to establish a unified framework that enables seamless transitions for students moving between different boards or regions. This includes aligning curriculum standards, grading systems, and evaluation methodologies to enhance the credibility, recognition of certificates, and grades obtained across boards, he added.

The workshop focused on discussion on equivalence across educational boards. Multiple stakeholders were informed regarding the conception of PARAKH. The discussion revolved around the need to reassess the prevailing rote examination culture in our education system. There is a growing realization that holistic assessments, encompassing various dimensions of a student's abilities and potential, are equally important. Further, the discussion emphasized the need for well-designed and standardized question papers, ensuring fairness and consistency across schools and boards. Additionally, there is a call to strike a balance between formative and summative assessments, reducing the burden of high-stakes examinations while effectively measuring a student's progress. An analysis of examination results of secondary and higher secondary boards was also presented.

PIB, MAY 25, 2023

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES WOMEN CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE UNION MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AT KHUNTI

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed a Women Conference organized by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs at Khunti, Jharkhand today (May 25, 2023). Addressing the gathering, the President said that being a woman or being born in a tribal society is not a disadvantage. She shared that there are countless inspiring examples of the contribution of women in our country and that women have made invaluable contributions in social reform, politics, economy, education, science and research, business, sports and military forces and many other fields. She said that for becoming successful in any field, it is very important that they recognize their talent and do not judge themselves on the scale of others. She urged women to awaken the infinite power that is within them.

The President said that both the social and economic aspects of women empowerment are equally important. She said that hardworking sisters and daughters of Jharkhand are capable of making a significant contribution to the economy of the state as well as the economic development of the country. She urged them to recognize their talent, and move ahead with confidence. The President said that women power provides energy to the rural economy of Jharkhand. Therefore, it is very important to connect more and more women with self-help groups in Jharkhand and provide employment by their skill development. She expressed confidence that through this Conference, women would become more aware of their rights and various schemes run by the government in their interest. The President said that the tribal society presents ideal examples in many fields. One of these is the non-prevalence of the dowry system in the tribal society. She pointed out that many people in our society, even the well-educated ones, have not been able to give up the dowry system till date.

PIB, MAY 25, 2023

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of Guwahati campus of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Assam today

The world's 11th and the country's 10th NFSU centre has been established in Guwahati, today, I want to congratulate the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma for this

Today is very important day for the criminal justice system of Assam as well as the entire North-East

Now the students of North Eastern state will not have to go to Delhi or other cities to study Forensic Science, as forensic studies can now be pursued in NFSU campus of Guwahati itself

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is establishing a network of National Forensic Science University across the country, the goal of the country in the direction of criminal justice is very clear that the conviction rate is to be taken ahead of the rate of developed countries

NFSU- Guwahati will benefit North-East India as well as many countries along the eastern border like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia

National Forensic Science University has signed Memorandum of Understanding with many countries and is not only providing online and offline training to the officials for the use of forensics in police and judicial process but to the private industries as well

Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will make the forensic experts visit mandatory in all cases with punishment of more than 6 years so that conviction rate can be increased, this will increase the demand for forensic experts across the country and NFSU will fulfill it

The process of total policing is divided into three parts - maintaining law and order, investigating crime and getting the culprit punished following judicial process, presently, forensic science is very crucial in all these three processes

NFSU has established Asia's only Ballistic Research Centre Testing Range, Centre of Excellence in DNA Forensic Science and International Humanitarian Forensic Centre

National Forensic Science University has trained police officers and forensic scientists from more than 70 countries and has signed more than 170 agreements with national and international organizations around the world

Drone Forensic Center and Center of Excellence in Psychological Forensics have also been established by NFSU

Shri Amit Shah also launched the web portal 'Assam Police Seva Setu' to make the services of the Assam Police more accessible and transparent for the people

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Guwahati campus of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Assam. Along with this, Shri Amit Shah also launched the web portal 'Assam Police Seva Setu' to make the services of the Assam Police more accessible



and transparent for the people. A book written by Dr. J.M Vyas on the use of forensic science in judiciary was also released. Several dignitaries including the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma were present on the occasion. In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that today is a very important day for the criminal justice system of Assam as well as the entire North-East as the world's 11th campus and the country's 10th campus has been established in Guwahati. He said that the State Government has given 50 acres of land for this Forensic Science University and Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will provide about Rs 500 crore on this NFSU for graduation and post graduation of 3,500 students. He said that with the Bhumi puja ceremony of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) today and after the commencement of its temporary campus, the students of the entire North East will not have to go to metropolitan cities like Delhi, Gujarat, Mumbai to get education in the field of forensic science. Shri Shah said that the only specialized forensic science university of the world is located in India.

Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is going to make radical changes in IPC, CRPC and Evidence Act. Its basic objective is to change these three laws prepared during the British era according to the spirit of our Constitution and to increase the conviction ratio in our country. The government is going to make the visit of forensic experts mandatory in all crimes punishable for more than 6 years which is also going to create job opportunities for forensic science students across the country. He added that there is huge demand of experts in this emerging field of forensic science across the globe. The National Forensic Science University, started from Gujarat, is the only NFSU in the world to prepare exclusive courses in the field of forensic science and convert all dimensions of forensic science into courses. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Minister said that the NFSU, Guwahati will not only benefit Assam and North-East India but many countries along the eastern border like Myanmar Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia. He said that by signing Memorandum of Understanding with the many countries, National Forensic Science University is not only providing online and offline training to the officials for the use of forensics in police and judicial process but to the private industries as well.

National Forensic Science University has trained police officers and forensic scientists from more than 70 countries and has signed more than 170 agreements with national and international organizations around the world. Shri Shah said that Guwahati campus of NFSU is a perfect university in true sense. In this, along with courses like cyber security, digital, forensic, artificial intelligence, DNA forensics, food forensics, environmental forensics and agricultural forensics, arrangements will be made for double graduation. He said that from this academic year itself five faculties are going to start 5 academic courses and further will be expanded to 40 different courses and this unit will be converted into a complete unit.

Shri Amit Shah said that the process of total policing is divided into three segments - maintaining law and order, investigating the crime and ensuring that the guilty are punished through judicial investigation. He said that currently, forensic science has gained crucial importance in all the three segments. By employing various scientific disciplines of forensic science like psychological profile, fingerprints etc. the police will be able to investigate crime without resorting to third degree methods. Even in case of a witness turning hostile, the court can sentence the guilty based on the charge sheet prepared by the police with the help of a forensic expert. The Government of India wants to set up a forensic mobile investigation facility in every district of the country.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the conviction rate has increased from 5% to 14% in Assam. The conviction ratio has also increased from 5% to 45-40%. However, the state should aim to take the conviction rate above 85 per cent, and it cannot happen without the aid of forensic science. Shri Shah added that due to the proactive role of Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, the 11th campus of National Forensic Science University is being inaugurated in Assam, today, for which he is thankful to him.

Shri Amit Shah said that the conviction rate in the country is 50%, while it is 62% in Canada, 93% in Israel, and 90% in both England and USA. With the help of Forensic Science University, the country has to move towards increasing the conviction rate. By punishing the habitual criminals with the help of NFSU, a strict example can be set in the society to control the trends of crime in the country. He said that our goal in relation

to criminal justice is clear that we have to take our conviction rate ahead of the rate of developed countries, and for this purpose, the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working towards creating a network of National Forensic Science University across the country.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that a four-pronged strategy has been chalked out to increase the conviction rate in Assam. It includes, strengthening the infrastructure of forensics, upgrading and modernizing the state level forensic labs, building regional forensic labs, ensuring that the mobile forensic laboratories are operational at the district level to collect evidence from the crime scene, and grooming of manpower as the forensic experts. While strengthening the infrastructure of forensics is the task of the state government and the central government, the training and ensuring the availability of the manpower of forensic experts, improving research and development and bringing the world's most modern technology to the country are the tasks of the National Forensic Science University. Shri Shah said that NFSU is continuously studying the changes taking place in the field of forensic science across the globe and is working to take the country's forensic science at par with the world while also making arrangements for R&D and inspiring the children to move forward in this field. He said that NFSU has established Asia's only Ballistic Research Centre Testing Range, Centre of Excellence in DNA Forensic Science and International Humanitarian Forensic Centre. Drone Forensic Centre and Centre of Excellence in Psychological Forensics have also been established by NFSU.

Shri Amit Shah congratulated the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma for reviving the police in the state. He said that a new era of peace and harmony has started in Assam under the leadership of Shri Modi. Government of India has developed infrastructure in the entire Northeast and also connected it with mainland India. Along with this, efforts were made to bring everyone into the mainstream by conducting peace talks with the insurgent groups. Due to which about 8000 youth of three major insurgent groups-Karbi, Bodo and Dimasa have surrendered and come to the mainstream. In the wake of recent clashes in Manipur, Shri Shah has appealed to the people of Manipur to maintain peace and have faith in law and order. He said that it

is the policy of the government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that justice should be done and strict action should be taken against those who spread violence. Shri Shah has said that since last 6 years there has been peace in Manipur and there has not been a single blockade. We will solve this problem also through dialogue and peace. Shri Amit Shah said that after a few days he will go to Manipur for 3 days and talk to the people for establishment of peace.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation paid tribute to the great freedom fighter Shri Rash Behari Bose on his birth anniversary for his immense contribution in the freedom struggle for the country. He said that freedom fighter Shri Ras Bihari Bose helped provide stimulus to the freedom struggle and was a source of inspiration for youths of that time. He said that NFSU has a 100% placement ratio and graduating from the institute means getting a job immediately. Among all the courses available in the field of science, the maximum job opportunities are in the field of forensic science. Shri Shah urged the students to come to the National Forensic Science University to be established in Assam for further education and to shape your future and also to contribute in further strengthening the law and order situation of the country.

PIB,MAY25,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh approves 181 new members of IIPA including 56 Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors

The Minister presides over the 322nd meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA as its Chairman

Dr Jitendra Singh also inaugurates the 101st branch of Kendriya Bhandar in the IIPA premises with ready to food items

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, who is also National Chairman

of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), today approved 181 new members of IIPA including 56 Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors.

Presiding over the 322nd meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that since he decided in November, 2021 to throw open the IIPA membership to the serving officers, which was earlier reserved for only retired officers, over 700 members were enrolled so far.



The Minister felt happy that apart from wide range of age, the fresh membership is also coming from Allied and Defence Services and Academic and Professional fields. He urged the regional branches of IIPA to speed

up the membership drive to bring quality manpower to IIPA fraternity. Earlier, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 101st branch of Kendriya Bhandar in the IIPA premises with variety of ready to eat food items and a “Karmayogi Dwar”. He said, Kendriya Bhandar which was running in losses in 2014 and a paper was also initiated for its closure was given a complete facelift by the Modi Government. The Minister informed that from a turnover of merely Rs 750 crore in the Cooperative has registered 500 per cent growth and now doing business worth Rs 4000 crore. Dr Jitendra Singh urged the members of the executive council to explore the idea that each of the State Branch must come up with a calendar of activities as the mandate of the IIPA is mainly Academic. The Minister also expressed satisfaction that the institute will soon release “A manual of Good Governance” for the officers working in the fields facing day-do-day public delivery challenges. He termed this will be a completely New Paradigm of Good Governance.

The Minister was apprised of the action taken on the minutes of the 321st Meeting of the EC held on 12th October, 2022. The IIPA’s Executive Council has the Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar as its President and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, as Chairman. The meeting was attended by members of IIPA’s Executive Council, including, Shri Shekhar Dutt, former Governor, Chhattisgarh, Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala, Director, LBSNAA, Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar, Shri T. Kaliban Shri K. K. Sethi, along with Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Member-Secretary, EC and Shri Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA. Several regional branches also attended the meeting virtually.

PIB, MAY 27, 2023

PM chairs 8th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

PM said that Centre, States and UTs should work as Team India and fulfil the dreams and aspirations of people for a Viksit Bharat @ 2047

PM urged States and UTs to work with NITI Aayog to take country ahead towards achieving its vision for Amrit Kaal

PM spoke about diverse development issues, fiscal discipline, infrastructure development, water conservation, among others

CMs and LGs gave various policy level suggestions and mentioned specific issues pertaining to the States which require Centre-State cooperation

Meeting was attended by 19 states and 6 UTs

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the 8th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog earlier today. The Meeting was held at the New Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It was attended by Chief Ministers/Lt.Governors representing 19 States and 6 UTs. Prime Minister stressed that the Centre, States and UTs should work as Team India and fulfil the dreams and aspirations of people for a Viksit Bharat @ 2047. He said that NITI Aayog can play a critical role in helping States to develop their strategies for the next 25 years and align the same with the National Development Agenda. He urged the States and UTs to work with NITI Aayog so that the country can take a quantum leap towards achieving its vision for the Amrit Kaal.

Prime Minister mentioned that NITI Aayog is taking multiple initiatives for strengthening cooperative and competitive federalism like the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). Both these programmes showcase the power of working together as Centre, States and Districts, and the impact of data-driven governance in improving the lives of common citizens at the grassroots level.

Prime Minister stressed on the need for States and Centre to promote Shree Anna in the International Year of Millets. He also deliberated on the need for working towards water conservation through the Amrit Sarovar programme. Prime Minister spoke about the importance of maintaining fiscal discipline at the State levels. He

urged the States to proactively use the Gati Shakti Portal not only for infrastructure and logistics but also for local area development and creation of social infrastructure. Speaking about G20 meetings being held in the country, he said that while G20 has brought glory to India on the world stage, it has provided States the opportunity for global exposure.

Prime Minister also spoke about the importance of skilling people with a view to meet global requirements, supporting MSMEs, developing the tourism potential of the country, reducing compliances at the State level including decriminalisation of minor offences, creation of Ekta Malls. Talking about Nari Shakti, he highlighted the significance of women-led development. He also spoke about ending the menace of TB by 2025. Chief Minister/Lt. Governors gave various policy level suggestions. They mentioned specific issues pertaining to the States which require Centre-State cooperation. Some of the key suggestions and best practices highlighted by them included in areas like opting for green strategies, need for zone wise planning, tourism, urban planning, agriculture, quality of workmanship, logistics, among others.

Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the CMs and LGs for participating in the meeting and sharing their views and experiences. He said NITI Aayog will study the states' concerns, challenges, and best practices and subsequently plan the way forward.

PIB, MAY 28, 2023

[The new building of Parliament is going to fill all of us with pride and hope: PM](#)

[The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said that New Building of Parliament is going to fill all of us with pride and hope. Shri Modi dedicated the New Parliament Building to the Nation by physically unveiling the plaque. On this occasion, the Prime Minister tweeted and said that;](#)

“आज का दिन हम सभी देशवासियों के लिए अविस्मरणीय है। संसद का नया भवन हम सभी को गर्व और उम्मीदों से भर देने वाला है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि यह दिव्य और भव्य इमारत जन-जन के सशक्तिकरण के साथ ही, राष्ट्र की समृद्धि और सामर्थ्य को नई गति और शक्ति प्रदान करेगी।”

“As the new building of India’s Parliament is inaugurated, our hearts and minds are filled with pride, hope and promise. May this iconic building be a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality. May it propel our great nation to new heights of progress.”

STATESMAN,MAY28,2023

PM Modi to inaugurate India’s new Parliament building today

Various rituals according to the Vedas will be performed ahead of the inauguration of the new Parliament building by PM Modi, sources said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament building equipped with state-of-the-art technology today. Various rituals according to the Vedas will be performed ahead of the inauguration of the new Parliament building by PM Modi, sources said. PM Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla will lead the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building on Sunday.

Even though the exact details of the inauguration have not been made public, ANI has learnt through reliable sources that the inauguration will take place in two phases. The inauguration ceremony will begin at around 12 noon. However, in the run-up to the event, preparations would be done since morning.

However, it is known through reliable sources that an elaborate ceremony will take place on Sunday morning starting from 7:15 am.

During the inauguration, various programs will be held from Sunday morning including puja, after which PM Modi will receive the Sengol and will install the Sengol after a ceremony. After which diya will be lightened followed by the unveiling of the plaque.

Furthermore, PM Modi will interact with Shramjeevis and Sarv Dharma Sabha will be held.

PM Modi will felicitate the worker who worked on the Parliament construction.

The inauguration ceremony will begin with puja performed by Vedic ritual way starting at 7:30 am. These pujas will go on till 9 am. The sources told ANI that the rituals ahead of the inaugural ceremony will begin in the morning and is likely to be held in a pandal (canopy) near the Gandhi statue in Parliament. PM Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh and some senior ministers in the government are likely to be part of the ceremony. It is learnt that after the pujas, the dignitaries will examine the premises of the Lok Sabha's chamber and the Rajya Sabha chamber in the new building. It is likely that the sacred 'Sengol' will be installed in the Lok Sabha chamber, right next to the Speaker's chair, after performing some rituals, for which priests from Tamil Nadu, including the original jeweller who designed it, will be present.

A prayer ceremony will also be organised on the premises of the new parliament building, say the sources.

The morning phase will end at close to 9:30 am after which the second leg of the ceremony is expected to begin at noon with the singing of the national anthem in the Lok Sabha chamber in the presence of all the dignitaries including PM Modi. At 11:30 am, all the invitees including members of Parliament, Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha, chairman and other distinguished guests are expected to be seated in the Lok Sabha chamber in the new building.

During this phase, a speech will be delivered by the Deputy Rajya Sabha Chairman, Hariwansh, who will further read a written congratulatory message on behalf of Rajya Sabha, Chairman, Jagdeep Dhankar. A written message by President Droupadi Murmu will also be read out on the occasion.

In fact, two short audio-video films will also be showcased for the dignitaries present to talk about the process of construction of the new parliament, building and its significance. Lok Sabha Speaker, who is the custodian of the Parliament will also be making a speech on the occasion. PM Modi will also be releasing a coin and stamp on the historic occasion and will also be making his speech on the occasion following which the Secretary-General Lok Sabha will deliver the Vote of Thanks to mark the closing of the ceremony, the sources told ANI. The function is expected to begin at about 12 pm and is expected to be over by around 1:30 pm.

The Adheenams (priests) handed over the sacred sceptre, 'Sengol', to PM Modi on Saturday, on the eve of the inauguration of the new Parliament building. 'Sengol', which marked the symbol of the transfer of power from the British to India, will be kept as a legacy in the new Parliament building. PM Modi on Friday shared a video glimpse of the new Parliament Building stating that the iconic building will make every Indian proud. In a tweet, PM Modi said, "The new Parliament building will make every Indian proud. This video offers a glimpse of this iconic building. I have a special request- share this video with your own voice-over, which conveys your thoughts. I will re-Tweet some of them. Don't forget to use #MyParliamentMyPride." The task of constructing the new Parliament building was a mammoth endeavour. It witnessed several key construction activities being done off-site as well. Further, the construction also saw the usage of materials sourced from across the country. As per the government officials, Teak wood was sourced from Nagpur, Maharashtra while sandstone (red and white) was procured from Sarmathura, Rajasthan. The carpets to be floored inside the new building were procured from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. The bamboo wood flooring came from Agartala, Tripura. From Rajnagar, Rajasthan and Noida, UP Stone Jali Works were obtained.

The material involved in constructing Ashoka Emblem was sourced from Aurangabad, Maharashtra and Jaipur, Rajasthan while Ashok Chakra came from Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Some of the furniture acquired was procured from Mumbai. From Lakha, Jaisalmer Lakha Red granite was obtained. Ambaji White marble was procured from Ambaji, Rajasthan. Kesharia Green Stone was procured from Udaipur. The stone carving work was obtained from Abu Road and Udaipur, and the stone aggregate was from Kotputali, Rajasthan. The M-Sand was procured from Chakari Dadri, Haryana, and Fly Ash Bricks from NCR Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and the Brass work and Pre-cast Trenches were got from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, while the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha false ceiling steel structures came from UT of Daman and Diu. The new Parliament building symbolises the spirit of self-reliant India (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) and maintains the government.

The present building of the Parliament was completed in 1927, and is now going to be almost 100 years old. The lack of space was being experienced in this building as per the present requirements. In both Houses, there was also a lack of convenient arrangements for the sitting of the MPs which was affecting the efficiency of the work of the Members.

Considering the above, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passed resolutions urging the government to construct a new building for the Parliament. Consequently, on 10 December 2020, the foundation stone of the new building of Parliament was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The newly constructed Parliament building has been built in record time with quality construction. Now the newly constructed building of Parliament, which will work to further enrich India's glorious democratic traditions and constitutional values, is also equipped with state-of-the-art facilities which will help the Members to perform their functions in a better way. The new Parliament building will enable 888 members to sit in the Lok Sabha. In the present building of the Parliament, there is a provision for the sitting of 543 Members in the Lok Sabha and 250 in the Rajya Sabha.

Keeping in view the future requirements, arrangements have been made for a meeting of 888 members in the Lok Sabha while 384 members in the Rajya Sabha in the newly constructed building of the Parliament. The joint session of both Houses will be held in the Lok Sabha Chamber. To mark the inaugural event, the Centre has received a confirmed list of 25 political parties, including some which are not a part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), that will participate in the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building on May 28. Apart from BJP, several parties in the NDA including AIADMK, Apna Dal, the Republican Party of India, the Shinde faction of Shiv Sena, NPP, and NPF have confirmed their attendance for the function on Sunday. Several neutral parties, including Biju Janata Dal, TDP, and YSRCP will be present for the inauguration. Amongst the opposition parties, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) and Janata Dal-Secular will also attend the function on Sunday. Invitations for the inauguration of the new parliament, building have been sent both physically as well as through e-invitation.

The sources told ANI that apart from sitting members of Parliament of both houses, invitations have been sent to former Lok Sabha Speakers and former Rajya Sabha Chairman. All chief ministers have also been invited to attend the inauguration ceremony. Invitations have also been sent to Secretaries of all ministries of the government of India. The chief architect of the new parliament building, Bimal Patel and reputed industrialist Ratan Tata whose company TATA has constructed the new building have also been invited to the inauguration of the new building. An invitation has also been sent to certain prominent personalities, including film stars and sports persons.

STATESMAN, MAY 28, 2023

New Parliament building inauguration: 'Sarva-Dharma Prarthana' ceremony held

PM Modi dedicated the new Parliament Building to the country today and installed the historic symbol Sengol, near the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair in the new building

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla were among other Union Ministers and chief ministers of several states who attended attend a ‘sarva dharma prarthana’ (multi-faith prayer) ceremony held at the new Parliament building on Sunday. PM Modi dedicated the new Parliament Building to the country today and installed the historic symbol Sengol, near the Lok Sabha Speaker’s chair in the new building. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, S Jaishankar and BJP president J P Nadda were present at the ceremony. At the sarva-dharma prarthana, the religious leaders chanted prayers in various languages. The ceremony began with a traditional ‘pooja’ with Vedic rituals which will continue for an hour. PM Modi performed “Ganapati Homam” to invoke Gods to bless the inauguration of the new Parliament building. The inauguration will take place in two phases. The pooja was being held in a pandal (canopy) near the Gandhi statue in Parliament. Before its installation in the new Parliament building, PM Modi was handed over the historic ‘Sengol’ by Adheenams. As a mark of respect PM Modi prostrated before the ‘Sengol’ during the ceremony and sought the blessing of the Adheenams (priests) from various temples in Tamil Nadu. He then carried the ‘Sengol’ in a procession among chanting of Vedic mantras to the new Parliament building. He then installed the sacred ‘Sengol’ in the Lok Sabha chamber, right next to the Speaker’s chair. The ‘Sengol’ was consecrated amid Vedic chanting by Adheenams before its installation.

PM Modi took a decision to adopt ‘Sengol’ as a national symbol of the Amrit Kaal. This is the same Sengol that was accepted by the first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru at his residence on the night of August 14, in the presence of several leaders. He also felicitated some workers who helped in the construction and development of the new Parliament building.

The new Parliament building will enable 888 members to sit in the Lok Sabha. In the present building of the Parliament, there is a provision for the sitting of 543 Members in the Lok Sabha and 250 in the Rajya Sabha.

Keeping in view the future requirements, arrangements have been made for a meeting of 888 members in the Lok Sabha while 384 members in the Rajya Sabha in the newly constructed building of the Parliament. The joint session of both Houses will be held in the Lok Sabha Chamber.