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## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,JUNE13,2023

Ministry's inclusive initiatives are transforming lives and empowering marginalized communities

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan against substance abuse gains momentum

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been working towards creating an inclusive and equitable society for all its citizens. Over the past nine years, the ministry has launched several schemes and initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized sections of society, including students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes through scholarships, elderly citizens, safai karmcharis, and transgender people. The aim of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) is to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses, schools and reaching out into the community and garnering community involvement and ownership of the Abhiyaan.

PIB,JUNE13,2023

MSDE certifies 98 Trainers trained in the cluster-based Training of Trainers project under the SANKALP programme

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) demonstrated its commitment to creating a pool of highly skilled trainers through the cluster-based Training of Trainers (ToT) project undertaken in collaboration with Automotive Sector Development Council (ASDC), GIZ-IGVET and Maharashtra State Skill Development Mission (MSSDS). The final 4 batches consisting of 98 trainers were certified through a convocation ceremony organized by ASDC in Pune on June 10, 2023. Developed as part of the National component of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), the

trainers received dual certification following assessments by the Automotive Sector Development Council and IGCC (German certification agency). The ToT program covered trades such as Advanced Welding, CNC operations, Robotics, Quality Control, and Advanced Automotive Technology. Key stakeholders involved in the project included MSDE, Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC), GIZ-IGVET, and Maharashtra State Skill Development Mission (MSSDS). The certification ceremony saw the presence of Shri Nilambuj Sharan, Additional Secretary and Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Mr. Arindam Lahiri, CEO of Automotive Skills Development Council; Dr. Rodney Reviere, Project Head of IGVET among others. Conducted in collaboration with Sukhakarta General Engineering Cluster Pvt. Ltd. (SGECPL) in Pune, the ToT program successfully trained a total of 189 trainers across eight batches, which consisted of one-month classroom training followed by one-month on-the-job training. The initiative strengthened the public-private partnership in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) domain, upgrading the technical and pedagogical skills of trainers in line with industry 4.0 requirements. Moreover, it effectively bridged the skills gap by involving industry members in curriculum development.

Speaking at the occasion, Shri Nilambuj Sharan, said that the Cluster-based ToT in the automotive sector is a unique example of synergy between public and private sector as well as industry alignment. The Cluster-based ToT project has been instrumental in providing skill training and upskilling opportunities for trainers in the automotive sector. He appreciated active involvement of ASDC and the units in the Sukhakarta General Engineering Cluster Pvt. Ltd. for smooth and successful completion of the initiative undertaken through the World Bank aided scheme, namely, Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP). With rapid advancements and transformations within the industry, it is crucial to develop a highly competent set of trainers to prepare the workforce to meet the ever-evolving demands. He also congratulated the trainees who were awarded certificates on the occasion.

Mr. Arindam Lahiri, CEO, ASDC emphasized the importance of upskilling in the competitive automotive sector. By continuously enhancing the skills of the workforce, we can drive innovation, efficiency, and excellence within the sector, he added. The ToT model was initially piloted in Aurangabad, covering three job roles—Advanced Welding, CNC operations, and Robotics—with one batch each and a total of 75 trainers. Currently, the project is being implemented in Pune, an automotive cluster with over 3000+ industries supporting auto OEMs across India. The Automotive Skills Development Council remains committed to continuously developing and upgrading automotive skills to drive higher value additions and integrate skills with academic pathways, making them aspirational. Recognizing the crucial role of trainers in imparting knowledge, skills, and pedagogical techniques, the Center has prioritized Training of Trainers (ToT) programs as an integral part of the Skill India mission. These programs aim to build a competent and robust workforce across various sectors, multiplying the impact of skill development initiatives.

NMBA was launched on 15th August 2020 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and is presently being implemented in 372 identified most vulnerable districts. Being a campaign mode programme, the Abhiyaan has targeted and involved stakeholders that might be directly or indirectly affected by substance abuse and those who are vulnerable to it. The major stakeholders and beneficiaries of NMBA are Youth, Women, Children, Educational Institutions, Civil Society and Community at large. Since its launch, a wide range of activities have been conducted throughout the country that has fostered participation from all quarters of society and stakeholders. There has been a shift from an earlier approach of organizational involvement to community involvement in the issue of substance abuse. The States, Districts and other stakeholders have taken ownership of the Abhiyaan that has helped transform the Abhiyaan into a Jan andolan.

The achievements of NMBA through the various activities undertaken on-ground, 9.91+crore people have been sensitized on substance use including 3.22+Crore Youth and 2.14+Crore Women. Participation of 3.18+Lakh educational institutions has ensured that the message of the Abhiyaan reaches children and youth of the country. A strong force of 8,000+ Master Volunteers (MVs) have been identified and trained. Awareness through official Social Media accounts of the Abhiyaan on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram. NMBA Mobile Application developed to gather and collect the data of NMBA activities and represent on the NMBA Dashboard at district, state and national level. NMBA Website (<http://nmba.dosje.gov.in>) provides detailed information and insights to the user/viewer about the Abhiyaan, its reach out in States & Districts and the activities conducted under the Abhiyaan so far people can take e-pledge to join the Abhiyaan. A National Online Pledge to be Drug Free had 1.67+ Crore students from 99,595 educational institutions pledging to be drug free. Sports person like Olympic Medalist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Suresh Raina, Ajinkhya Rahane, Sandeep Singh, Savita Poonia have shared messages in support of NMBA. Events like 'Nashe se Azaadi- A National Youth and Students Interaction Programme', 'Naya Bharat, Nasha Mukta Bharat', 'NMBA Interaction with NCC' are regularly organized to engage and connect with youth and other stakeholders. MoUs have been with Spiritual/Social Service organizations like The Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris & Sant Nirankari Mission to support to NMBA and conduct mass awareness activities. The National De-addiction helpline '14446' A Toll-free Helpline for de-addiction, 14446 provides primary counseling and immediate referral services to the persons from the very first call itself. 2.8+ lakh calls have been received on the calls so far. A helpline dashboard has also been developed which provides state, district and caller specific data all the while keeping anonymity.

There has been a 37% increase in people seeking counseling and de-addiction services from MoSJE supported centers since the launch of Abhiyaan in 2020. MoSJE seeks the support of everyone in spreading the message of ill effects of substance abuse and to stay from the use of such substances.

PIB,JUNE14,2023

13th Report on Central Ministries/Departments performance on CPGRAMS released by DARPG for the month of May, 2023

A total of 1,16,734 Grievances Redressed by Central Ministries/Departments in May, 2023, Pendency reduced to 58,127 grievances, lowest ever in the Central Ministries/Departments. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Unique Identification Authority of India, Department of Legal Affairs and Department of Land Resources topped the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index for the month of May, 2023.

DARPG has introduced the comprehensive Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) from May, 2023 onwards comprising of 4 dimensions and 12 indicators. The 4 dimensions include: Efficiency, Feedback, Domain and Organisational Commitment 60,567 feedback surveys completed by DARPG in May, 2023

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) monthly report for May, 2023, which provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal. This is the 13th report on Central Ministries published by DARPG. Disposal of grievances in the Central Secretariat has been on an upward trend with the pendency on its downward trend. The progress for May, 2023 indicates 1,16,734 Grievances Redressed by Central Ministries/Departments. A steep reduction in the pendency of Public Grievances has been observed in the Central Secretariat. The pendency level has come down to 58,127 grievances, in the month of May, 2023, which is the lowest ever recorded in the Central Secretariat. The Average Grievance Disposal Time in the Central Ministries/Departments in the year 2023, from January to

May is 18 days. These reports are part of the 10-step CPGRAMS reforms process which was adopted by DARPG for improving quality of disposal and reducing the time lines. The report also contains brief insights into 3 schemes namely Svamitva Scheme, Jandhan Scheme and Jan Aushadhi Scheme apart from pendency against corruption category grievances. DARPG is introducing a new and comprehensive Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) from May, 2023 onwards comprising of 4 dimensions and 12 indicators. The 4 dimensions include: Efficiency, Feedback, Domain and Organisational Commitment. The report also highlights the performance of the Appellate Authorities and Sub-Appellate Authorities mapped onto CPGRAMS from all the Central Ministries/Departments.

The following are the Key Highlights of the DARPG's monthly CPGRAMS report for May, 2023 for Central Ministries/ Departments:

#### 1. PG Cases

In May, 2023, 105549 PG cases were received on the CPGRAMS portal, 116734 PG cases were redressed and there exists a pendency of 58,127 PG cases, as of 31st May, 2023

The pendency in the Central Secretariat has decreased from 69313 PG cases at the end of April, 2023 to 58127 PG cases at the end of May, 2023

In May, 2023, for the 10th month in a row, the monthly disposal crossed 1 lakh cases in the Central Secretariat  
12 Ministries/Departments have more than 1000 pending grievances as on 31st May, 2023

#### 2. PG Appeals

In May, 2023, 20220 appeals were received and 19553 appeals were disposed

The Central Secretariat has a pendency of 28225 PG Appeals at the end of May, 2023



### 3. Grievance Redressal Index

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Unique Identification Authority of India are the top performers in the Grievance Redressal Index within the Group A for May, 2023

Department of Legal Affairs and Department of Land Resources are the top performers in the Grievance Redressal Index within the Group B for May, 2023

### 4. Average Closing Time

Average Grievance Redressal Time in all the Ministries/Departments in the year 2023, from 1st January to 31st May, 2023 is 18 Days

### 5. Feedback received from BSNL Call Centre

In May, 2023, the BSNL Call Centre collected feedback from 60567 citizens, which is the highest number of feedbacks collected in the year 2023. Out of these, approximately 35% citizens expressed satisfaction with the resolution provided to their respective grievances

For Central Ministries/Departments, 10530 grievances have received the rating of Excellent & Very Good, directly from the citizens, in the feedbacks collected by the BSNL Call Centre from 1st May to 30th May, 2023

STATESMAN, JUNE 15, 2023

People above 60 can contribute to India's vision of 2047: Dr Jitendra Singh

The number of pensioners in India outnumbered the serving employees and after retirement. Their valuable services can prove to be a game-changer.

The number of 60-plus people in India is increasing fast and they are not only fit and agile but have a vast administrative experience to contribute to India's "Vision of 2047", Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. India's population dividend could be an instrument of nation-building. Apart from youth, the elder citizens, including the pensioners, could also be channelised for building a strong and prosperous India, he said while addressing a programme commemorating "Nine Years of Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare" at Vigyan Bhawan here. He noted that 70 per cent of the population of India was below 40 years of age and the number of pensioners in India outnumbered the serving employees and after retirement. Their valuable services can prove to be a game-changer. Dr Singh pointed out that radical pension reforms and changes in rules and regulations were carried out at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014 in response to emerging societal needs. He said the government took measures not only for serving/retiring employees but also worked for the Ease of Living of pensioners and Digital Life Certificate was another step towards this direction. He pointed out that in November 2014, an Aadhar-based scheme for online submission of digital life certificates, "Jeevan Pramaan" was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure transparency and "Ease of Living" for pensioners while submitting their life certificates.

The minister informed that the Pension Department has undertaken a nationwide Digital Life Certificate through Face Authentication campaign in November 2022 which has resulted in 30 lakhs pensioners submitting their life certificates digitally. He also congratulated for being the first Department in the Government of India to use Face Recognition Technology. Jitendra Singh also pointed out several humanitarian pension-related policy changes like the dependent divorced daughter of a deceased government servant/spouse made eligible for family pension, enhanced family pension at 50 per cent of last pay drawn allowed in case an employee dies before completing seven years of service, order making an eligible child of deceased government servant/pensioner, suffering from a mental or physical disability, to receive family

pension for life if his/her overall income from sources other than a family pension is less than the entitled family pension at the ordinary rate and DR admissible, apart from relaxation in the provision of family pension for divorced daughters and Divyangs, He also informed that at the behest of the PM, the department also started a portal entitled “Anubhav” to showcase the experiences in the government of retiring officials which has now become a huge resource base for the government. The department not only introduced the concept of Pension Adalats but has leveraged technology to hold digital Adalats through video-conferencing.

PIB, JUNE 17, 2023

May, 2023, 6th edition of the ‘Secretariat Reforms’ report released

3.71 lakh Public Grievances disposed; 1.8 lakh physical files reviewed out of which 86,454 files weeded out

13 Ministries/Departments have 100% share of e-Receipts for May 2023

Cleanliness Campaign conducted at 2,115; 17.55 lakh sq. ft. of space freed

Rs 19.13 crore of revenue earned from scrap disposal

In pursuance of the decisions taken in the National workshop on 23.12.2022, DARPG published monthly report on “Secretariat Reforms” for May, 2023.

Key highlights of the Report for the month of May, 2023 are as follows:

Swachhata Campaign & Reduction in Pendency

1,80,557 files were reviewed. 86,454 files weeded out

3,71,156 public grievances disposed

17,55,001 square feet of space freed in May, 2023

Rs.19,12,72,388/- of revenue earned by scrap disposal in May, 2023

Cleanliness Campaign conducted 2,115 sites

Increasing Efficiency in Decision Making

71 Ministries/ Departments implemented delayering (48 fully delayered; 23 partially delayered)

43 Ministries/Departments have reviewed and modified Orders of Delegation in 2021, 2022 & 2023)

Desk Officer System is in operation in 40 Ministries/ Departments

e-Office implementation and analytics

All 75 Ministries which were identified for e-Office 7.0 migration have adopted e-Office 7.0.

25,93,223 active e-Files against 8,68,490 active physical files

13 Ministries/ Departments have 100% e-Receipts in the month of May, 2023

Overall, 91.43% share of eReceipts in May 2023 against 91.52% share of eReceipts in April 2023

89.96% of eFile adoption in Central Government

Best Practices

Department of Telecommunications: To solve the problem of attendance monitoring, C-DoT developed and installed Face-recognition Attendance System in Sanchar Bhawan. An employee whose data has been populated in the system needs to merely stand in front of the device for a couple of seconds for it to scan his face and record timing for attendance purposes. As the system is contactless, it is Covid-appropriate as well.

DoT has procured and installed Digital Notice Board/Screens at different floors of Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation: Portals have been developed for the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission for tracking and monitoring the implementation of the missions (Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2023, Village Assessment Form, Gobardhan Portal etc.) Ministry of External Affairs: Portals for the Indian diaspora have been developed such as Madad Portal, Kailash Mansarovar Portal, E-Migrate Portal Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Simplified and transparent processes related to the release of grants through an online scheme management system have been implemented. Separate online portals have been developed for all its schemes PMKSY, PMFME and PLI

In addition to monthly reporting, this edition of Secretariat Reforms entails a chapter of focus on citizen centric initiatives and glimpses of Swacchata of Department of Post.

PIB, JUNE 18, 2023

MoD to hold two-day 'Chintan Shivar' to discuss challenges faced by its departments & evolve new ideas for better governance

Ministry of Defence (MoD) is organising brainstorming sessions 'Chintan Shivar' in New Delhi on June 19 & 20, 2023 to discuss various issues & challenges faced by its departments, with the aim to come out with new ideas for better governance & functioning. Department of Defence (DoD), Department of Defence Production (DDP), Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) have identified a number of themes, on which eminent subject matter experts will share their views with the officers of the Ministry.

Department of Defence

The DoD will deliberate on the following topics:

Comprehensive approach to national security

Cyber security challenges

National Information Security Policy and Guidelines

Performance Audit

Sainik School education system

Capacity Building in Defence Acquisitions

Department of Defence Production

The DDP will have discussions on the following themes:

Enhancing production & defence exports

Increasing Aatmanirbharta: Road ahead for indigenisation

Industrial Ecosystem and Skilled Workforce

Enhancing Level Playing Field

Quality Reforms

Department of Military Affairs

The topics chosen by the DMA will cover critical issues of Integrating and optimising Human Resource aspects, Training and Operational issues towards achieving greater synergy and modernisation & capability augmentation of Armed Forces in the realms of strategic domain. It will also include discussions on measures to identify and abolish colonial practices and obsolete laws and further incorporate the country's own ethos and practices in functioning of the Armed Forces.

#### Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare

The themes identified by DESW include:

Leveraging SPARSH for better pension services and other welfare measures for veterans

Resettlement of veterans by improving employability and promotion of entrepreneurship for start of micro enterprises by veterans

Improvement in the health services of the veterans

The Chintan Shivir will conclude with an open-house session for inviting ideas & suggestions for enhancing organisational efficiency in various departments. The event is being organised in line with the Government's directions to have a real time audit of the objectives achieved till date and carve a way forward towards achieving the desired goals in realistic timelines.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PIB,JUNE12,2023

Under Rozgar Mela, PM to distribute about 70,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in Government departments and organisations on 13th June

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will distribute about 70,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits on 13th June, 2023 at 10:30 AM via video conferencing. Prime Minister will also address these appointees on the occasion. The Rozgar Mela will be held at 43 locations across the country. The recruitments are taking place across Central Government Departments as well as State Governments/UTs supporting this initiative. The new recruits, selected from across the country will be joining the Government in various Departments including Department of Financial Services, Department of Posts, Department of School Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Defence, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Railways, Department of Audit and Accounts, Department of Atomic Energy and Ministry of Home Affairs, among others.

The Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment of the Prime Minister to accord highest priority to employment generation. The Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development. The newly inducted appointees are also getting an opportunity to train themselves through Karmayogi Prarambh, an online module on iGOT Karmayogi portal, where more than 400 e-learning courses have been made available for 'anywhere any device' learning format.

PIB,JUNE12,2023



## ADB, India sign \$130 million loan to promote horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday (8th June 2023) signed a \$130 million loan to increase agricultural productivity, improve access to irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The signatories to the Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition Project were Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, for the Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, for ADB. After signing the loan agreement, Mr. Mishra stated that improving subtropical horticulture in the southern areas of Himachal Pradesh, hitherto dependent on temperate horticulture in northern areas, offers opportunities for crop diversification, climate adaptation and more equal economic and social development across the state's rural areas. Supporting horticulture value chains will also boost the subsector's contribution to the country's development and food security.

“The project builds upon a pilot financed by ADB's project readiness facility which demonstrated the subtropical horticulture production over 200 hectares and prepared the draft water user association (WUA) act and the draft state horticulture development strategy,” said Mr. Konishi. The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across 7 districts of the state namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una. These households have stopped farming or have reduced their farming areas because of a lack of irrigation facilities and crop damage by wild and stray animals. The project will improve on-farm irrigation and water management in about 6,000 hectares of farmland by rehabilitating or building new irrigation schemes and strengthening the capacity of WUAs for micro irrigation management through joint efforts from the state's Jal Shakti Vibhag (Water Resources Department) and Department of Horticulture (DOH).

The project will also help create an ecosystem to enhance farmers' access to markets of subtropical horticulture. The farmers will be organised into cluster-wide community horticulture production and marketing associations (CHPMAs) and district-wide CHPMA cooperative societies. CHPMA apex institution, a farmer producer company (FPC), will lead state-wide agribusiness development with the aim of ensuring profitability and access to 1/5/2018-ADB.II I/67997/2023 markets of subtropical horticulture. The FPC will handle business plan development; agribusiness promotion; and designing value-addition facilities such as sorting and packaging facilities, and storage and collection centres. It will also assist CHPMAs in managing these facilities. The project will also modernise public and private subtropical horticulture nursery facilities for improved plant health, and boost beneficiary farmers' access to information and communication technologies, and other digital agri-technology systems for real-time farm advisories and better CHPMA management.

PIB, JUNE 12, 2023

SAI20 Summit in Goa Sets Priorities on Blue Economy and Responsible AI, Encouraging Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing Among SAIs

SAI20 Group Poised to Drive Positive Change in Governance : Goa Governor P.S Sreedharan Pillai

CAG G.C. Murmu Stresses Supreme Audit Institutions' Vital Role in Auditing Blue Economy and Responsible AI for Good Governance and Accountability

G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant Commends Establishment of SAI20 for Strengthening Governance and Accountability

The SAI20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency began today in Goa. Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, as the Chair of the Supreme Audit Institutions-20 (SAI20) Engagement Group, led the deliberations. In his opening address, CAG highlighted that the Supreme Audit Institutions have a crucial role to play in the audit of Blue Economy and Responsible AI to ensure good governance, transparency and accountability and to optimise their positive impact on humankind. CAG further stated that though the audit of Blue Economy and Responsible AI is challenging, their all-pervasive, cross-cutting nature compounded with evolving technology and usage, necessitate close cooperation among the SAIs for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

While recognizing the importance of sustainability, growth and role of emerging technologies, he informed that the SAI20, priority areas – “Blue Economy” and “Responsible Artificial Intelligence” represents the new-age opportunities and concerns and these underline the need for genuine cooperation, CAG informed that in an effort to understand the global experiences and initiatives and to know how external stakeholders view the emerging role of Audit in these areas, they interacted with many domain experts from government and the private sector and conducted seminars on these themes during the last few months.

While explaining the criticality of the priority area of Blue Economy, CAG stated that as the Blue Economy gains primacy, so will its audit. CAG urged that in order to keep ahead of the curve, the SAI20 community must prioritize collaborations in arriving at new techniques, skills, capabilities and methods and that SAIs must proactively formalize channels and platforms that would facilitate these collaborations.

While discussing the possibility and perils of AI, CAG emphasized that it was essential that policy makers put in place processes to responsibly harness the potential of this technology. CAG emphasized that as AI was making greater inroads into governance, SAIs must inevitably prepare themselves for auditing AI based governance systems and SAIs must look for opportunities to adopt AI into their audit techniques to increase their effectiveness.

CAG while announcing the establishment of a Center of Excellence in the Blue Economy at SAI India's International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), a recognised Global Training Facility for INTOSAI, said that the ball was set rolling in April 2023 with an international webinar on experience sharing by 7 SAIs represented by 32 participants on audit of blue economy related issues. CAG further emphasized that the vision was to create a Centre of excellence that not only fosters research but also acts as a catalyst for knowledge sharing and capacity building amongst SAIs in this important field. CAG, Shri. Murmu remarked that the two Compendiums on Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence could be brought out as a result of overwhelming support and contributions from various Supreme Audit Institutions and panelists of the sessions on Blue Economy and Artificial Intelligence.

Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, in his address, expressed that establishment of SAI20 is a very positive step as it has led to the creation of a network between the SAIs and the governments to coordinate and articulate strategies and provide opportunity to the SAIs to deliver as partners in governance and help in creating greater transparency and accountability.

Hon'ble Governor of the State of Goa, Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai, in his inaugural address, emphasised that the SAI20 Group under the aegis of G20 is expected to play a central role in strengthening governance and in delivery of a positive impact on the lives of Citizens. While emphasizing the role of SAIs, Hon'ble Governor stated that SAIs in their respective countries are a key pillar of accountability, effectiveness and ensuring

integrity in governance. The Heads of the delegations from the SAI20 member SAIs, Guest SAIs, Invited SAIs, International Organisations and Engagement Groups shared their views on the SAI20 Summit and its priority areas of Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence through their general statements. The delegations in their General Statements agreed on the strong relevance of the priority areas while appreciating the efforts of SAI India in successfully taking ahead the SAI20 Engagement Group forum and providing the member SAIs opportunities to share their knowledge and experiences on the two priority areas through the compendiums. The delegates also appreciated the productiveness of the deliberations held so far in the SAI20 meetings during the chairmanship of SAI India. During the meeting, insights on Responsible Artificial Intelligence were provided by eminent personalities in the field of technology, who shared their valuable knowledge and experience on the different aspects of the emerging technologies like Responsible Artificial Intelligence.

The SAI20 Summit saw a participation of about 85 National and International delegates from G20 member SAIs, viz. Australia, Brazil, Korea, Indonesia, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye; Guest SAIs, viz. Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Spain and UAE; Invited SAIs, viz. Morocco and Poland; International Organisation, viz. USAID and World Bank; and Engagement Groups viz. Think20 and Youth20.

PIB, JUNE 13, 2023

PLI Schemes contribute to increase in production, employment generation, and economic growth

Significant increase of 76% in FDI in manufacturing sector due to PLI Schemes

Value addition of 20% in mobile manufacturing within a period of 3 years, a big achievement: Secretary, DPIIT

PLI Schemes transform India's exports basket from traditional commodities to high value-added products

733 applications approved till date in 14 Sectors with expected investment of Rs.3.65 Lakh Crore

PLI Scheme for Food Processing positively impacts income of Indian farmers and MSMEs

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes have led to a significant increase in production, employment generation, economic growth and exports in the country. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT said that due to PLI Schemes, there was a significant increase of 76% in FDI in the Manufacturing sector in FY 2021-22 (USD 21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21 (USD 12.09 billion).

The PLI schemes as envisioned by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi with the objective of making India 'AatmaNirbhar' is built on the foundation of 14 sectors with an incentive outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore (about US\$ 26 billion) to strengthen their production capabilities and help create global champions. Sectors for which PLI schemes exist and have seen an increase in FDI inflows from FY 2021-22 to FY 2022-23 are Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (+46%), Food Processing Industries (+26%) and Medical Appliances (+91%). PLI Schemes have transformed India's exports basket from traditional commodities to high value-added products such as electronics & telecommunication goods, processed food products etc. As on date, 733 applications have been approved in 14 Sectors with expected investment of Rs.3.65 Lakh Crore. 176 MSMEs are among the PLI beneficiaries in sectors such as Bulk Drugs, Medical Devices, Pharma, Telecom, White Goods, Food Processing, Textiles & Drones.

Actual investment of Rs. 62,500 Crore has been realized till March 2023 which has resulted in incremental production/ sales over Rs. 6.75 Lakh Crore and employment generation of around 3,25,000. Exports boosted by Rs 2.56 Lakh Crore till FY 2022-23. Incentive amount of around Rs. 2,900 Crore disbursed in FY 2022-23 under PLI Schemes for 8 Sectors viz. Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM), IT Hardware, Bulk

Drugs, Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals, Telecom & Networking Products, Food Processing and Drones & Drone Components. PLI Scheme has led to major smartphone companies shifting its suppliers to India, e.g., Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron. As a result, top high-end phones are being manufactured in India. It has also resulted in a 20-fold increase in women employment and localization in IT Hardware such as Battery & Laptops. Secretary, DPIIT said that the value addition in mobile manufacturing in India is to the tune of 20%. “We have been able to increase the value addition in mobile manufacturing to 20% within a period of 3 years whereas countries like Vietnam achieved 18% value addition over 15 years and China achieved 49% value addition in over 25 years. Seen in this perspective, it is a big achievement”, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh added.

PLI Scheme for LSEM along with existing Phased Manufacturing Program (PMP) has led to increased value addition in the electronics sector and in smartphone manufacturing, 23% and 20% respectively, from negligible in 2014-15. Of the USD 101 Billion total electronics production in FY 2022-23, smartphones constitute USD 44 Billion including USD 11.1 Billion as exports. Import substitution of 60% has been achieved in the Telecom sector and India has become almost self-reliant in Antennae, GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) & CPE (Customer Premises Equipment). Drones sector has seen a 7 times jump in turnover due to the PLI Scheme which consists of all MSME Startups. Under the PLI Scheme for Food Processing, sourcing of raw materials from India has seen significant increase which has positively impacted income of Indian farmers and MSMEs.

Due to the PLI Scheme, there has been a significant reduction in imports of raw materials in the Pharma sector. Unique intermediate materials and bulk drugs are being manufactured in India including Penicillin-G, and transfer of technology has happened in manufacturing of Medical Devices such as (CT scan, MRI etc.).

PIB, JUNE 16, 2023

Passengers carried by Domestic airlines registered an annual growth of 36.10% and monthly growth of 15.24%

Domestic airlines carried 636.07 lakhs Passengers during January-May 2023

The overall passenger growth in May'23 increased by 3.26 lakhs (2.52%) as compared to April'23

Indigo, Vistara, and Air Asia have shown an increase in their Market Share during Jan-May'2023

The Civil Aviation sector in the country has witnessed an impressive growth, with the number of passengers carried by Domestic airlines growing substantially. Based on the traffic data provided by different Domestic airlines, the passenger count reached an impressive milestone of 636.07 lakhs during January-May 2023, reflecting a significant annual growth rate of 36.10%, compared to the corresponding period in the preceding year of Jan-May 2022, during which the passenger count was 467.37 lakhs. In the month of May 2022, passenger count was 114.67 lakh, which in May 2023 rose to 132.41 lakh, registering a Month-on-Month growth of 15.24%. This consistent growth is a testament to the collective efforts of airlines, airports, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation in fostering a safe, efficient, and customer-centric aviation ecosystem. The overall passenger number in May 2023 increased by 3.26 lakhs (2.52%) as compared to April 23.

The notable increase in the volume of passengers demonstrates the strength and durability of India's aviation sector, showcasing the continuous endeavours to improve connectivity and offer convenient travel choices to our country's citizens. The higher load factor of 636.07 lakhs passengers during January – May 2023 suggests a rising demand for air transportation, underscoring the favourable direction of the aviation industry.



Also, the number of complaints decreased in May 2023 vis-à-vis May 2019. In May 2019, a total of 746 passenger related complaints had been received by the scheduled domestic airlines. Whereas, in May 2023, a total of 556 passenger related complaints had been received by the scheduled domestic airlines.

According to Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, “The collaborative efforts of all stakeholders have played a crucial role in propelling the growth of the aviation sector and establishing India as a prominent global aviation hub. The consistent expansion of the domestic airline industry and the birth of regional airlines are strengthening our economy, connecting people throughout the nation and ensuring last mile connectivity through the UDAN Scheme. The Ministry remains committed to fostering a favourable environment for the aviation industry to flourish and promote sustainable growth while ensuring the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and passenger satisfaction.”

This accomplishment is an outcome of the careful and thorough planning, operational effectiveness, and proactive actions undertaken by the industry. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, airlines have shown resilience by providing smooth and hassle-free travel experiences for passengers, along with improved air services.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB, JUNE 12, 2023

Address by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology; and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar at GPI Global Summit in Pune on 12.06.2023

The Summit is an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge, best practices of DPI implementation and I believe further the advance of global digital public infrastructure partnerships and the digital economy at the large.

There will be very few exceptions to the reality that digitalization today is accelerating at an unprecedented pace like never seen before in the modern history of mankind. Digitalization is transforming governments, governance, it is transforming business and enterprise, transforming consumers and citizens life all across the world. The global digital economy has seen significant growth and transformation in recent years specifically in the post covid era. It is fundamentally as I said changing the way we operate, changing the way governments operate, changing the way enterprises operate and changing the way consumers have expectations of this new modern world. According to a report by UNCTAD 2020, the value of global e commerce alone in 2019 exceeded 27 trillion dollars and I am sure that post covid these numbers have increased even further.

As we speak about the DPI and future of DPI. India is a test case and a visible beacon to the impact of efficacy and the efficiency and the impact of Digital public infrastructure. As the world's largest democracy and now the world's largest nation for over 6 and a half decades india's governance has lagged due to the pressure of the size, distance and other factors.

Previously when 100 rupees left delhi for the benefit of the poor or benefit of a citizen only 15 rupees reached the citizen because the cost of governance, the cost of democracy was 85 rupees out of 100 rupees dispatched. Due to the power of DPI launched in 2015, that narrative about india the world's largest country and democracy has transformed significantly where now 100 rupees leaves the state capital or central capital and 100 rupees reaches the benefit for the citizen whose benefit it is intended for. Over 400 billion dollars have been transferred from the government to the citizens of india over the last five years without any leakage and without any intimidation, that is the power of DPI and that is the power that india has demonstrated. Digital economy and its percentage in total economy of india was 3 and 3.5 % in 2014 and is 10% today and we expect by 2020-26 that number reach almost 20% of india's GDP. This is proliferation of digitalization in the government and the overall ecosystem. India is working on the obvious need to create multiple frameworks for global standards of cyber law. We all understand here today as the technology and internet has been a force for good there has been an increasing trend that technology and internet can be as much a power for bad and therefore we are working with many many likeminded nations in developing the future cyberlaw framework which is again something that partnership around DPI will enable.

The India Stack and India's own record in digitalization started with a political vision of our prime minister way back in 2015 that the status quo of 85% leakage, 85% cost of governance, 85% democracy was not acceptable. The country needed to feel the benefit of the governance. Technology must improve the lives of the people. India Stack started with the identity layer which is Aadhaar layer that granted identity, authenticates identity has now become complex stack which is constantly evolving and as we look towards partnership that we signed today, we see this DPI structure evolving and innovating even further and accelerating even further with the advent of technologies like artificial intelligence, language models and therefore I think that the partnership that we are today now proposing around the DPI is truly a partnership that is win-win for all of those nations aorond the world that in a sense that have lacked digitalization these

years. This move towards a global DPI framework is really about addressing the fact that technology can and must be inclusive and technology must empower even those who are not necessarily developed and advance nation of the world. DPI framework is really about the future of the governance in this digital age. It deals with inclusion, it deals with transparency, it deals with responsiveness, all of which the people around the world and people in every country are increasingly seeking. The momentum generated during the India's presidency has significantly garnered visibility for the DPI approach, we have witnessed endorsement at the SCO digital ministers' level as well as during the quad leaders' meet as well in the Indo-EU trade and technology council meetings. These endorsement and support serve as a testament to the relevance and potential and the power of the DPI, it also highlights in my opinion what is necessary in going forward there has to be more active collaboration and more active participation from member countries who seek to be part of this digitalization movement and those who want to play an active role in it. DPI can accelerate human progress toward sustainable development goal, the DPI holds immense potential in various crucial areas in achieving these SDGs and DPIs like identity, digital payment, health has advanced progress on various SDGs like reducing poverty, good health and wellbeing, decent economic growth and industry and innovation.

The DPI is not a one shoe fits all model, this is really about using the power of open source, using the power of partnership and collaborations in creating innovative DPI platforms that work for that country for the people. It relies on the fundamental thesis that technology belongs to all those who consume it, all those who innovate on it and every citizen of the world, every government of the world should be able to harness the power of innovation without having to pay a huge amount of money for it. This government under the leadership of prime minister Narendra Modi ji has demonstrated repeatedly across the length and breadth of this nation that DPIs are force multiplier for population that wants to progress and develop. With recent adoption of DPIs in low- and middle-income countries have shown tremendous potential for development. So one part when we talk about governance, we talk about transparency, we talk about efficacy and

responsiveness. We should not forget that DPI has a catalytic effect on the digital economy of the nation or the digital economy of the community that is implementing it. They can empower nations to bridge the digital divide, enhance meaningful connectivity, create opportunities for their citizens. Therefore as the representatives of the G20 with the collective contribution of 85% of the global GDP, 75% of global trade and 2/3rd of the global population it certainly becomes incumbent to support those who need it, by collectively investing in DPIs we can unlock a huge high investment multiplier effect in accelerating the growth of digital economies and societies. The UPI today which is at the centre and the core of one of the world's fastest growing fintech ecosystem India was essentially a solution to the problem that was government use case of transmitting subsidies to citizens. We have floated a concept of One Future Alliance, a voluntary initiative that aims to bring together all countries all stakeholders to synergize, to shape, to architect and design the future of DPIs that can be used by all countries and all people. There are powerful good measures that come out of DPI but it is also important for us to consider that as much as the technology, the internet represents the force of good there are issues of user harm and criminality and our cooperation for G20 digital environment is driven by 3 key points .First we think that it is important for the governments to formally recognize what the industry already has, security threats to hamper innovation, trust in essential services and consumer confidence.

Second that the security in the digital economy is not a domestic issue, nor is it geographically isolable. Almost the template for cybercrime and cybersecurity is that the criminal/perpetrator is one jurisdiction and the victim is in second jurisdiction and the crime could be in the third jurisdiction. So therefore there is more and more global framework and collaboration is involved. This DPI framework, this One Future Alliance could also be addressing issues of partnership and shaping the future of our approach towards cybersecurity.

Skilling is incredibly important as we set forth and reimagine our ambitions in building and or expanding our digital economy and it is again an area where we have done a significant amount of work. The digital economy is the powerful opportunity and the DPIs are the enabler of that powerful opportunity. For india. The india stack and the global DPI summit and the conversations around it are aligning with the india's presidency vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam where we work as one family for the betterment of our collective future using technologies and DPIs at its core. Both the developed nations and developing nations to harness the opportunities represented by the digital economies, it need not to be the case of haves and have not.

The coming decade should be known as Techade, a decade of technological opportunities and this partnership and this type of partnership certainly will allow all countries to pursue these emerging digital opportunities. Digital working group will collaborate closely to achieve the outcomes that benefit every member involved. Our collective efforts hold the key towards shaping the brighter future, a brighter digital future for all of us and our people.

PIB, JUNE 12, 2023

Astronomers spot a surprising solar eruption that maintains constant temperature

Scientists tracking the continuous evolution of the energy state of the core of a solar eruption that occurred on July 20, 2017, have found it strangely maintained a constant temperature as it erupted energetic and highly magnetised plasma from the solar corona into space. The finding can improve our understanding of how such eruptions can impact communication systems on Earth. Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are large-scale eruptions of charged particles (plasma) and magnetic fields from the solar atmosphere into space. They can disrupt a range of ground- and space-based technologies and satellites on Earth. Thus, it is crucial to understand their evolution and propagation through interplanetary space. There is a wide range of plasma temperatures within CMEs, from cold chromospheric material (around 10<sup>4</sup> K) to hot plasma (around 10<sup>7</sup> K).

When CMEs propagate, several processes can exchange energy (electrical, kinetic, potential, thermal, and so on.), thereby heating or cooling the plasma. To understand the underlying processes, it is important to study the evolution of thermodynamic properties (such as density, temperature, thermal pressure, etc.) of CMEs. This will help our ability to monitor space weather. In the past, scientists had studied the thermal evolution of CMEs in the solar corona. However, these earlier studies were limited to larger distances from the Sun (more than 1.5 times the radius of the Sun or  $R_{Sun}$ ). It has been known that CME shows peculiar kinematics such as rapid expansion, and impulsive acceleration, in the heights below 3 times the radius of the Sun. However, the evolution of thermodynamic properties of CMEs is not yet well understood, primarily due to the lack of suitable observations in these heights.

A team of scientists consisting of Dr. Vaibhav Pant and Prof. Dipankar Banerjee and researcher Ms. Jyoti Sheoran from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, and Dr. Ritesh Patel from Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, USA tracked the continuous evolution of the thermodynamic properties of the core of a solar eruption that occurred on July 20, 2017.

In a study published in the journal *Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences* journal, they estimated the temperature and density of this CME core and found that strangely the CME core maintains a constant temperature as it propagates from 1.05 to 1.35  $R_{Sun}$  despite the expected adiabatic cooling due to the expansion of the core. They used data from the ground-based instruments MLSO (Mauna Loa Solar Observatory) /K-Cor (K-cronagraph) and MLSO/CoMP (Coronal Multichannel Polarimeter) as well as data from the space-based SDO (Solar Dynamics Observatory) /AIA (Atmospheric Imaging Assembly) telescopes for the purpose and also established that the density of the CME core decreased by a factor of around 3.6 as it propagated outwards. The authors conclude that the expansion of this CME core behaves more like an

isothermal than an adiabatic process (thermodynamic process in which there is no exchange of heat from the system to its surrounding).

The Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) onboard Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission will be launched soon and it will perform both spectroscopy and imaging of the CMEs in the inner corona. A similar kind of analysis using VELC data will provide new insights of the evolution of CME thermodynamic properties in the inner corona.

PIB, JUNE 14, 2023

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, Chandrayaan 3 scheduled to be launched in July

India's coveted Moon Mission Chandrayaan 3 is scheduled to be launched in July, most likely in the second half of the month. This was disclosed here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in response to a question asked by media persons on the sidelines of a massive public rally addressed by him here today. The Union Minister said, if things go as planned, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will launch its ambitious Chandrayaan-3 Mission which is aimed at demonstrating critical technology to land the Spacecraft on the South Pole of the Moon. Earlier this year, he said, Chandrayaan-3 Spacecraft successfully completed the essential tests that validated its capability to withstand the harsh environment that the Spacecraft would be facing during its launch and the subsequent journey, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's earlier lunar mission, Chandrayan -1 had earned India a place of pride and supremacy in the world arena by identifying for the first time ever, the presence of water on the surface of moon. This input was noted with great significance even by the world's premier Space agencies like the USA's NASA, he said.



Pertinent to mention that Chandrayaan-3 is a follow up mission to Chandrayaan-2. Living upto the theme of “Science of the Moon” , the scientific instruments on the lander and the rover in the Chandrayaan would be capable of studying the various aspects of Moon including the Lunar environment and thermo-physio properties. But at the same time, another experimental instrument incorporated in Chandrayaan-3 Mission could be capable of studying different aspects of the Earth as well, thus prompting the simultaneous theme of “Science from the Moon”.

Earlier, addressing a mammoth public rally here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, various public-centric schemes brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 9 years are not only meant for transforming the lot of those sections of society who did not receive their due attention in the earlier regimes, but in the long run these are going to create socio-economic transformation as well as change our social culture and behaviour.



Dr Jitendra Singh said, many of the public-centric initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi like for example Rozgar Mela, StartUp India, Mudra Yojna, etc., have been conceived with great degree of sensitivity and compassion, and are designed to reassure the youth that they are being provided a level-playing field with equal chance to be rewarded for their capability and hard work. In the case of women, Dr Jitendra Singh said, schemes like Ujjawala and Swachhta (toilets) are meant to accord the Indian women convenience and safety with reverence and dignity.

TRIBUNE, JUNE 15, 2023

EU approves draft law to regulate AI – here's how it will work

AI legislation is entirely framed around the notion of risk

The word “risk” is often seen in the same sentence as “artificial intelligence” these days. While it is encouraging to see world leaders consider the potential problems of AI, along with its industrial and strategic benefits, we should remember that not all risks are equal. On Wednesday, June 14, the European Parliament voted to approve its own draft proposal for the AI Act, a piece of legislation two years in the making, with the ambition of shaping global standards in the regulation of AI. After a final stage of negotiations, to reconcile different drafts produced by the European Parliament, Commission and Council, the law should be approved before the end of the year. It will become the first legislation in the world dedicated to regulating AI in almost all sectors of society – although defence will be exempt.

Of all the ways one could approach AI regulation, it is worth noticing that this legislation is entirely framed around the notion of risk. It is not AI itself that is being regulated, but rather the way it is used in specific domains of society, each of which carries different potential problems. The four categories of risk, subject to different legal obligations, are: unacceptable, high, limited and minimal.

Systems deemed to pose a threat to fundamental rights or EU values, will be categorised as having an “unacceptable risk” and be prohibited. An example of such a risk would be AI systems used for “predictive policing”. This is the use of AI to make risk assessments of individuals, based on personal information, to predict whether they are likely to commit crimes. A more controversial case is the use of face recognition technology on live street camera feeds. This has also been added to the list of unacceptable risks and would only be allowed after the commission of a crime and with judicial authorisation. Those systems classified as “high risk” will be subject to obligations of disclosure and expected to be registered in a special database. They will also be subject to various monitoring or auditing requirements. The types of applications due to be classified as high risk include AI that could control access to services in education, employment, financing, healthcare and other critical areas. Using AI in such areas is not seen as undesirable, but oversight is essential because of its potential to negatively affect safety or fundamental rights. The idea is that we should be able to trust that any software making decisions about our mortgage will be carefully checked for compliance with European laws to ensure we are not being discriminated against based on protected characteristics like sex or ethnic background – at least if we live in the EU. “Limited risk” AI systems will be subject to minimal transparency requirements. Similarly, operators of generative AI systems – for example, bots producing text or images - will have to disclose that the users are interacting with a machine.

During its long journey through the European institutions, which started in 2019, the legislation has become increasingly specific and explicit about the potential risks of deploying AI in sensitive situations – along with how these can be monitored and mitigated. Much more work needs to be done, but the idea is clear: we need to be specific if we want to get things done.

Risk of extinction?

By contrast, we have recently seen petitions calling for mitigation of a presumed “risk of extinction” posed by AI, giving no further details. Various politicians have echoed these views. This generic and very long-term risk is quite different from what shapes the AI Act, because it does not provide any detail about what we should be looking out for, nor what we should do now to protect against it. If “risk” is the “expected harm” that may come from something, then we would do well to focus on possible scenarios that are both harmful and probable, because these carry the highest risk. Very improbable events, such as an asteroid collision, should not take priority over more probable ones, such as the effects of pollution. In this sense, the draft legislation that has just been approved by the EU parliament has less flash but more substance than some of the recent warnings about AI. It attempts to walk the fine line between protecting rights and values, without preventing innovation, and specifically addressing both dangers and remedies. While far from perfect, it at least provides concrete actions. The next stage in the journey of this legislation will be the trilogues – three-way dialogues – where the separate drafts of the parliament, commission and council will be merged into a final text. Compromises are expected to occur in this phase. The resulting law will be voted into force, probably at the end of 2023, before campaigning starts for the next European elections. After two or three years, the act will take effect and any business operating within the EU will have to comply with it. This long timeline does pose some questions of its own, because we do not know how AI, or the world, will look in 2027.

Let’s remember that the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, first proposed this regulation in the summer of 2019, just before a pandemic, a war and an energy crisis. This was also before ChatGPT got politicians and the media talking regularly about an existential risk from AI.

However, the act is written in a sufficiently general way that may help it remain relevant for a while. It will possibly influence how researchers and businesses approach AI beyond Europe. What is clear, however, is that every technology poses risks, and rather than wait for something negative to happen, academic and policymaking institutions are trying to think ahead about the consequences of research. Compared with the way we adopted previous technologies – such as fossil fuels – this does represent a degree of progress. (This article is syndicated by PTI from The Conversation)

PIB, JUNE 17, 2023

India surprised the world by administering 220 crore vaccine doses through a fully digital platform (COWIN), not even imagined by developed western countries, says Dr. Jitendra Singh

Dr. Jitendra inaugurates Free Telemedicine StartUp Mobile Camp "Doctor on Wheels" at Billawar, the first ever in J&K

Telemedicine mobile service does full body check-ups, followed by a check-up by a super speciality doctor and a prescription by a leading doctor: Dr. Jitendra Singh. This free telemedicine facility at Billawar will overcome the problems of 'Accessibility, Availability and Affordability': Dr. Jitendra Singh. Telemedicine services like the ones provided today are at par with anywhere in the world; Advanced robotic surgeries would be also done in future using telemedicine services: Dr. Jitendra Singh. The mantra of PM Narendra Modi 'Seva, Samparan and Start-up' is being followed in these telemedicine mobile services with extraordinary medical facilities: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, under PM Narendra Modi, India had surprised the world by administering 220 crore Covid vaccine doses through a fully digital platform (COWIN), not even imagined by the developed western countries.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was speaking after inaugurating Free Telemedicine StartUp Mobile Camp "Doctor on Wheels" at block Mandli in Billawar. Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that this is the 3rd phase of first-ever mobile telemedicine service being provided in Jammu & Kashmir purely from non-government sources. The first phase covered more than 60 villages in remote Gandoh in district Doda and the second phase covered far-flung villages situated along International Border in district Kathua previously deprived of adequate medical services. The Minister said, the free telemedicine mobile camp today at Mandli in Billawar is being run by two StartUp groups belonging to North India and South India, each respectively.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this free telemedicine facility at Billawar today will overcome the problems of 'Accessibility, Availability and Affordability'. He said, all the three obstacles like quality of services, doctors and assistance, distance of travelling and cost of consultation/treatment are targeted and solved efficiently through this facility. Ordinarily, a metro hospital will cost a patient more than fifty thousand and may take two to three weeks time. This type of free telemedicine mobile camp will solve all the problems especially for those having weak socio-economic background, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Emphasising that India today is technologically at par with the most developed countries of the world, Dr. Jitendra Singh asserted that such telemedicine services as provided today are at par with the ones provided anywhere in the world and the advanced robotic surgeries would also be done in future using telemedicine services. The mantra of PM Narendra Modi 'Seva, Samparan and Start-up' is being followed in these free telemedicine mobile services with extraordinary medical facilities for people with low socio-economic background as this government is dedicated to the poor, said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB, JUNE 17, 2023

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey calls for adopting Lifestyle for Environment to save earth from natural calamities and disasters

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) organised an event on Mission LiFE as part of Save Wetlands today in Buxar, Bihar. The event is in continuation to the Save Wetlands campaign organised at Gokul Jalashay, Buxar on June 08, 2023. The event was organised through Ministry's Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Centre at ADRI, Patna. A group of people standing together

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Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey graced the day-long event which started with LiFEathon Run followed by inauguration of an Exhibition on LiFE and felicitation of winners of LiFEathon from boys and girls in three different categories of 12 kms, 7 kms and 5 kms respectively. Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, Sh. Surendra Singh, Member Secretary State Wetland Authority (SWA), Shri Chandrashekar Rao, Member Secretary Bihar SPCB and Sh. Rajkumar M. and DFO Bhojpur were also present on the occasion. A group of people walking

Description automatically generated with low confidence



Around 550 boys and girls from different parts of Bihar registered for LiFEathon Run and successfully concluded the unique event aimed at promoting environmental awareness and conservation efforts, with a special focus on Mission LiFE and wetlands. Similarly, the exhibition on LiFE also saw participation from EIACP centres located in six states namely Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Delhi who displayed the products developed as part of Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) of Ministry. Besides above, ZSI, BSPCB, BIS, Bihar JEEVIKA and Bhojpur Forest Division also put up their stalls. After opening the exhibition, Shri Choubey took a detailed tour to each and every stall and appreciated the participants for taking real action on the Mission LiFE launched by The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The exhibition provided an opportunity to the attendees and visitors to explore innovative solutions, eco-friendly products such as bamboo handicrafts, water bottles made from bamboo, etc. A group of men posing for a photo. Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Adding a vibrant touch to the event, a captivating nukkad natak engaged attention of the audience with a powerful performance, raising awareness about the significance of wetlands and the urgent need to protect and preserve them. A picture containing ceiling, person, indoor, standing. Description automatically generated

Speaking on the occasion Shri Choubey said that wetlands are important for many reasons. He also mentioned about cultural, historical and social importance of these wetlands and appealed the participants to work unitedly to save these wetlands. He also mentioned that how numbers of cyclones are increasing and recalled how the Kedarnath tragedy took away many lives including his near and dear ones on this day 10 years ago and paid his heartfelt condolences to the families who had lost their family members in that unforgettable incident. Sh. Choubey also stressed that Prakriti and Pragati should go hand in hand and effort of each and every individual is important in saving the earth from such calamities. He appreciated the youth of Buxar who turned out in large numbers for LiFEathon early in the morning and named them as Paryavaran Prahari. He also expressed his happiness over the participation of so many young girls in the LiFEathon event and he also

expressed his hope that these young participants will sensitise other people of Buxar also for the cause of Mission LiFE and wetland conservation.

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Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary delivered the Keynote Address, highlighting the significance of wetlands, NPCA scheme and Amrit Dharohar programme. Dr. Bajpayee also mentioned that Bihar has number of wetlands which have potential to be designated as Ramsar sites and assured expeditious consideration by Ministry on receipt of proposals for the same from State. As part of the LiFE-based refreshment experience, organic and sustainable food options were provided to participants, showcasing the benefits of eco-friendly dietary choices, sustainable food options and responsible consumption. The event concluded with the LiFE pledge administered to all attendees by the Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey. A group of people posing for a photo under a bannerDescription automatically generated with medium confidenceA group of people standing under a tentDescription automatically generated with medium confidence

PIB, JUNE 17, 2023

National Working Plan Code-2023 released for scientific management of forests and evolving new approaches

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change has released the “National Working Plan Code-2023” for scientific management of forests and evolving new approaches. The National Working Plan Code-2023 was released by Shri. Chandra Prakash Goyal, IFS, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change during the occasion of the ‘World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought’ organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun on 17th June 2023.

India is one of the few countries in the world that has a scientific system of forest management. The working plan is the main instrument through which the scientific management of Forests is being achieved in India. National Working Plan Code which was first adopted in 2004 with a subsequent amendment in 2014 brought uniformity and acted as the guiding principle for the preparation of the working plan for scientific management of different forest divisions of our country. The forests in India are being managed for a multitude of reasons like maintaining environmental stability, conserving natural heritage, checking soil erosion and denudation of catchment areas, checking the extension of dunes, increasing tree and forest cover with people involvement, increasing the productivity of forests etc. Scientific forest management in India and the world is consistently evolving with new approaches, new technologies & innovations and it has become imperative to evolve ourselves to meet the essentials of forest management and the requirements of people who depended on it.

The National Working Plan Code-2023 will act as a guiding principle for State Forest Departments in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions in the country. National Working Plan Code-2023 deals in detail with the essentials of forest management planning, incorporating the principles of sustainable management of forests. This includes extent and condition of forest and tree cover; maintenance, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity including wildlife, forest health and vitality, conservation and management of soil and water resources, enhancement of forest resource productivity, maintenance and enhancement of social, economic, cultural and spiritual benefits, and providing the appropriate policy, legal and institutional framework.

For the first time, the National Working Plan Code-2023 has prescribed state forest departments to engage in continuous data collection and its updation in a centralized database. The “Indian Forest Management Standard” which is a part of this code, takes into account the diverse forest ecosystem in our country, while trying to bring in uniformity in management. The Standards for Sustainable Forest Management have been codified in the Indian Forest Management Standard, based on long term experiences of scientific forest management in India and in sync with international criteria and indicators. Indian Forest Management Standard would facilitate the State Forest Departments to measure effectiveness of the management practices against prescriptions of Working Plans.

## CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,JUNE14,2023

Ministry of Tourism to organise the fourth G20 Tourism Working Group meeting and Tourism Ministerial Meeting from 19th to 22 June 2023 in Goa

Cruise Tourism and Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will be key side events at the Meet

The Ministry of Tourism is organising the fourth G20 Tourism Working Group meeting and Tourism Ministerial Meeting from 19th to 22 June 2023 in Goa. Briefing media in New Delhi today, Secretary Tourism, Smt V. Vidyavathi said that under India's G20 Tourism Track, the Tourism Working Group is working on five inter-connected priority areas, which are Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs, and Destination Management. Giving more details, the Secretary said that there are two key deliverables of the Tourism Working Group, which are GOA Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development goals and G20 Tourism Ministers' Declaration both of which will be finalised shortly. During the meeting, G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organizations will welcome and endorse both the documents. She also added that the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting and Tourism Ministerial Meeting in Goa aims to strengthen economic growth, preserve cultural heritage, and promote tourism and sustainable development of the region.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, welcomes the participation of Tourism Ministers, Heads of Delegations and delegates from G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organizations to collectively work towards advancing the tourism sector and achieving the UN sustainable development goals 2030.

A side event on 'Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable & Responsible Travel' will be organized, focusing on strategies to promote cruise tourism. The event will see the participation of G20 member countries, invited countries, international organizations, and industry stakeholders. The event will witness deliberations on the challenges and opportunities in the growth of cruise tourism globally. A panel discussion featuring esteemed speakers from G20 Member countries and guest countries will shed light on country specific policies and initiatives on varied aspects of cruise tourism, its growth and need to make cruise tourism sustainable and responsible. Smt V. Vidyavathi said that, along the sidelines of the main event, a national level side event is also being organized which will focus on 'Making India a Hub for Cruise Tourism', to deliberate on various challenges and opportunities for developing Cruise Tourism in the country following the principles of sustainability. The deliberation upon Multi Facets of Cruise Tourism (Coastal, Island, Regional and Yachting), perspectives from Coastal States, private and public stakeholders in inland waterways, perspectives from Riverine States will be the focus areas of discussion during the event. The event will see the participation of key States and Union Territories, Industry Stakeholders, national and international experts.

She also informed that “The Ministry of Tourism is also organizing a side event ‘Towards a circular economy of plastics in tourism – the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative’ in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

This side event will focus on encouraging engagement of tourism stakeholders to address plastic pollution through circular approaches across the tourism value chain. The event will encompass high-level introductory remarks and a keynote presentation on the action framework proposed by the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI). These interventions will be followed by a panel discussion with tourism stakeholders and a signing ceremony to welcome the adherence of several organizations to the GTPI.

Further, a 'Public Private Dialogue: Importance of Travel & Tourism to the G20 Economies' is also being co-organized by the Ministry of Tourism in Goa on 21st June 2023 in association with World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The Dialogue is an opportunity for participants to share their priorities and concerns and identify opportunities for mutual support and greater public-private partnership. This discussion will align and provide a private sector perspective on the 5 priority areas set out for the G20 tourism track. The Dialogue will start by opening the conversation on the respective importance and relevance of these priorities to the private sector and potential areas of support and collaboration from the public sector. The Secretary informed that good practices and case studies on sustainable tourism by participating countries will be shared on a Dashboard which is being created for the purpose. It will be a dynamic dashboard which will serve as a learning platform for various countries and these case studies will continue to be uploaded on it for coming next three years, she added.

Secretary Tourism also remarked that to celebrate the 'International Day of Yoga' on June 21, which coincides with the G20 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting and Tourism Ministerial Meeting, a special yoga session has been organized by the state government of Goa.

This session will offer an enchanting experience of yoga to all G20 Tourism Ministers and delegates, providing them with a moment of serenity and mindfulness amidst the busy proceedings of the meeting. It highlights the significance of incorporating wellness practices in the tourism sector and emphasizes the importance of holistic well-being. On the occasion, Additional Secretary, Shri Rakesh Verma gave a presentation highlighting the important events and schedule of the meeting.

Various cultural programs will be organized to highlight and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Goa to the international G20 delegates. Some of the choreographed programs planned are: Lamp Dance, Kathak Dance, Goan Mando Music and Dance presentation, Dekhni Dance, Mussal Khel (Pastel Dance) and Gomant Rang. Delegates will also have the opportunity to experience the local attractions of Goa. Excursion visits have been planned to Lower Aguada Fort and Jail Museum, and experiencing the UNESCO World Heritage Site: Churches and Convents of Goa viz. the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Church of St Francis of Assisi and Se Cathedral and Archaeological Museum. During the meeting, the delegates will also be visiting the Art and Craft Bazaar organized by the State Government showcasing local handicrafts, work of artisans, signifying the importance of community participation. DIY Activities at the Craft Bazaar have been planned to have hands on experience. The Ministry of Tourism is promoting local products of Goa by handing below souvenirs to the delegates:

Embroidered Stole/Scarf (Made from Handmade Kunbi Fabric)

G.I. Cashew Feni Miniature

Terracotta Lotus shaped Incense Stick Holder

Upcycled Natural Scented Candle made using discarded bottle

Roasted Organic Goan Cashew Nuts



Recycled wood Tray with Azulejo Tiles inlay

Goan House Window

PIB, JUNE 16, 2023

NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India sign the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027)

NITI AAYOG The GoI-UNSDCF is the collective commitment of the UN Development System in India, in support of the India's achievement of Agenda 2030, and the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas

NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 today. The GoI-UNSDCF was signed by Mr. B V R Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, India in the presence of the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Mr. Suman Bery, senior representatives from NITI Aayog, central ministries and heads of UN agencies in India.

GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/279 designates the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as the principal planning and implementation instrument for the UN Development System at country level. Programme priorities of the UN entities working at the country are derived from the GoI-UNSDCF.

The GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on four strategic pillars derived from the 2030 Agenda – People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation. The four interlinked pillars have six outcome areas focusing on Health and Well Being; Nutrition and Food Security; Quality Education; Economic Growth and Decent Work; Environment, Climate, WASH and Resilience; and Empowering People, Communities, and Institutions.

To further deepen cooperation in critical areas, for the first time, the GoI-UNSDCF will have specific focus on SDG localisation and South-South cooperation, in line with India's leadership towards the implementation and acceleration of the SDGs; and India's championing of South-South cooperation. Showcasing Indian models of development globally will be central to the effort.

The formulation of the GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 was led by NITI Aayog, on behalf of the Government of India, with robust participation of line Ministries, State Governments, and Union Territories. The UN Resident Coordinator led and coordinated inputs from the UN development system in India. Partners from civil society, think tanks, private sector, cooperatives and labour unions also contributed to the development of the document, ensuring a whole of society, whole of government and whole of UN approach. The GoI-UNSDCF was informed by a third-party evaluation of the previous Cooperation Framework (2018-2022) and a Common Country Analysis (CCA) undertaken by the UN in India. The implementation, monitoring and reporting of GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 will be co-led by Government of India and the United Nations, India through a Joint Steering Committee. "The next five years will be pivotal for an innovation driven, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable India. For India, the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" is particularly important due to its vast and diverse demography, as well as its potential due to tremendous demographic dividend. The GoI-UNSDCF, through its agreed partnerships, outcomes and outputs will contribute towards achievement of national development priorities. The Cooperation Framework has to be a living and dynamic framework and should

adapt in the light of how India changes and the world changes,” said Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Mr. Suman Bery. Signing the Cooperation Framework, CEO of NITI Aayog, Mr. B V R Subrahmanyam, said: “India has advanced steadily in its ability to deliver development and resilience at scale. This includes transforming India’s social welfare system and safety nets, underpinned by a robust ecosystem of digital public infrastructure and a range of national missions. India’s leadership in climate action and resilience continues to grow. The time has come to completely address the challenges of the last century and take on the challenges of Amrit Kaal to become Viksit Bharat. The Cooperation framework will focus on and support India in its transformation where it is not just access to basic requirements such as water/ electricity/ internet that would be important, but the quality of these issues that are more relevant for future.” The new Framework comes at a critical juncture as the world reaches the halfway mark to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and India envisions a ‘Viksit Bharat’ over the next 25 years, in line with the clarion call of the Hon’ble Prime Minister.

Presenting the Cooperation Framework at the launch. Mr Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, said: “India is a key shaper of the 2030 Agenda. With the goal of ‘Leave No One Behind’ reflected in the Government of India’s message of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, India has aligned its flagship national initiatives with the SDGs and translated Agenda 2030 into local actions at all levels, while delivering development gains at scale. Meeting the expectations and aspirations of India’s youthful population ahead will require further accelerating progress in addressing remaining development challenges and investing in human capital to leverage a unique demographic dividend. As the United Nations Secretary-General has said, India is the country that can make achieving the SDGs a global reality”.

PIB, JUNE 18, 2023

Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 to be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur

Jury headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recognizes contribution of the hundred year old institution in promoting Gandhian ideals of peace and social harmony

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021 is being conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur. Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995, on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The past awardees include organizations such as ISRO, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Akshaya Patra, Bengaluru, Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India and Sulabh International, New Delhi. It has also been awarded to luminaries like Late Dr. Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, Dr. Julius Nyerere, Former President of Tanzania, Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, Founder President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka, Dr. Gerhard Fischer, Federal Republic of Germany, Baba Amte, Dr. John Hume, Ireland, Mr. Vaclav Havel, former President of Czechoslovakia, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Shri Yohei Sasakawa, Japan. Recent awardees include Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Oman (2019) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (2020), Bangladesh.

The Jury headed by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, after due deliberations on 18th June, 2023 unanimously decided to select Gita Press, Gorakhpur as the recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021, in recognition of its outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.

Established in 1923, Gita Press is one of the world's largest publishers, having published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore Shrimad Bhagvad Gita. The institution has never relied on advertisement in its publications, for revenue generation. Gita Press along with its affiliated organizations, strives for the betterment of life and the well being of all. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recalled the contribution of Gita Press, in promoting the Gandhian ideals of peace and social harmony. He observed that the conferment of Gandhi Peace Prize on Gita Press, on completion of hundred years of its establishment, is a recognition of the work done by the institution in community service. Gandhi Peace Prize 2021, recognizes the important and unparalleled contribution of Gita Press, in contributing to collective upliftment of humanity, which personifies Gandhian living in true sense.