

SAMBHAV

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,SEP19,2022

Shri Parshottam Rupala holds bilateral meeting with New Zealand Minister of Trade and Export and Agriculture

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala held a bilateral meeting today with New Zealand Minister of Trade and Export and Agriculture, H.E Mr. Damien O'connor.

The two sides discussed the potential bilateral cooperation to strengthen Foot and Mouth Disease capability to advance India's and New Zealand's primary sectors. During the meeting, both sides felt that there is much to learn from each other in the related fields. The cooperation discussed today will help enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Exchanging information and expertise will help build the knowledge and capability of each other's animal husbandry sector, which will have mutual benefits for both countries. Both the dignitaries have discussed various ideas to further strengthen the close and unique India-New Zealand friendship.

PIB,SEP19,2022

FAO side event on International Year of Millets (IYOM) 2023 held during the Ninth Session of the Governing Body (GB-9) of the International Treaty (Food and Agricultural Organisation) .Session chair Ms. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (Crops), DA&FW lays emphasis on Millets at the centre of food security and crop diversity as a solution for farmers' betterment

FAO side event on International Year of Millets (IYOM) 2023 was held during the Ninth Session of the Governing Body (GB-9) of the International Treaty (Food and Agricultural Organisation) being hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi today.

The side event on IYOM-2023 focussed on celebrating Millets' farmers. Ms. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (Crops), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare gave a brief presentation showcasing India's preparedness for IYOM 2023 and how India is gearing up to work closely with farmers and the entire value chain to put Millets on every plate. The presentation also touched upon the concerted efforts of 19 Ministries to run awareness drives and G2B, B2B and B2C conversations across India and the global community at large for IYOM-2023. She laid special emphasis on millets at the

centre of food security and crop diversity as a solution for farmers' betterment, as a run-up to the IYOM 2023. A picture containing text, person, indoor, peopleDescription automatically generated

The panel discussion, chaired by Ms Shubha Thakur, had participation from Millets' experts, including Dr Dayakar Rao B., Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIMR; Ms Manisha Bhasin, Corporate Chef, ITC Hotels; Dr Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director General (Research), ICRISAT; Mr. Rohit Chaudhary, Director Development, Akshaya Patra Foundation; Shri P. C. Chaudhary, Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha; Shri Vijay Patil, representative from Karnataka Millets Mission; Ms. Vishala Reddy, Founder, Millet Bank (start-up); Ms. Sharmila Oswal, Founder, Basillia Organics (start-up); Mr Konda Chavva, OIC, FAO India; and Mr Jainendra Singh, Assistant Director (Programme), All India Radio who moderated the session. The session laid out India's plan for celebrating IYOM 2023 across the world to work towards putting Millets on every plate. A picture containing food, table, plate, counterDescription automatically generated. The event also had a provision of stalls which were set-up by various millet start-ups and FPOs to showcase their products. The session was followed by a specially curated millet lunch for all the attendees.

PIB,SEP19,2022

Mandatory Training Programme on Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Highway Projects for the Personnel of Consultants

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has given great emphasis on development of road infrastructure especially National Highways in the country. He has emphasized time and again that Capacity building both in government and private sector is imperative for sustainable development of road infrastructure for which instructions have been issued from time to time by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

MoRTH in January, 2022 had addressed the matter of capacity building process of technical professionals of Consultants, Contractors, Independent Engineers (IEs) and Authority Engineers (AEs). In order to ensure the capacity building and improvement in quality of work done by personnel of Consultants, Contractors, IEs and AES in highways construction, the technical knowledge of personnel employed with private firms needs to be regularly updated. However, capacity building / upgradation in private sector is generally not given much importance. As such, to enrich personnel from private sector MoRTH in Aug 2022 has decided that the personnel engaged by consultancy firms for preparation of DPRs have to undergo a

mandatory training course on "Preparation of Feasibility Study and DPR for Highway Projects" conducted by Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).

IAHE has successfully conducted the First Training Program for the personnel of consultant from 5th to 10th September 2022 at IAHE campus in NOIDA in which the following major aspects of preparation of DPRs were covered:

Overview of DPR Preparation

Hydrological investigations and studies

Traffic studies, traffic demand estimation and realistic forecasting

Geometrical design of highways

Pavement condition survey, material survey and geotechnical survey

Modern topography survey and data collection

General guidelines for bridge design

Design of flexible pavement

Design of rigid pavement

Preconstruction activities and clearances

Environmental and social studies and project clearances

Road safety engineers and other measures

New technology and materials for highways

Project costing, economic and financial analysis

Gati Shakti Integrated Master Plan

The DPR consultants will have to demonstrate the training undertaken by its key personnel in their Curriculum Vitae (CV) as part of their technical qualifications. The course has been designed to cover all the technical and non-technical aspects involved in the preparation of DPRs. In the training program various challenges and issues of concerns such as competency and extent of involvement of key personnel, finalization of alignment, accuracy of survey data and design, proper preparation of the schedules, preconstruction activities and various statutory clearances would be deliberated. The training would also focus on use of new / alternate material & technology and use of PM Gati Shakti Integrated Master Plan for deciding the alignment etc. The program is aimed to improve the overall quality of DPRs in development of Highways so that safe, quality resilient and sustainable highways are created.

IAHE is a registered Society under the administrative control of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India. A collaborative body of the Central and State Governments, IAHE was set up in the year 1983 with the primary objective of fulfilling the long-standing need for training of Highway Engineers at the entry level and during the service at all levels. IAHE is an apex institute of excellence exclusively established as premier national institute of the country for sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences on entire range of subjects dealing with planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance and management of roads; bridges; tunnels and road transportation including technology, equipment, research, transport economics, finance, taxation, organization and all connected policy issues.

Besides conducting various training program IAHE is also conducting several certification courses. More than 1600 trainings have been conducted by IAHE in which about 44000 participants (2000 International from 50 Countries) have participated.

PIB,SEP20,2022

IBBI amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022 ('Amendment Liquidation Regulations') and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022 ('Amendment Voluntary Liquidation Regulations') on 16th September, 2022. To

enable better participation of stakeholders and streamline the liquidation process to reduce delays and realise better value, the amendment in Liquidation Regulations make the following major modifications:

The Committee of Creditors (CoC) constituted during Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) shall function as Stakeholders Consultation Committee (SCC) in the first 60 days. After adjudication of claims and within 60 days of initiation of process, the SCC shall be reconstituted based upon admitted claims. The liquidator has been mandated to conduct the meetings of SCC in a structured and time bound manner with better participation of stakeholders. The scope of mandatory consultation by liquidator, with SCC has been enlarged. Now, SCC may even propose replacement of liquidator to the Adjudicating Authority (AA) and fix the fees of liquidator, if the CoC did not fix the same during CIRP. If any claim is not filed during liquidation process, then the amount of claim collated during CIRP shall be verified by the liquidator.

Wherever the CoC decides that the process of compromise or arrangement may be explored during liquidation process, the liquidator shall file application only in such cases before Adjudicating Authority for considering the proposal of compromise or arrangement, if any, within thirty days of the order of liquidation. Specific event-based timelines have been stipulated for auction process.

Before filing of an application for dissolution or closure of the process, SCC shall advise the liquidator, the manner in which proceedings in respect of avoidance transactions or fraudulent or wrongful trading, shall be pursued after closure of liquidation proceedings. The Amendment Liquidation Regulations and Amendment Voluntary Liquidation Regulations further lay down the manner and period of retention of records relating to liquidation and voluntary liquidation of a corporate debtor or corporate person, respectively. The Amendment Liquidation Regulations and Amendment Voluntary Liquidation Regulations are effective from 16th September, 2022. These are available at www.mca.gov.in and www.ibbi.gov.in.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, SEP22, 2022

Election panel proposes doing away with postal ballot option

As per ECI's standard policy, voters on election duty are deployed at a constituency other than their home constituency to manage and supervise the polling process

Deeksha Bhardwaj

Voters on election duty who cannot visit their home constituency may have to exercise their franchise at Voter Facilitation Centres, and not through postal ballot, to “minimise potential misuse of postal ballot facility for free, fair and transparent elections”, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has proposed, according to people familiar with the matter.

In their recommendation to the ministry of law & justice last week, chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar and election commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey also said the above proposal will require an amendment in Rule 18 of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, the people cited above said. Rule 18 deals with people entitled to vote by post, which includes service voters, voters on election duty and electors subjected to preventive detention. Nearly a million polling stations are set up across the country during the national elections, with almost 10 million voters on election duty. Such voters include police personnel, polling officials and presiding officers among others who are involved in the election process. As per ECI’s standard policy, voters on election duty are deployed at a constituency other than their home constituency to manage and supervise the polling process. Owing to this arrangement, such voters are unable to visit their home constituency and thus, allowed to vote via post.

“It has been observed in previous elections that voters on election duty who are provided postal ballot do not cast their vote at Voter Facilitation Centres but take their postal ballot with them, claiming they have time to cast postal ballot till 8 am of the counting day, as per Section 60 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 read with Rule 18 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961,” one of the people cited above said on condition of anonymity. As per current rules, the returning officers, at the time of training, may issue postal ballots and also set up facilitation centres for those on poll duty to enable them to cast their votes before they are dispatched for the allotted polling stations. “The facilitation centre is equipped with all necessary arrangements for ensuring secret and transparent voting in presence of candidates or their representatives,” the person cited above said.

However, voters on election duty also have the option to send their postal ballot through “post to the returning officer so as to reach the returning officer before the hour fixed for the commencement of counting i.e, 8am of the counting day,” the person added. Many such voters keep postal ballots at their homes for a long time after performing poll duty, as elections are normally held in staggered manner in order to manage logistics and requirements for forces, the person said. Data shows that during the assembly elections in states like Goa, Kerala and Manipur in the last two years, “over 50% of postal ballots were received by post from the election duty staff”. “In Uttarakhand (that went to the polls earlier this year), not even a single postal ballot was cast at the facilitation centre,” the person said. The ECI’s proposal would “minimise the potential misuse of keeping

ballot paper by the voters on election duty for a long time with them, which is highly susceptible to undue influence, threats, bribery and other unethical means by candidates or political parties”, the person added.

INDIAN EXPRESS,SEP22,2022

Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes: From Leicester to New Jersey, the diaspora is reflecting the divisions of Indian politics

Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes: A Vishwaguru wearing a robe of Hindutva cannot but export all the fault lines that come with it

Pratap Bhanu Mehta

It should not be a matter of surprise that so much of the playbook and fault lines of Indian politics are being reproduced among the Indian diaspora. Perhaps what people are surprised by is the fact that these fault lines are no longer at the level of just the coarsening of discourse or cultural fissures, but are taking overtly confrontational forms. In some ways, this is not surprising. Long-distance diasporic nationalisms have always been a feature of global politics. Culturally, these have often been more intractable than the politics in home countries for a variety of reasons. Diasporic nationalisms and identities are often more abstract, eschewing all complexity, and able to indulge in those abstractions because there is no skin in the game. They often do not have to face the consequences of the violence and dislocations of that identity-mongering. But in some ways, we may be entering a new phase of the ways in which these nationalisms play out. The recent clashes in Leicester in the United Kingdom, and the building polarisation in New Jersey are two recent instances of how diasporic politics, especially on the Hindu-Muslim axis, is taking a new and deeper turn.

That the cultural tensions of South Asia spill over or are even magnified abroad is not news. The proximate cause of the Leicester clashes was ostensibly tensions after an India-Pakistan match. This is ironic. I remember older veterans of what used to be called “race relations” in Britain telling us when we were students in the Eighties that there apparently used to be separate collection drives and mobilisation during the India-Pakistan wars but it never spilt over into conflict between the two communities. In the late Eighties, there was a lot of British Sikh anger against the Indian state, but it was seldom publicly, as far as anyone can remember, directed against other non-Sikhs. If anything, intra-Sikh jostling was far more pronounced over matters of doctrine and institutional control.

The decisive change came in the wake of two developments. The first was the violence in the aftermath of the demolition of the Babari Masjid in India. That moment in Indian politics saw widespread violence in Britain especially in Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds, with temples attacked and a petrol bomb thrown at a Mosque. Many of the current Hindu leaders of the diaspora came out of that moment. The second was the increasing focus on Islamic fundamentalism. The idea of using Britain as a launch pad for jihadi ideology was present in some groups. That in turn licensed full-blown Islamophobia amongst many non-Muslim communities. In this context, the Hindu-Muslim fault line became far more visible, and began to define the contours of diaspora politics more visibly. The clashes in Leicester are not unprecedented.

But there are three things that make this moment in diaspora fractures more distinctive both in the US and the UK. In the Eighties, after clashes broke out, there will still an attempt across communities to see their respective states, or mainstream politicians in those countries, as a relatively neutral arbiter; in fact, the whole point was not to draw politicians in the UK or US in accusations of partisanship in India's communal conflicts. We are still awaiting a full, authoritative account of the events at Leicester. But in the discourse, at least, one is struck by the fact that the narrative of "Hindu victimhood" is even pointing fingers at the local state, as if it was somehow partisan in failing to protect Hindus.

In the US, Hindu-Muslim politics is spilling into the inner core of the Democratic party. The Teaneck Democratic Municipal Committee may be a small entity. But it has called for investigation of "domestic branches of foreign hate groups," especially those aligned with Hindu Nationalism. Hindu nationalists now openly loathe the so-called "Left Wing" of the Democratic Party. Some of these narratives may be self-serving. But increasingly, you will find diaspora politics accusing the politicians of their adopted country of communal bias, in a conflict that has little to do with them. Imagine the situation of New Jersey or Leicester politician who now has to be judged on whether they are, in an Indian context pro-Hindu or pro-Muslim, whether they take Hindu phobia or Islamaphobia more seriously. This is uncharted territory in many ways.

The second big change is the explicit involvement of the Indian state. The Indian state's statement condemned "the violence perpetrated against the Indian community in Leicester and the vandalism of premises and symbols of Hindu religion". Notice no appeal to Hindus not to take out intimidating marches, or the acknowledgement that marches chanting Jai Shri Ram might be adding to the tension. While the statement begins with violence perpetrated against the Indian community (not clear who the "non-Indians" are who perpetrated it), the purpose of the statement was to subtly signal out the Indian state as a protector of Hindus. In short, the Indian state itself is now going to intervene in a partisan manner in these conflicts. It will

not be a party of peace but of more polarisation. After all, a Vishwaguru wearing a robe of Hindutva cannot but export all the divisions that come with it. We need to await verified and authoritative accounts of what happened in Leicester, and which groups were involved; there may also be Islamic organisations fishing in troubled waters created by Hindutva. The playbook seems familiar to anyone who knows Indian riots: The use of rumours, groups from outside the local community, and marches to create polarisation in otherwise peaceful communities.

The locals may have an investment in peace. But the third big change is that their global ideological patrons of conflict will have an investment in politically milking these incidents, in a context where all inhibitions on ethnic nationalism are gone. Now, we are not in the realm of long-distance nationalism, but in a global political market that is looking to construct narratives of victimhood that can be used in any global context. The surveys by Milan Vaishnav, Devesh Kapur and Sumitra Badrinathan, of Indian diasporas in the Anglophone world, paint a complex picture. But there is no doubt that cultural polarisation is growing. There is also no doubt that Hindutva is not about the defence of Hinduism or Hindu interests, but a global ideology of hate and asserting cultural dominance. It is bizarre to think you can have this much dissemination of hate without it having violent political consequences. Now that inhibitions have been broken, brace for more conflict.

PIB,SEP22,2022

Inviting comments on the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022

The Ministry of Communications, Government of India had initiated a public consultative process to develop a modern and future-ready legal framework in telecommunications. In July 2022, a Consultation Paper on ‘Need for a new legal framework governing Telecommunication in India’ was published and comments were invited. Comments have been received from various stakeholders and industry associations. Based on the consultations and deliberations, the Ministry has now prepared the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022. To facilitate further consultations, an Explanatory note to provide a brief overview of the Bill has also been prepared. The draft Bill and Explanatory note can be accessed at <https://dot.gov.in/relatedlinks/indian-telecommunication-bill-2022>. Comments may be sent on the email ID: [naveen\[dot\]kumar71\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:naveen[at]kumar71[at]gov[dot]in)

Last date of sending the comments will be October 20, 2022.

Many countries referred to India at UNGA. Jaishankar says it's not usual

On countries mentioning India from the platform of the United Nations General Assembly, foreign minister S Jaishankar said, "As someone who's been coming here for many years, I do believe that it's more than a subtle shift and I welcome it."

External affairs minister S Jaishankar said many countries referred to India this time at the United Nations General Assembly which is not usual at the platform and shows that it has something to do with the reforms in the United Nations that India is being seen with more relevance. As someone who has been coming to the UNGA for many years, Jaishankar said, he welcomes the shift which is more than a subtle shift. Also Read | India is on side of peace: EAM S Jaishankar on Ukraine."In respect of UN reform, every General Assembly (session) you revisit that issue, but this time something has shifted. You can see that, you can sense that. It was articulated by President Biden. I think you also saw minister Lavrov of Russia to explicitly mention India from the General Assembly podium. A number of countries also actually also referred to India. It is not usual in a General Assembly for presidents and prime ministers or foreign ministers of a country to refer to another country," Jaishankar said. '5th biggest in the world': Jaishankar boasts India's economy in US

"But you saw that on a number of occasions vis-a-vis us and to my mind it shows that it had a relevance to the reform of the UN, it reaffirmed that India mattered more and underlined the global Safraidouth relevance that we have," Jaishankar said. Also Read | Jaishankar on meet with Lavrov: 'Briefed on war from Russian perspective'"We've got some tailwind behind us. Now we have to see what we can make of it. I think it's a welcome development. As someone who's been coming here for many years, I do believe that it's more than a subtle shift and I welcome it," he said. Russia pitches India for permanent membership in UNSC: 'Key international actor' .Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov backed India for becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. In his address, he said India and Brazil are key international actors and should be counted for permanent membership in the council.

Jamaica's foreign minister Kamina Johnson Smith praised India's vaccine outreach and said while others chose to withhold supplies, India's vaccine outreach exemplified its principles of equality and mutual benefit. "We are deeply grateful to government, the people of India, led by PM Modi and external affairs minister Jaishankar," Jamaican foreign minister

said. "From the very onset, India was a reliable partner whose assistance was critical to our pandemic response. India embraced a holistic and outward-looking vaccine diplomacy strategy...Jamaica was able to secure its first life-saving vaccines from India," the minister said.

TELEGRAPH,SEP25,2022

'New Delhi speaks for many developing nations'

India really matters more in this polarised world: Jaishankar

'At a time when normal diplomacy is not working that well, New Delhi has so many relationships'

India really matters more in the current polarised world and the country is perceived very widely as the voice of the global South, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar wrapped up the New York leg of his visit to the US as he addressed the high-level UN General Assembly session Saturday, concluding a hectic week of whirlwind diplomatic engagements during which he met over 100 of his counterparts from around the world and held several bilateral and multilateral meetings. "There's no question this UNGA reflects the state of the world, which is particularly polarised at this moment. What the state of the world actually reveals in a way is that India matters more. We are a bridge, we are a voice, we are a viewpoint, a channel," Jaishankar told a group of Indian reporters here as he highlighted some of the big takeaways of his week-long visit to the UN and the city. He will head to Washington DC Sunday for the second leg of his US visit.

Jaishankar said that at a time when normal diplomacy is not working that well, India has so many relationships, such an ability to communicate and find touch points with different countries and regions. India is today "perceived very widely" as the voice of the global South, Jaishankar said adding that there is a huge crisis right now in the world economy where the cost of food and fuel, worry about fertilizers, the debt situation have created very deep anxieties for a lot of countries. "There is great frustration that these issues are not being heard. They are not being voiced. They are not going up the chain in the global councils," he said adding that if there is anybody at all who is speaking up and voicing these sentiments, it is India and that New Delhi speaks for many of the developing nations. "I am concluding this week with the sense that India really matters more in this polarised world and much of that is also due to the Prime Minister's leadership, his image, what he has done on

the global stage," he said. Jaishankar said that several people spoke to him about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's role in the UN climate conference COP26 held in Glasgow last year, and some of the recent regional gatherings. Jaishankar underlined that it is both the landscape as well as the leadership, which has created that sense of India mattering more.

Jaishankar met his global counterparts in bilateral as well as multilateral settings on the margins of the high-level session. He participated in group meetings, which included the Quad, BRICS, IBSA, CELAC, CARICOM, NAM countries and the L69 group. He also participated in trilaterals with France, Australia, Indonesia and UAE. Another takeaway was the impact of many of India's initiatives, the Vaccine Maitri in particular, development programmes and projects, including those in Ukraine. There is a sense among nations that India was there for the world in times of distress and difficulty and this was highlighted at the special India@75 event held earlier in the day during which UN Ambassadors, Ministers, agency heads and other dignitaries highlighted India's partnership with the UN, its South-South Cooperation, its development journey and achievements in the 75th year of its independence. Noting that this year has been particularly challenging in terms of climate events and emergencies right from South Asia to Europe, Jaishankar said the leadership that India has shown on climate issues was mentioned positively, with nations and partners expressing interest in working with India because it has not just been about speeches but delivery on the ground as well.

Underlining that "delivery is Prime Minister Modi's forte not just at home but also his image abroad", Jaishankar said the International Solar Alliance has over 100 members, Coalition for Disaster Resilient infrastructure is taking off, there is interest in the One Sun One World One Grid idea. In this regard, a takeaway from the week is the belief that India today is a very major player, contributor and shaper in the climate debates. With India assuming the G20 presidency in December, the issue came up for discussion with many leaders including Secretary General Antonio Guterres. Jaishankar said he conveyed "very clearly" to all of them that "our endeavour would be to ensure that the G20 remains cohesive, remains focused." Given that G20 historically has an agenda that is primarily financial, economic, development and social, he said it was conveyed that "we would like it to keep to that."

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HINDUSTAN TIMES,SEP22,2022

Why it's important to invest in smaller cities

India's megacities have long been the nation's economic and social drivers. But it is increasingly clear that these metropolises are becoming unliveable.

India's megacities have long been the nation's economic and social drivers. But it is increasingly clear that these metropolises are becoming unliveable due to increasing population, migration from less developed regions, lack of adequate essential services, stretched public amenities and pollution. They also face an uncertain future due to climate disruptions, and are scrambling to create plans to adapt to extreme weather conditions. In such a scenario, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's call to state governments and city administrations to create satellite towns and develop smaller cities into economic centres makes immense sense. In a virtual address to mayors of urban bodies ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday, the PM said that smaller towns and so-called Tier II and Tier III cities have immense economic potential, and their growth will help equitable national development and ease pressure on megacities.

India has been urbanising at a fast clip in recent decades, and Tier II and III cities — centres with populations between 50,000 and 99,999 (Tier II) and between 20,000 and 49,999 (Tier III) — have emerged as key levers of growth with rising aspirations and educational standards. Technology has also kept pace with these changes; working in these smaller towns and cities is no longer a hurdle. Moreover, post-Covid-19, there has also been a mindset change; many people (primarily white collar) have moved back to smaller towns and are happy to continue working from such places.

As PM Modi correctly said, it's time for India to rethink its urban development paradigm and develop smaller cities. But to do so, there has to be real decentralisation of power to their civic bodies so they can devise local solutions for local problems, requisite funds and an adequate number of urban managers and technocrats to ensure that these smaller towns and cities don't make the same mistakes that their bigger and older siblings did.

ECONOMIC TIMES,SEP22,2022

Want to make sure India-UK FTA is first step in continually evolving trade, economic relationship: UK Foreign Secretary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a very ambitious desire to get the India-UK Free Trade Agreement signed by Diwali and his new British counterpart Liz Truss wants her administration to "match the pace and ambition" of the Indian leader, UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has said. Cleverly also said that the bilateral relationship between India and UK is longstanding and wide-ranging, which is both a "huge plus" but it also means that "quite understandably there is a desire to have a very, very wide-ranging, meaningful free trade agreement." "Obviously, Prime Minister Modi has set a very ambitious desire to get a free trade agreement signed by Diwali. Now that means that both us and Indian negotiators are going to have to work very, very hard but we are very willing to do so," Cleverly told PTI in an interview here Wednesday on the margins of the high-level UN General Assembly session. "We want to make sure that the deal that we do, ideally by Diwali, is the first step in a continually evolving trade and economic relationship with India. So, there's a lot to do and not a lot of time," Cleverly said, adding that he is keen to "match the ambition of the Prime Minister.

"He (Modi) is a very high-energy political leader. He's very, very ambitious. He's ambitious for India as a country, he is ambitious for our relationship with India and all this is incredibly positive. Our Prime Minister (Truss), I know because we've had this discussion, she wants us to match the pace and ambition of your Prime Minister. And that means the other ministers and the officials are going to have to work really hard and really fast." Diwali falls on October 24 this year.

Cleverly said "we need to continue discussing things like climate change, the impact on food security and of course, our joint efforts to bring resolution to the various conflicts around the world, including, of course, the Russian invasion of Ukraine. So a very, very broad and busy agenda," he said. He added that that range of potential agreements also adds complexity. While there are traditional areas in a free trade agreement such as exports and imports of manufactured goods, agricultural goods, technology and service industries, the mutual recognition of professional qualifications is also "incredibly important now." "It is a challenge in a positive way because we have such a strong heritage and inter-woven economies and societies," he said.

Jaishankar, speaking at an event at Columbia University, said India has done a trade agreement with Australia and UAE recently. "We are in the middle, fairly advanced in negotiations with the UK. We have recommenced with the EU, quite hopeful out there and there will be a few others which will happen."

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said last month that negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and the UK are progressing at a faster pace. The agreement is aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investments between the two countries. India has signed a trade pact with the UAE in a "record" time and "now our talks with the UK are moving

at a faster pace", Goyal had said. In January, India and the UK formally launched talks for a free trade agreement. They have set the deadline for concluding talks by Diwali. Goyal met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar late Wednesday evening on UNGA sidelines, the first opportunity for him to formally meet with his Indian counterpart after Jaishankar's "very very kind message that he sent congratulating me" when he took on the post of Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom under the new administration of Prime Minister Truss, who took office early this month when Queen Elizabeth had formally asked her to form a new government. Two days after Truss met her at the Balmoral Castle in Scotland, the 96-year-old British monarch passed away. British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis said in New Delhi that the best way to celebrate Diwali will be to have a good free trade agreement between India and the United Kingdom. He observed that the free trade agreement (FTA) will lead to the creation of more jobs, growth and opportunities for both India and the UK. Speaking on the sidelines of an event, he asserted that there was "high ambition" to complete the India-UK FTA by Diwali -- a deadline set earlier by both nations -- and added, .. "that would be an auspicious date".

Asked if one could expect a 'Diwali Dhamaka' for India in relation to the FTA, the British High Commissioner quipped, "I hope so." Earlier addressing an ASSOCHAM conference, Ellis said: "We have the aim to finish the FTA by Diwali." India and the UK trade mostly in services which accounts for about 70 per cent of the overall trade. Both countries also aim to increase their bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by the end of this decade.

INDIAN EXPRESS, SEP25, 2022

Feroze Varun Gandhi writes: Why our urban spaces need to be reimagined

Feroze Varun Gandhi writes: Indian urban centres need to plan for migration, climate change. Healthcare, affordable housing, sustainability and inclusion hold the key reimagining them

Feroze Varun Gandhi

It took just one day of heavy rainfall in Delhi-NCR to bring back the familiar sights of water-logged streets, crawling traffic, broken-down vehicles and citizens wading in knee-deep water with their two-wheelers in tow. Power outages, crumbling walls and deaths due to electrocution compound citizens' woes. A fortnight ago, 126 of Bengaluru's lakes had overflowed, with water logging reported in Mahadevpura, Bellandur, Bommanahalli, Munnekolalu and other parts of the city. Over 2,000

houses were flooded and 10,000 homes isolated from the rest of the city — in many places, including posh localities, there were instances of lack of drinking water and electricity. It is a recurring phenomenon each year, across all major Indian cities. Our cities are being laid low, by small encroachments, made over the past few decades. This harrowing situation is an indication of the lack of urban planning — while every major city in India has sanitised enclaves (civil lines, cantonments), areas with economic vitality have sprung up with limited civic infrastructure. Our cities routinely neglect key elements of urban planning — stormwater drains are ignored and lakes and rivers are neglected while concretising urban spaces. Indian cities, by and large, are very poor in executing urban projects. Bengaluru scored 55.67 out of 100 in the Quality-of-Life metric in the Centre for Science and Environment's Ease of Living Index 2020. Delhi — with the added benefit of being the nation's capital — scored 57.56, while Bhubaneswar could tally 11.57 on the Economic Ability parameter of the index. Master plans, where they have been developed, are detailed documents, with limited urban planning flexibility. Little thought is given to how market forces and migration will impact the plans.

In the West, the Garden City movement (initiated by Ebenezer Howard in 1898) sought to decentralise the working environment in the city centre with a push for providing healthier living spaces for factory workers. The ideal garden city was planned on a concentric pattern with open spaces, public parks and boulevards, housing 32,000 people on 6,000 acres, linked to a central city with over 50,000 people. Once a garden city reached maximum capacity, another city would be developed nearby. In the US, the garden city movement evolved into the neighbourhood concept, where residential houses and streets were organised around a local school or community centre, with a push for lowering traffic and providing safe roads. London has a metropolitan green belt around the city, covering 5,13,860 hectares of land, to offset pollution and congestion and maintain biodiversity. Why can't Indian cities have something similar, instead of ring roads and urban sprawls?

Paris has taken this forward with the "15-minute city" ('la ville du quart d'heure'). The idea is rather simple, every Parisian should be able to do their shopping, work, and recreational activities and fulfil their cultural needs within a 15-minute walk or bike ride — this means that the number of vehicular trips gets reduced significantly. A city would then be planned for pedestrians, instead of cars and motors. This requires an extensive usage of mixed-use developments, along with investment in pedestrian infrastructure and non-motorised transport zones. Instead of widening highways, this approach would push for widening pedestrian walkways. Why can't Bengaluru be redesigned as a city where traffic is unheard of, with every resident being able to access jobs, public services and groceries close by? Instead of the 10-minute delivery for food, wouldn't a 10-minute walk to work be better?

Every Indian city should ideally have a Master Plan, a strategic urban planning document which would be updated every decade or two. The document would entail how a city is supposed to grow, vertically and horizontally, across zones, while offering a high quality of life in a sustainable manner. Such plans would also consider poverty mitigation, affordable housing and livability for urban migrants. Urban land use needs to be better. One look at satellite map imagery will show that India's urban growth is increasingly haphazard, with informal, unplanned and sprawling neighbourhoods developing in paddy fields and along linear infrastructure (arterial roads, open spaces). India's hidden urbanisation, driven partly by our stringent definition of the word, along with weak enforcement of building codes, has meant that the local government is often playing catch-up, unable to provide urban services and infrastructure to keep up with growth. Meanwhile, in places where there are formally recognised towns and urban neighbourhoods, outdated planning practices have meant that land utilisation is poor. Consider the case of Mumbai, where almost 1/4th of the land is open public space — while over half of it is the underutilised space around buildings, which is enclosed by walls and hived off from public access. Such open spaces, if available, would help cities like Mumbai achieve similar ratios as globally benchmarked cities (Amsterdam, Barcelona) in public land availability (typically above 40 per cent). India's urban density will also need to be thought through — dense construction on the peripheries of our major cities (for instance, dense construction in Delhi's suburbs, like Noida and Gurugram) will inevitably mean that public services are stretched and emissions (due to transportation to the main city) remain high. Such urbanisation will unavoidably lock India into a high emissions future while making our cities prone to extreme heat and flooding.

Then there is climate change. According to the World Bank, climate change may reduce India's GDP by 3 per cent, while depressing the living standards of its citizens by 2050. Many urban experts cite technological solutions that may save our cities — a chain of sea walls, river embankments and reclamations, for instance — from such potential calamities. However, structural engineering simply may not be an economically and environmentally feasible option everywhere — instead, our focus must be on conservation. Bengaluru, with its network of interconnected lakes, could have considered Bangkok-style ferries instead of draining out its lakes. All ongoing and upcoming urban infrastructure projects must be reconsidered from a future climate resilience perspective — does the ongoing sea reclamation for the upcoming coastal road in Mumbai make sense if sea levels are rising?

Establishing a sense of cityhood by making a push for a city as a co-created space will also require building up institutional capacity. India would ideally require 3,00,000 town and country planners by 2031 (there are just 5,000 town planners

currently). Much of this problem is fundamentally due to a lack of town planning education in the country — there are just 26 institutes that provide this course, producing 700 town planners each year. We already have a shortage of 1.1 million planners. More schools are needed, with a push for local IITs and NITs to have a standalone planning department. With over 8,000 towns and cities, there is a clear unmet need.

Our policymakers also need to be cognisant of the historical context of our urban development — a push for glass buildings or utilising granite may not always be suitable for our cities. Why can't our cities look distinctly Indian, inspired by our historical architecture? Renewing our cities will require us to rethink various urban topics, including urban design, urban healthcare, affordable housing, sustainability and inclusion among others. Our urban future depends on getting this right.

The writer is a BJP Lok Sabha MP

ECONOMIC TIMES,SEP25,2022

Why ageing citizenry is a challenge across the globe, particularly for India

INDULEKHA ARAVIND

India is quite young. Its population of 1.3 billion has an average age of 29 years. Much of the country's focus, therefore, has been on its “youth bulge” and the “demographic dividend” this should potentially yield, since the workingage population is greater than the segment of dependents.

While the country will be able to hold on to this advantage for years, it is greying. The share of senior citizens — aged 60 years and above —is increasing. Yet, this is an area that is not receiving adequate attention despite the diverse challenges it will trigger, according to experts in population studies, public health and senior citizen care. From 5% of the population in 1950, senior citizens were close to 10% of the population by 2016, and this is estimated to rise to 19% by 2050, when about one in five Indians will be 60 years or older, according to the UN, which declared October 1 as International Day of Older Persons.

An ageing citizenry is a challenge across the globe, particularly in developed economies. But due to the sheer scale of India's population, these proportions will translate into large numbers — for instance, there will be over 300 million senior citizens in a little over 25 years.

India is ageing rapidly as well — the rate of growth of elderly population in 2011-21 is estimated to be 36%, three times the rate of growth of the general population. Data from the nonprofit HelpAge India shows that while a country like France took over 100 years to double the share of its older persons, India would take about 20 years. “In the short term, that is, the next three-five years, the impact of this (change in demographics) might not be immediately visible because there are cushions like families taking care of the elderly. But when the numbers increase exponentially, it will become a stark reality,” says Anupama Datta, head – policy, research and advocacy, HelpAge India.

A December 2021 paper, "Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI): New Data Resources for Addressing Aging in India," co-authored by the economist and demographer David Bloom of Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and others, points out, “Population aging in India is inevitable, and the country is currently ill-prepared to deal with the expanding and evolving needs of older adults. This demographic phenomenon will have important policy implications, to which the country must start adapting.” A 2016 paper, “Population Aging in India: Facts, Issues and Options”, by researchers at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, including Bloom, and Mumbai-based International Institute for Population Sciences, points to three major factors driving the growing share of senior citizens in India — declining fertility rates due to increased access to contraceptives, increasing age at marriage and declining infant mortality; increasing longevity due to improvements in medicine and nutrition; and “large cohorts advancing to older ages”.

Life expectancy at 60 years – which means the average number of years a person of 60 years old could expect to live —has increased from about 12 years in 1950 to about 18 years in 2014-18. The impact of this will be tangible across sectors, from the economy to health and societal challenges.

Planning for the elderly in India was not a major priority a couple of decades ago, when the focus was on avoiding maternal deaths and reducing infant mortality, with the bulk of health budgets devoted to this, says Sanjay Kumar Mohanty, professor and head, department of population and development, International Institute for Population Sciences.

“The planning has now begun – for instance, the government commissioned the first Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI), the largest of its kind. But this planning now needs to be accelerated,” he says.

Taking cognisance of the change in demographics, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation stated in its recent “Vision 47” document that India could consider increasing its retirement age, commensurate with better life expectancy, so as to ensure the viability of the pension system, ET had reported earlier this month. “India will have to prepare now to take care of its fast-increasing older population. Investments have to be made in elderly health, social services and old age care. We should also start thinking of developing the grey economy,” says Devender Singh, former national programme officer (population & development), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

With longevity increasing, it is important to reskill senior citizens and move beyond the mindset that the productive age is between 15 and 59 years, says HelpAge India’s Datta. “Otherwise, you will have a chunk of the population that is not part of any economic development.”

Growing old before growing rich

While ageing is a global issue (UN estimates that by 2050, one in six people will be over the age of 65 years, compared with one in 11 in 2019), India has certain unique challenges. Singh points out that India is ageing before becoming rich, unlike countries in the West or Japan: “A 2012 study by UNFPA shows that poverty rates are higher among older persons, with over half of them being fully dependent on others for their livelihood.”

Datta agrees. “In the time span western countries took to be developed, there were enough years for them to deal with the challenge of ageing. Here, longevity is increasing much faster than economic development. It’s not that we are becoming developed and then becoming old,” she says, adding that this is a challenge faced by low- and middle-income countries.

India’s family structures are also changing, with smaller, nuclear families replacing the joint family, and younger members migrating in search of work, leaving elders without traditional support. Another consideration, says Singh, is that about 90% of the workforce in the country is in the informal sector, with no social security or health benefits, and almost no pension to support them in their old age, he adds.

Both Datta and Mohanty caution that since India's circumstances are different from those of developing economies, the solutions adopted there should not be blindly replicated here. For instance, while the move to raise the retirement age would increase the pension corpus and shorten the duration for which pension would need to be paid, the fact remains that India also has a young workforce which is struggling with unemployment and might have to wait longer for vacancies if the retirement age is increased. "Youth form almost 30% of the population. We need to look at the issue holistically," says Mohanty. Then there is the sheer diversity among states when it comes to ageing. States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala will have a higher proportion of the elderly. According to the Youth in India 2022 report by the ministry of statistics, Kerala's elderly population was 16.5% in 2021 while the youth (defined as 15 to 29 years) was 22%, and the elderly is projected to cross the youth by 2036.

By that year, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, too, are estimated to have more elderly population than youth. These states will have to tailor policies accordingly. Singh, currently a visiting senior fellow at Impact and Policy Research Institute, Delhi, says local bodies and ward committees would need to be actively involved, citing some of Kerala's measures as a good example of involving local governance systems. The state government declared a pain and palliative care policy to guide and facilitate the development of community-based home care initiatives under the leadership of local selfgovernments. The state has also mandated all panchayats to use at least 5% of budgets for the welfare of senior citizens," he adds. The biggest challenge from the impending shift in demographics will be in the realm of health, and provisions need to be made for this, cautions Mohanty. "The need for healthcare is higher among the elderly than for any other age group. As physiology weakens with age, their disease burden will be higher, and people are living for much longer now. This will be the greatest need, and the most critical challenge." Among the 31,464 senior citizens, of the over 72,000 respondents in the first phase of LASI, 14% had either diabetes or hypertension while over a third reported prevalence of cardiovascular diseases and 1% self-reported Alzheimer's and dementia.

Studies have also revealed that senior citizens struggle with multi-morbidity (simultaneous presence of two or more chronic conditions) more than other age groups, all of which call for increase in geriatric care centres and targeted interventions for reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. The mental health of senior citizens, too, needs to be addressed. It is important to start changing our perceptions of the elderly to meet the impending challenge, says Datta. "The pandemic has given us an opportunity to rethink and reinvent systems. We need to integrate the elderly into the architecture of our systems, whether it's making them part of the gig economy or providing them with tech solutions. Otherwise, nothing will change."

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,SEP20,2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh arrives at New York, enroute Washington, on the first leg of the 5-day US visit, which includes participation in Global Clean Energy Action Forum scheduled from 21st to 23rd September at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr Jitendra Singh was received by senior India Embassy officials and after facilitations at JFK airport, he will leave for Washington DC to hold an important Roundtable with senior executives of about 35 companies and federal representatives. Dr Jitendra Singh is leading the Joint Indian Ministerial official delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology on a 5-day visit to USA, to participate in Global Clean Energy Action Forum. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh, as the head of Joint Ministerial Indian delegation, arrived at New York this evening, enroute Washington, on the first leg of the 5-day US visit, which includes participation in Global Clean Energy Action Forum scheduled from 21st to 23rd September at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr Jitendra Singh was received by senior India Embassy officials and after facilitations at the JFK airport, he left for Washington DC to hold an important Roundtable with senior executives of about 35 companies and federal representatives associated with Geospatial, Space, Earth & Ocean Science, Pharma and Biotech Sectors to be organized by US-India Business Council at U.S. Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Washington, DC. Dr Jitendra Singh is leading a high-level Joint Indian Ministerial official delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology to participate in Global Clean Energy Action Forum and also to interact with eminent academicians as well as Indian diaspora. At the Business Roundtable with CEOs of 35 prominent companies, Dr Jitendra Singh is to highlight the bilateral Science & Technology (S&T) collaboration range from Mega Science such as LIGO [Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory], TMT [Thirty Meter telescope] and Neutrino Physics to Clean Energy Technologies, Health Science, Earth and Ocean Science, Agricultural Science and recent interest in expanding our collaboration in Emerging Technologies.

Dr Jitendra Singh may also refer to joint Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and National Science Foundation (NSF), United States launched projects in wide range of areas of common interests such as - Robotics, Computer vision, Robotics and Automation Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Sensors, and

Networking and Technologies for Internet of Things & Internet of Everything. Dr Jitendra Singh will also present before the US MNCs the tremendous opportunities that the Indian Space sector offer and will underline the fact that ISRO and NASA are working together to launch a joint radar satellite for Earth observation named NISAR [NASA -ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar]. The NISAR mission will collect data vital to tackling the climate crisis. ISRO has been getting Deep Space Network Antenna support from NASA in its Missions such as Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and Chandrayaan-2 mission and will continue availing support for our Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Dr Jitendra Singh will offer that both India and America may further expand the partnership in the areas of common priority such as Quantum Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Deep Ocean Exploration, Electric Vehicles, Emerging Technologies for Telecommunications and Semiconductor Research and Innovation, geospatial technology areas related to acquisition, processing, and dissemination of high-resolution geospatial data. The Minister is likely to interact with key US Federal officials over dinner at India House to be hosted by the Indian Ambassador. After the dinner at India House, Dr Jitendra Singh will depart for Pittsburgh on 21st September to take part in the coveted joint convening of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM13) and Mission Innovation (MI-7). The event is expected to bring together thousands of clean energy leaders from across the world, including CEOs, innovators, young professionals, civil society and ministers from over 30 countries to accelerate clean energy innovation and deployment.

PIB,SEP21,2022

Industry can be roped in for increasing funding of C V Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers: DST Secretary

Secretary Department of Science and Technology Dr. S Chandrasekhar highlighted that India has always benefited from working with Africa, and mutually beneficial ties are win-win for growing relations not only in Science & Technology but also in the field of trade, culture, and social sciences at the roundtable discussion on C V Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers (CVRF) program with African Missions in India.

“DST, along with MEA and our African friends, has been working on various capacity-building programmes like CV Raman Fellowship, training programmes, and strengthening of academic and scientific institutes. I wish that CV Raman Fellowship will be as popular as Alexander von Humboldt fellowship of Germany,” Dr. Chandrasekhar pointed out. Department of

Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI), through the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), have launched the C.V. Raman Fellowship for African Researchers programme under the India-Africa Forum Summit to promote human capacity building through scientific and technological cooperation between Africa and India. The objective of this Fellowship is to provide an opportunity for African researchers to conduct collaborative research in various areas of science and technology in different Indian universities and R&D institutions under the guidance of host scientists in India. This prestigious fellowship aims to strengthen further the bond between India and African nations in science and technology.

Dr. Chandrasekhar said that the fellowship program is for people-to-people connection and for learning best practices from each other. He urged for a provision to revisit the programme so that the relationship goes a long way. He also requested FICCI, a partner of the programme to rope in the industry for additional funding. Commissioners/Ambassadors/Representatives from High Commissions/embassies of Africa in India, as well as officials from DST and FICCI, also participated in the meeting and discussed about the fellowships. Mr. Puneet Kundal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (MES), stressed that this was another reflection of India's commitment towards Africa. He appealed to African Mission countries to publicise the fellowship through Universities and institutes so that more applications can be received. Shri S K Varshney, Head International Cooperation, DST, briefed about the India-Africa Science and Technology Partnership framework and its activities and elaborated on the CVRF programme.

PIB,SEP23,2022

India announces the launch of the “Innovation Roadmap of the Mission Integrated Biorefineries” developed by co-leads and active inputs from Brazil, Canada, EC and the UK at Global Clean Energy Action Forum-2022 at Pittsburgh, in the United States

Dr Jitendra Singh, leading a high-level Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology makes the announcement at the 1st Roundtable on “Sustainable Bioenergy and Bio-refineries” in Pittsburgh. The Mission aims at greater international collaboration and the need for increased financing for Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) during the next five years through public-private investment: Dr Jitendra Singh. India's 1st indigenous plant of 10 Tons/day capacity with integrated enzyme production for ethanol is being set up at Panipat Haryana by December 2022: Dr Jitendra Singh .Dr Jitendra Singh, who is leading a high-level Joint

Indian Ministerial Delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology at Global Clean Energy Action Forum at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the United States has announced the launch of the “Innovation Roadmap of the Mission Integrated Biorefineries” developed by co-leads and active inputs from Brazil, Canada, EC and the UK.

The Minister said, the Mission aims at greater international collaboration and the need for increased financing for Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) during the next five years to kickstart this objective and unleash a virtuous cycle of public and private investment. Dr Jitendra Singh was speaking at the 1st Roundtable on “Sustainable Bioenergy and Bio-refineries” at the Global Clean Energy Action Forum – the joint convening of 7th Mission Innovation and 13th Clean Energy Ministerial -2022.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, “Innovation Roadmap of the Mission Integrated Biorefineries” aims to fill the void by identifying gaps and challenges in current biorefining value chains, prioritising Eight key actions to support the Mission, and guiding the Mission's overall path in achieving its goal. He said, it also provides policymakers with a strategy framework to establish a rising RD&D portfolio over the next five years, specific financing proposals across the entire spectrum of vital Biorefinery technologies, and rapid action suggestions.

Addressing the Ministers & CEOs, Senior representatives of (US DoE, Mission Innovation Steering Committee (MISC) and Mission Innovation Secretariat, Senior representatives from MI Member countries and partner organisations, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Clean Energy Meet offers India an opportunity to present Prime Minister Narendra Modi's climate and clean energy vision before the world. The Minister said, he is extremely happy to be present at this meet, where the global energy community has come together to share and collaborate towards a successful global green transition. Dr Jitendra Singh informed the Delegates that India is continually working towards transforming the energy landscape of country with significant clean energy share and added that by 2030, India agreed to reach 500-Gigawatt non-fossil energy capacity, shift 50% of energy requirements to renewable energy, lower overall anticipated carbon emissions by one billion tons, reduce carbon intensity of the economy by 45% over 2005 levels, and achieve net zero emissions by 2070.

Dr Jitendra Singh shared with pride that a pilot plant of 10 Tons/day capacity plant with integrated enzyme production is being set up at Panipat Haryana, which will be commissioned by December 2022. This will be the 1st indigenous technology for on-site enzyme production. The Minister pointed out that Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has also planned to

supply this indigenous enzyme to commercial 2G ethanol plant of 100 KL/day expected to be commissioned by Q2 of 2024. Further, lignin valorization process is also being developed to produce value added products from waste lignin. He said, it's successful demonstration will give an indigenous technology to the nation and will contribute to Self-Reliant India and reduce carbon foot print from transport sector. Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that sustainable biofuels play key role to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from the transport sector. He said, India, through the Department of Biotechnology, has been supporting R&D innovations in Advanced Biofuels and Waste to Energy technologies. He also shared with Delegates that India has established 5 Bioenergy Centers, where interdisciplinary team is working on advance sustainable biofuels using modern biotechnology tools. The Minister concluded by saying that recently, when India hosted the MI Annual Gathering in New Delhi, the Mission Integrated Biorefineries was launched with co-leads from the Netherlands, uniting key members, international organisations, the corporate sector, academic institutions, and civil society to accelerate innovation for renewable fuels, chemicals, and materials for a low-carbon future.

TELEGRAPH, SEP23, 2022

Found: 75 new tectonic faults near lunar south pole

Seismic map to help find landing sites for Artemis & other missions

G.S. Mudur

Two Indian geologists have discovered 75 previously unidentified tectonic faults on the moon and produced a new seismic hazard map to determine safe sites for future robotic or human lander missions or lunar bases.

The scientists at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, have also mapped the orientations and movements of the faults, providing rich tectonic details of the lunar south pole region, an area considered attractive for scientific exploration and lunar bases. The map generated by the NGRI scientist P. Senthil Kumar and research scholar Abhishek Mishra has suggested that all 13 candidate landing sites identified by Nasa for its proposed Artemis missions are likely to be unaffected by magnitude 1 to 3 moonquakes. But eight sites could be affected by magnitude 4 shallow moonquakes, while the other five sites near the Shackleton crater and the Malpert mountain would be seismically low-risk areas and the most suitable sites for landers or bases. The Artemis missions will seek to establish long-term human presence on the moon for decades to come and serve as a stepping stone for sending astronauts to Mars. NASA plans to launch the twice-postponed

unmanned Artemis I on September 27, send humans to orbit the moon on Artemis II no earlier than 2024, and use Artemis III to ferry humans to one of the 13 candidate landing sites no earlier than 2025.

The Indian Space Research Organisation also plans to land an unmanned spacecraft — Chandrayaan-3 — near the lunar south pole region and deploy a seismometer on the surface. The spacecraft is expected to be launched later this year. “Given the high interest in the lunar south pole region, we thought it would be important to map in detail and understand its tectonic features,” said Senthil Kumar, a planetary geologist who started the mapping exercise three years ago at the NGRI, a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research lab. Under the project supported by the CSIR and Isro, Kumar and Mishra used images from the NASA Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft of the lunar surface to delineate tectonic thrust faults called lobate scarps. Similar earlier exercises had mapped 32 faults, branching out into 172 segments.

The NGRI study, just published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, has identified 75 new faults, branching out into 532 segments. It has also found that most of the faults had emerged over 10 million years ago when the moon was far more seismically active than at present. “Moonquakes continue to occur along these faults,” Senthil Kumar said. Studies through the Apollo lunar missions had identified 28 moonquakes between 1969 and 1977. “We’re hoping our results will trigger new site-specific seismic hazard analysis so that sites are safe for astronauts and infrastructure.” Scientists have hypothesised for decades that the moon is shrinking due to the loss of its heat since it broke off as a chunk of the Earth starting life as a hot liquid ball, the breakup triggered by Earth's collision with another celestial object early in the solar system's history. This lunar contraction drives the emergence of tectonic thrust faults. The NGRI study has now shown that the Moon has contracted for at least the past 100 million years, but the contraction rate in the lunar south pole region appears to have increased around 10 million years ago, giving rise to many of the faults there.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,SEP21,2022

PM to inaugurate National Conference of Environment Ministers of all States on 23rd September

Conference to create further synergy amongst the Central and State Governments on issues related to LiFE, Climate Change, tackling Plastic Waste, Wildlife & Forest Management .Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the National Conference of Environment Ministers in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat on 23rd September, 2022 at 10:30 AM via video conferencing. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.Taking forward the spirit of cooperative federalism, Conference is being convened to create further synergy amongst the Central and State Governments in formulating better policies on issues such as Elimination of Plastic Pollution through multi-pronged approach, State Action Plans to effectively combat Climate Change with focus on LiFE- Lifestyle for Environment. It will also focus on increasing the forest cover with special emphasis on restoration of degraded land and wildlife conservation.

The two day Conference being organised on 23rd and 24th September will have six thematic sessions with topics focusing on LiFE, Combating Climate Change (Updating State Action Plans on Climate Change for Mitigation of Emissions and Adaptation to Climate Impacts) ; PARIVESH (Single Window System for Integrated Green Clearances) ; Forestry Management ; Prevention and Control of Pollution; Wildlife Management ; Plastics and Waste Management.

PIB,SEP24,2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, sustainable biofuels play key role to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from the transport sector at the “Global Clean Energy Action Forum-2022” at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the United States.The Minister addresses the Main Stage Summit Event on “International Collaboration to Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition” and side event on “India Clean Energy Showcase at Pittsburgh. India is among the few countries in the world to design a Cooling Action Plan (CAP) with a long-term vision (spanning a 20-year period from 2017-18 to 2037-38) that addresses cooling requirements across sectors: Dr Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra Singh says, India stands at the forefront of addressing global challenge of climate change with an ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of reducing emission intensity by 33-35% in 2030 against the levels of year

2005. Dr Jitendra Singh, who is leading a high-level Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology at the “Global Clean Energy Action Forum-2022” at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the United States said that sustainable biofuels play key role to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from the transport sector. He said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been consistently encouraging and monitoring Net Zero endeavours.

Addressing the Main Stage Summit Event on “International Collaboration to Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition” at Pittsburgh, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India, through the Department of Biotechnology, has been supporting R&D innovations in Advanced Biofuels and Waste to Energy technologies. He also informed the Energy Ministers from 30 countries taking part in the conference that India has established 5 Bioenergy Centers with an interdisciplinary team working on advance sustainable biofuels using modern biotechnology tools.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in April this year, when India hosted the MI Annual Gathering at New Delhi, the Mission Integrated Biorefineries was launched by Co-leads India and Netherlands, uniting key members, international organizations, the corporate sector, academic institutions, and civil society to accelerate innovation for renewable fuels, chemicals, and materials for a low-carbon future. At another side event on “India Clean Energy Showcase” at Pittsburgh, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India being one of the founding members of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) will be hosting CEM-14 in 2023 in Bengaluru along with its Presidency of G-20 in the same year. He said, in fact, this will mean hosting the CEM meeting during the first year in the new third phase (July 2022 to June 2026) to push major acceleration in clean energy deployment, consistent with achieving the clean energy goals of its members and putting the world on track to achieve clean, affordable, reliable energy for all.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is among the few countries in the world to design a Cooling Action Plan (CAP) with a long-term vision (spanning a 20-year period from 2017-18 to 2037-38) that addresses cooling requirements across sectors. He said, it identifies possible actions to reduce cooling demand arising from residential and commercial buildings, cold chains, etc., covering aspects of building design and technological innovations that do not compromise on energy efficiency. Dr Jitendra Singh said, India stands at the forefront of addressing the global challenge of climate change and has committed to an ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of reducing emission intensity by 33-35% in 2030 against the levels of year 2005. He added that India has remained steadfast in its transition towards clean energy achieving the fastest pace of

renewable capacity addition amongst all major economies and ambitious transition goals articulated by Prime Minister Modi, in India's Panchamrit declaration at COP26. The Minister also reiterated that India is also implementing the largest Renewable Energy (RE) expansion program in the world envisaging a 5-fold increase in the overall RE capacity in the country from 32 GW in 2014 to 175 GW by 2022, and further to 500 GW of renewable power in the country by 2030.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, as seen in the climate negotiations in recent times both the governments and non-governmental entities are making commitments to help countries implement their net-zero pledges. He, however, cautioned that despite these commitments, the global average temperature in 2100 is expected to rise to around 2.1°C above pre-industrial levels. The Minister pointed out that this falls short of the goals stipulated in the Paris Agreement, which calls for limiting the global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial-era levels by the end of the century. He added that in the light of this, a pivotal move to bend the global emissions curve becomes imperative and immediate climate action is especially critical for a post-pandemic future through renewable energy transition, which is vital to building a resilient and secure future energy system.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by saying that the CEM setup has been able to provide a unique opportunity for India to showcase its contribution to clean energy development both within and outside the country. He further added that India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and has witnessed rapid increase in the energy consumption mainly due to rapid economic growth, access to affordable energy, increased industrialization, building infrastructure and other end uses of energy.

PIB,SEP24,2022

India reiterates its commitment to a low-carbon future by accelerating clean energy innovations at the "Global Clean Energy Action Forum-2022" at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the United States. Addressing the Joint Ministerial Plenary at Pittsburgh, India's Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh says, India has developed a Roadmap and a strategy for a Bio-based economy which is inching towards 150 billion USD by the year 2025. Through Public-Private partnerships "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre" has resulted in more than 20 clean energy solutions to help standalone researchers with the help of Tata Trusts: Dr Jitendra Singh. Minister says, the 2nd PPP model is the Joint Centre of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) that led to development of 2G ethanol technology

India is founding and active member of both Mission Innovation (MI) & Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) since launch and now actively engaged with MI2.0 through various Missions and Platforms: Dr Jitendra Singh. Dr Jitendra Singh announces that India will be hosting MI & CEM in 2023 along with its Presidency of G-20 in the same year. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has reiterated India's commitment to a low-carbon future by accelerating clean energy innovations.

Addressing the Joint Ministerial Plenary of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM13) and Mission Innovation (MI-7) at the "Global Clean Energy Action Forum 2022", at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the United States, India's Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is seeking to meet the country's massive energy demand with innovative clean energy innovations and programs. He said, India is committed to achieve 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by the year 2030 and reduce the projected emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who is leading a high-level Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology informed the Energy and Environment Ministers from 30 countries that India's energy-mix strategies include a larger shift toward clean energy alternatives, increased manufacturing capacities, energy use efficiency, and a policy push for hydrogen including production-linked incentives. In addition, the emerging technologies like 2G Ethanol Pilot, Comfort climate box for tropical regions, Hydrogen Valleys, Heating and cooling virtual repository, are all on the table, the Minister emphasized. Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has developed a Roadmap and a strategy for a Bio-based economy which is inching towards 150 billion USD by the year 2025. He said, this will facilitate infrastructure for Bio-manufacturing of low-carbon bio-based products. Recently, India has also launched the National Hydrogen Energy Mission to enable cost competitive green hydrogen production.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Government of India through Public -Private partnerships is ensuring the funding for clean energy innovations as envisioned under Mission Innovation 2.0. The Minister gave two examples of successful Public-Private partnerships-first one the "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre", a unique Research and Innovation (R&I) model platform, set up with private partner Tata Trusts, which has resulted in more than 20 clean energy solutions to help standalone researchers, which is a unique achievement. The 2nd one is the Joint Centre of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) that led to development of 2G ethanol technology. Dr Jitendra Singh acknowledged that the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) setup has been able to provide a unique opportunity for India to showcase its contribution

to clean energy development nationally & internationally and quoted some major CEM initiatives which includes CEM's Global Lighting Challenge(GLC) campaign, Street Lighting National Programme, Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) program, The One Sun-One world -One Grid Initiative which was first floated by the Prime Minister of India to harness tremendous potential of solar energy.Dr Jitendra Singh asserted that India, through "Mission Innovation", is actively engaged in collaborative efforts to catalyze inspiring innovation goals. He said, National Mission initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India, and Green India, Smart Cities have encouraged hubs of clean energy innovation all over the country. Alongside, India has also taken R&D initiative to develop low carbon alternatives to Single Use Plastics in an integrated manner, the Minister added.

Addressing the Ministers & CEOs, Senior representatives of (US DoE), Mission Innovation Steering Committee (MISC) and Mission Innovation Secretariat, Senior representatives from MI Member countries and partner organizations, Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that India is founding and active member of both Mission Innovation (MI)& Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) since launch and now actively engaged with MI2.0 through various Missions and Platforms.

Dr Jitendra Singh reminded the Ministers and Delegates that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November, 2021, expressed to intensify its climate action by presenting to the world five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action. He said, apart from a five-pronged target for India and its commitment to Net-Zero emissions by 2070, Modi also asserted the need to follow a sustainable lifestyle and emphasized on the idea of making 'Lifestyle for Environment' a global mission through bolder steps by the global clean energy fraternity. It is important to realize that transition can only happen with scaling up of green funds in good numbers as committed in the Paris Agreement, the Minister added.Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by announcing that India will be hosting MI & CEM in 2023 alongwith its Presidency of G-20 in the same year. He also expressed his gratitude for participating in the Global Clean energy Action Forum, a joint convening of the Clean Energy Ministerial & Mission Innovation and thanked the US Department of Energy & Mission Innovation Secretariat for hosting this significant event.

CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,SEP19,2022

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates the 9th Session of Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture .Conservation of plant genetic resources shared responsibility of humanity - Union Agriculture Minister. “India committed to ensure food and nutritional security for its citizens”: Shri Tomar

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has said that plant genetic resources are the source of solution to the breeding challenges. Plant genetic resources are also vulnerable due to habitat destruction and climate change. Their protection is a "shared responsibility of humanity". We must use all modern technologies as well as traditional knowledge to preserve and use them in a sustainable manner.

Shri Tomar said this while inaugurating the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in New Delhi today. The ITPGRFA is a legally binding comprehensive agreement signed during the 31st session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome in November, 2001, which took effect on 29 June 2004, and currently has 149 Contracting Parties including India. This treaty, in consonance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, seeks to achieve food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), equitable sharing of profits from its use, as well as playing an important role in the recognition of rights of farmers. PGRFA provides scale-free solutions to achieve food and nutritional security as well as climate resilient agriculture. Countries are mutually interdependent for the PGRFA, leading to the need for a global system to facilitate access and profit sharing. GB9 is being organized under the theme "Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework". The theme aims to highlight the contribution of the world's small farmers to the effective management of PGRFA and provide an opportunity to consider how the treaty and its community can contribute to the new global biodiversity architecture.

In the inaugural session, Shri Tomar said that the aim of the Plant Treaty is to recognize the contribution of farmers and local communities to the diversity of crops. Over the centuries, tribal and traditional farming communities have continuously shaped and adapted the dimensions of the rich genetic material they have. This has given rise to vast and diverse cultural (life and commerce around plant diversity), culinary (incredible variety, tastes and nutrition as per purpose and season) and curative

(food as medicine) practices. Shri Tomar said that the COVID pandemic has taught us some lessons. Availability and access to food is paramount to peace and stability. India remains committed to ensuring food and nutritional security for its citizens. Shri Tomar said that we need to ensure bountiful crop production year after year. The answer is crop diversity and diversification.

Shri Tomar said that no negotiation is possible at the cost of food security. All international forums must not forget that food is an essential fundamental right. Developing countries will be motivated by the need to ensure that the rights of farmers producing food are never compromised. This community is also responsible for the existence of plant genetic resources that we have today. We have many places and people around the world who have conserved invaluable genetic resources and valuable traditional knowledge. Emphasizing on the timely conservation and use of wild species of crops as well as potentially underutilized crops, he said that our struggle for climate resilient agriculture and nutritional security depends heavily on your decisions and actions. Shri Tomar said that genetic information obtained using advanced genomic and bio-informatic tools has the potential to become the subject of IPR. On the other hand, traditional knowledge that has been preserved and enriched from generation to generation becomes common knowledge. Multilateral fora such as the ITPGRFA are responsible for balancing commercial interests and heritage values to ensure the continuity of PGR conservation on earth.

Shri Tomar said that India has been a firm advocate of sharing the wealth of plant genetic resources. A look at the IARC genebank and other national gene banks shows that about 10% of the germplasm is of Indian origin. Our vision is very clear that the genetic resources of plants should be made available for research and sustainable use. Shri Tomar said that we cannot ignore the contribution of farmers, indigenous communities, tribal population and especially the women of the community in the conservation and selection of plant genetic resources over time. Therefore, we have a duty to keep their interests in mind while considering amendments and improvements to the Treaty. India stands firm in its faith and actions in the commitments of the multilateral agreement. He said that Article 9 of the ITPGFRA deals with the rights of farmers, which India is fully compliant with and relevant provisions are contained in the PPV&FR Act, 2001. 166 farmers/agriculture communities have been honoured with Plant Genome Saviour Awards. He said that India proposes to the Governing Body of ITPGRFA to consider putting into action a module of Awareness, Outreach and Capacity Building Programme related to Farmers' Rights, for which India will support its implementation.

Shri Tomar said that global agricultural research is focusing on a few key crops for obvious reasons. Focusing on minor millets, minor pulses, minor fruits and leafy vegetables, he said that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has a network of institutions working on these crops. We have encouraged our farmer-conservers to join us for the GB-9. Shri Tomar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, agriculture is progressing in the country, farmers are prospering and the economy is also being strengthened. Many such infrastructures have been built in the country which inspires the country and can also show the way forward to the world. Shri Tomar also expressed his immense pleasure that the Treaty Board and the Contracting Parties had honoured his call for India to host the meeting, made during GB8 meeting which was held at Rome in 2019, in which he had participated.

Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI, while welcoming all the dignitaries, briefly elaborated about the strength of Indian agriculture and the significant progress made in the recent past due to progressive policies of the government. He urged that deliberations during the GB9 must lead to a balance in between genetic resources governance with use, investment with innovation and access with Benefit Sharing to achieve future-ready solutions for agriculture and food security. Ms Yasmina El-Bahloul, Chairperson of GB9 Bureau, welcomed all the delegates on behalf of the Treaty Bureau and thanked the Indian government for the warm hospitality and extraordinary arrangement for hosting the GB9. Dr Dongou Qu, Director General, FAO, joined the session virtually. While thanking GoI for hosting the GB9 of the ITPGRFA, he said the Plant Treaty was universal and PGRFA needs sharing and caring for food security. These resources are important for agricultural resilience, especially in changing climate. Mr Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, India, welcomed delegates on behalf of the United Nations and expressed happiness that UN was associated with the very important Treaty. He called for global solutions for global problems, especially since PGRFA plays a significant role in safeguarding agricultural production crops and thereby the farming community.

Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research emphasized on the role of Research & Development institutions as well as well-trained human resource for effective management of PGRFA. He informed delegates about the excellent capacity of ICAR along with State Agricultural Universities for germplasm management and use. He offered interested nations to enhance the utilization of gene-pool through capacity building programmes by India in genebanking and in trait-specific evaluation.

After the inaugural ceremony, Shri Tomar visited the farmers' exhibitions and interacted with them. More than 400 delegates from nearly 150 member-countries have assembled during the six-day long GB9 to deliberate upon the ITPGRFA which oversees how the member nations exchange and sustainably use the world's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, while ensuring fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from its use. The PGRFA are the basic building blocks upon which agricultural development, therefore, food security depends, especially on the climate change and other related challenges.

PIB,SEP20,2022

Even the poorest of the consumers in our country deserve the best quality products: Shri Goyal says addressing the Special Plenary Session at FICCI LEADS 2022 .Shri Goyal urges the Industry to focus on Standards, Industry 4.0, Trade, SDGs and Utilise PLIs. FICCI can play an important role in taking the message of quality to the MSME sector: Shri Goyal

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal today said that even the poorest citizen of the country deserves the best quality products and the culture of no compromise with quality has to be adopted in the country. Shri Goyal said this while addressing the Special Plenary Session at FICCI LEADS 2022 program in New Delhi today.

Shri Piyush Goyal urged the Industry to focus on 5 Key areas in the Manufacturing sector - Standards or Quality, Durability, Design, Price & Sustainability and align them to the international standards. He said we must adopt new technologies like IoT, AI and Machine Learning. We must look at upskilling and retraining our workforce to be able to meet the needs of Industry 4.0, he added.Speaking on the importance of world trade, Shri Goyal said that we must acknowledge that we need to engage with the world to develop. We need to globalize trade and get the best from the world while simultaneously giving the best to the World. He said that we must focus on Green Energy, reducing emissions, generating consciousness about cleanliness and other SDG Goals contributing towards a better future for our children and Utilise PLIs to strengthen MSME ecosystem.

Referring to the theme of the event, 'Excellence in Manufacturing' Shri Goyal observed that Excellence in manufacturing is not new to India. He said that although there is no sector in which India does not have high quality manufacturing, we as a society still live in two worlds - one which is highly quality conscious and another which is still not sensitized to the value of high quality. Shri Goyal said we need to change this mindset of two quality standards for domestic and international markets

and must not compromise with quality. Shri Goyal said that FICCI can play an important role in taking the message of quality to the MSME sector through their partnership with other associations across the country. Stressing on the need to expand our engagement with international markets, Shri Goyal noted that the world wants to engage with India. He cited the example of Saudi Arabia which he said is looking for India's partnership in nearly 30 sectors including Pharma, Mining, Infrastructure Fintech, EdTech, HealthTech & education. Medical devices, E-gaming and e-Commerce are areas in which they want Indian expertise. He urged the Industry to grab these opportunities.

Shri Goyal said that if we collectively focus our energies on the 5 Pran that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave us, we can be a developed nation in the next 25 years and bring prosperity to every single home through the length and breadth of the country. The major issues to be deliberated during the meeting comprise (i) Amendment of the Treaty to expand the list of crops in the multilateral system; (ii) Capacity-development strategy for the Treaty; (iii) Funding strategy, resource mobilization and the budget; (iv) Conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and agriculture; (v) Compliance; (vi) Cooperation with other organizations and bodies; and (vii) Multi-year Programme of Work, including genome sequence information to pursue a more robust Treaty implementation. As host of GB9, India is expected to play a crucial role in minimizing the dissonance between technology-rich developed and gene-rich developing countries to achieve functional resolutions on critical agenda items. The GB9 also provides an excellent opportunity to convey the steadfast commitment of India to conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic diversity as well as farmers' rights. On the eve of GB9, India called for a global harmony to use every available germplasm resource and every advanced technology to fight global hunger and ensure food and environmental security.

PIB,SEP22,2022

Release of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas"- a collection of selected speeches of Prime Minister

"Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas - Prime Minister Narendra Modi Speaks (May 2019 - May 2020)", a collection of selected speeches of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, will be released at a function being organised by Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on September 23, 2022 at 11 am at Rang Bhawan Auditorium, Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi. The occasion will be graced by Chief Guest, Governor of Kerala, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan; and Guest of Honour, Former Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. The Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur will be the host for the event. Shri Apurva

Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and other senior officers of different media units of the Ministry will also be present. A compilation of selected speeches of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the book is the epitome of hope and aspirations of 130 crore Indians for building a New India through 'Jan Bhagidari—Taking All Together' for inclusive development through collective trust and resolve to achieve this vision.

It focuses on 86 speeches of the Prime Minister from May 2019 to May 2020 on various subjects. Divided into ten thematic areas, these speeches reflect the PM's vision for 'New India'. These well-distributed sections are – Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Economy, People-First Governance, Fight Against Covid-19, Emerging India: Foreign Affairs, Jai Kisan, Tech India-New India, Green India-Resilient India-Clean India, Fit India-Efficient India, Eternal India-Modern India: Cultural Heritage, and Mann ki Baat. The book portrays the PM's vision of a new India, which is self-reliant, resilient and capable of converting challenges into opportunities. The Prime Minister combines leadership qualities, visionary thinking, and foresight with excellent communication abilities to connect with masses through his exceptional oratory style. The same is reflected in this book through his words like, "We had started with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'; but with five years of constant dedication, the people have added another marvellous term to it, that is, 'Sabka Vishwas'."

To be released in Hindi as well as English, the books will be available at the sales outlets of Publications Division all across the country and the Book Gallery at Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi. The books can also be purchased online through Publications Division's website as well as Bharatkosh platform. The e-books will also be available on Amazon and Google Play.

PIB,SEP24,2022

Vice President releases the book titled "Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay - Jeevan Darshan Aur Samsamyikta"

VP highlights the importance of Pt Deendayal's thoughts in contemporary times

The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today released the book titled "Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay - Jeevan Darshan Aur Samsamyikta" (five volumes) in New Delhi and on this occasion highlighted the importance of Pt Deendayal's thoughts in contemporary times. Quoting Pt Deendayal, Shri Dhankhar said "education is an investment in the sense that an educated man will serve the society better," and underlined that this idea formed the basis of the New Education Policy - 2020. "If India has to attain its past glory, it'll have to go beyond GDP & economics, and take a holistic view of human development in every

sense as suggested by Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Ji," he added. The Vice President appreciated the efforts of the Chief Editor of the book, Dr Bajrang Lal Gupta and his team for coming out with these well researched five volumes on one of the foremost leaders of modern India. He also thanked Shri Rajnath Singh and Dr Murli Manohar Joshi for their insightful speeches on the life and work of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay on the occasion.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Defence, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, former Union Minister, Dr Bajrang Lal Gupta, Chief Editor of the book, Shri Prashant Jain, Publisher (Kitabwale), Dr Amit Rai Jain, Co-Editor, Dr Nand Kishore Garg, Founder-Director, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology and other dignitaries attended the event.