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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,OCT12,2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh approves 111 new members of IIPA including 9 newly recruited IAS officers serving as Assistant Secretaries at the centre

The Minister presides over the 321st meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA as its Chairman

The members of the IIPA executive council must brainstorm and visualize a larger role of IIPA in near future by exploring the possibility of private sector participation in capacity building: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, who is also National Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), today approved 111 new members of IIPA including 9 newly recruited IAS officers serving as Assistant Secretaries at the centre. Among the new members, the youngest K Karthik serving as Asst Secretary in Defence Ministry is 26 years old, while the oldest Mr Suresh Kumar retired IAS is 77-year-old.

While presiding over the 321st meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA, Dr Jitendra Singh expressed satisfaction that over 500 members were enrolled since November, 2021, when he decided to throw open the IIPA membership to the serving officers, which was earlier reserved for only retired officers. The Minister felt happy that apart from wide range of age, the fresh membership is also coming from Allied and Defence Services and Academic and Professional fields. He urged the regional branches of IIPA to speed up the membership drive to bring quality manpower to IIPA fraternity.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged the members of the executive council to do a brainstorming to visualize a larger role of IIPA in near future and also to explore the participation of private sector in capacity building. The Minister said that the institute has to have a futuristic vision for the next 25 years to attain the goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and, to achieve this, the institute needs to have an integrated approach to work in cohesion with similar departments/organizations/set-ups and entities with similar scope and focus, related to training, administrative expertise. Earlier, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the new Conference Hall of IIPA “Sambhav” and held the 321st meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA in the same hall. He also

lauded the role of DG, IIPA and its management for adding two more Conference-Cum lecture hall during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021.





Dr Jitendra Singh also approved the prestigious Paul H Appleby Award for distinguished services to IIPA and to the field of Public Administration to ex-IAS officers Shri V. Balasubramanian, Dr Arun Kumar Rath and the third to Prof D Ravindra Prasad. The Minister was apprised of the action taken on the minutes of the 320th Meeting of the EC held on 5th July, 2022. The IIPA's Executive Council has the Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar as its President and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, as Chairman.

The meeting was attended by members of IIPA's Executive Council, including, Shri Shekhar Dutt, former Governor, Chhattisgarh, Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala, Director, LBSNAA, Shri G P Prasain, Shri G R Kurup, Shri Arun Kumar Rath, Shri S.S. Kshatriya, Shri K.K Pandey, Prof N. Lokendra Singh along with Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Member-Secretary, EC and Shri Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA. Several regional branches also attended the meeting virtually.

PIB, OCT 13, 2022

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has the potential to save over Rs. 10 Lakh Crore annually by improving logistics efficiency: Shri Piyush Goyal

GatiShakti is increasingly being used in the social sector for better infrastructure planning; National Master Plan to take fruits of technology to every single citizen: Shri Piyush Goyal

PM GatiShakti NMP would find a place in history as a powerful intervention that spurred rapid growth and development in the country: Shri Piyush Goyal

PM GatiShakti to help bring in balanced, equitable, inclusive development in the country; NMP to help remotest areas undertake integrated infrastructure planning and close development gaps: Shri Piyush Goyal. Through PM GatiShakti National 197 critical infrastructure gap projects identified. Commerce Minister launches the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2022 survey report

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has said that PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has the potential to save over Rs. 10 Lakh Crore annually by improving logistics efficiency. He was addressing the National Workshop on PM GatiShakti held to mark the first anniversary of the roll

out of the National Master Plan, in New Delhi today. The workshop focussed on the progress and achievements made by PM GatiShakti till date and the way forward. Shri Goyal said that PM GatiShakti is increasingly being used in the social sector for better infrastructure development, thereby, taking fruits of technology to every citizen of the country and improving ease of life for the common man. The Minister said that PM GatiShakti would define India's future in the years to come. Quoting the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, he said that PM GatiShakti National Master Plan would lend both 'Gati' and 'Shakti' to India's efforts in Infrastructure development. The National Master Plan will transform the way we work and the outcomes of our work and will drive economic development, Shri Goyal said. He observed that the entire nation has come together, transcending political differences to use PM GatiShakti to the best possible extent. The Minister expressed confidence that PM GatiShakti NMP would find a place in history as a powerful intervention that spurred rapid growth and development in the country. We look upon PM GatiShakti as a service to the nation and society, he said.

Shri Goyal opined that the anniversary celebrations must be used as an opportunity to visualize and conceive plans for the future. He asked all stakeholders to envision out of box ways to utilize PM GatiShakti for better, more economical and time bound infrastructure planning.

The Minister expressed confidence that PM GatiShakti would help bring in balanced, inclusive, equitable development in the country by helping remote areas, especially those in the North East undertake integrated infrastructure planning and close development gaps. The Minister referred to the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) scheme launched yesterday and said that by dovetailing PM GatiShakti into the scheme would help utilize resources much more efficiently. Shri Goyal said that the whole of the government was working in tandem to ensure the best possible use of PM GatiShakti. He added that industry, business and social sector had welcomed PM Gati with open arms. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched PM GatiShakti on 13.10.21 for integrated planning of infrastructure and synchronized project implementation across all concerned Central Ministries, Departments and State Governments.

PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for integrated and holistic planning across concerned Ministries/Departments to improve multimodal connectivity, and logistics efficiency and address critical gaps for the seamless movement of people, and goods, with a focus on minimizing disruptions and ensuring timely completion of works.

It provides for an integrated platform, the National Master Plan, where all the economic zones and their multimodal connectivity infrastructure are depicted, along with physical linkages to promote a comprehensive and integrated multimodal national network of transportation and logistics to create efficiency gains and avenues for further developments, value addition and creating employment opportunities. It may be noted that in the last 8 years, Capital Expenditure has seen over 4 times increase from 1.75 lac crores in 2014 to 7.5 lac crores in 2022. The development of 7.582 kms new roads, 2500 kms of new petroleum & gas pipelines, 29,040 circuits kms, and 200 million tonnes of cargo being handled by India's railway network have been constructed adopting PM GatiShakti's approach. Through the mechanism of PM National Master Plan 197 critical infrastructure gap projects have been identified and examined in sectors namely, the Ministry of Steel, Coal, Fertilizer as well as Food and Public Distribution under PM GatiShakti to improve logistics efficiency. Over 1300 inter-ministerial issues were resolved in the 11 months through the PMG Portal integrated with the National Master Plan. The Minister also launched the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2022 survey report. The LEADS is an indigenous data-driven index to assess logistics infrastructure, services, and human resources across all 36 States and UTs. By engaging with various end-user stakeholders, the LEADS acts as a feedback mechanism on the existing logistic capacities and draws recommendations for further improvement. The LEADS further uses the feedback evaluation to classify states on the scale of logistics ease currently present among them.

The LEADS 2022 has garnered more than 6500 responses from more than 2100 respondents across the country. Unlike the previous versions of LEADS which were based on ranking systems for all states, LEADS 2022 has adopted a classification-based grading, states have been now classified under four categories viz coastal states, hinterland/landlocked states, north-eastern states, and Union Territories. For the assessment of how well a State or UT has performed in comparison to the Top State/UT within the specific cluster. Three performance categories namely, Achievers: States/UTs achieving 90% or more percentage, Fast Movers: States/UTs achieving percentage scores between 80% to 90%, and Aspirers: States/UTs achieving percentage scores below 80% have been made. The LEADS 2022 survey report would assist PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and National Logistics Policy (NLP) to perform a network mapping of logistics infrastructure, services, and regulatory environment enabling State Governments to identify and fill the gaps and achieve data-driven multimodal connectivity. LEADS continues to act as a guiding & bridging mechanism for the identification of interventions enhancing logistics efficiency at State/UTs.

PIB, OCT13, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, 'Purple Revolution' originating from Jammu & Kashmir offers attractive avenues and those who have entered the lavender sector are making a fortune out of it. What is required is a wider publicity and awareness about these new opportunities. Areas which will ensure sustainability of agriculture are genetic innovations for climate-resilient agri-food systems, pest management innovations, biodiversity conservation, carbon neutrality and reducing use of fossil fuels in agriculture

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that the 'Purple Revolution' originating from Jammu & Kashmir offers attractive StartUp avenues and those who have entered the lavender sector are making a fortune out of it, but what is required is a wider publicity and awareness about these new opportunities of livelihood rolled out in recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The pace of innovation in India has assumed global scale, but the change of mindset also needs to be encouraged at the same pace, he said.

Addressing a Conference on "Sustainable Agricultural Innovations for Resilient Agri-Food Systems" at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) here, Dr Jitendra Singh enumerated a series of pro-agriculture reforms introduced by the Modi government and said several pathbreaking decisions like new guidelines for geospatial technology and relaxation in the regulations for developing Drone are also enabling provisions for today's agriculture entrepreneurs and agri-startups. The Minister also noted that this government had brought in an amendment in the hundred-year-old Indian Forest Act which was enacted by the British government and following this amendment, the home-grown Bamboo has been exempted from the Forest Act so that the youth could use the versatile properties of Bamboo for agriculture entrepreneurship as well as in other sectors. He said, even in our immediate neighbourhood there are huge reserves of bamboo in districts like Kathua and Reasi but these were never adequately explored.

Referring to the theme of the Conference i.e. "Sustainable Agricultural Innovations for Resilient Agri-Food Systems" Dr Jitendra Singh said sustainable innovations are the prerequisites for sustainable StartUps and sustainable means of livelihood. To achieve this, he emphasised the importance of linking with industry right from the beginning and making industry an equal stakeholder so that the research projects are determined by the requirements of the industry.

In the next 25 years of Amriti Kal, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Jammu & Kashmir and several hill territories as well as the Himalayan States are going to make a significant value addition to build India's future economy because these are the territories whose resources have remained under-utilised in the past. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi giving a focussed attention to these areas, they are going to play a pivotal role in placing India on the world pedestal by 2047, he said. Dwelling on the theme of the conference, Dr Jitendra Singh said, agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end economic constraints, boost shared prosperity and feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050. He said, healthy, sustainable and inclusive food systems are critical to achieve the world's development goals. The Minister, however, emphasised the need to address the climate related issues to avoid their adverse effect on agriculture sector.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, agriculture, forestry, and land use change are responsible for about 25% of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation in the agriculture sector is part of the solution to climate change. He said, the world faces a dilemma, whether to stay with those innovations that were successful in yields but risk catastrophic climate change, endangering those yields or to continue with innovations in agricultural technology so that we don't suffer those risks from climate change.

Dr Jitendra Singh also gave example of the Green Revolution, where the yield really did go up and that is a benefit but second those benefits came with serious downside and in some cases economic development was very uneven and people ended up worse off than they were before. In other cases, we had serious agricultural pollution from the agro-chemicals and pests become resistant to pesticides which risks continuing those high yields, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the areas which will ensure sustainability of agriculture are genetic innovations for climate-resilient agri-food systems, pest management innovations, biodiversity conservation, carbon neutrality and reducing use of fossil fuels in agriculture. He said, the agricultural innovations to enhance food security and productivity in a sustainable manner, climate resilient food solutions, restoration of natural resources, future of farming, agricultural sensors, farming drones, and public health and food safety are important issues concerning the agriculture world over including India. Dr Jitendra Singh said, policy makers and agricultural scientists in India are working hard on improving livelihoods and creating more and better jobs, including for women and youth, improving food security for all, including access to safe and nutritious food and making agriculture and food more sustainable and more climate-smart, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In his concluding remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Agriculture has changed dramatically in the 20th Century as food and fibre productivity has soared due to new technologies, mechanisation, increased chemical use, specialisation, and government policies that favoured

maximising production and reducing food prices. But, the challenges of 21st Century ranging from climate changes to pest attacks and conflicts could pose a threat. The Minister said, "I am convinced that agricultural scientists are capable enough to help India lead the way".

HINDUSTAN TIMES,OCT16,2022

'That's really not me': Jaishankar on being 'assertive' about India's foreign policies

Jaishankar said he does not think he is being assertive at the global stage but as a country, he said, it is important to be clear in the projection of its interests, to be articulate and explaining why it is doing what it is doing.

Poulomi Ghosh

As external affairs minister S Jaishankar interacted with the Indian community in Cairo on Saturday, he was asked about his assertive stance in upholding India's foreign policy positions. Replying to this, he said he doesn't think he is being assertive, but it's because of the situation. Jaishankar has been at the forefront to explain India's decision of buying cheaper oil from Russia amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war while standing against the violence. Also Read | India, Egypt to now explore opportunities in renewable energy, trade: Jaishankar.

"I don't think I am being assertive. What often happens, to be very honest with you, is you end up in situations where others try to pressurise you or push you, in a sense, leaving you with no choice but to express your view with a certain degree of forcefulness. I still believe that at the end of the day it's important to explain yourself...at times there is a lack of fairness in which your position is portrayed. I don't think we should let that pass. We are not doing justice to ourselves if we do that," the minister said. Also Read | 'Dictatorship preferred': Jaishankar's recent remarks that drew wide attention.

"So I know sometimes it ends up in a certain way. That's really not me. It's the context you can say. But as a country, it is important for us to be clear in the projection of our interests, to be articulate and explaining why we are taking the position what we are doing," Jaishankar said. Also Read | 'Not easy when you are most powerful country': Jaishankar on India-US ties

On NAM

On being asked about his opinion on the Non-Aligned Movement at the present time, Jaishankar said, "It was a group which started in a very different era. It had a context. Today, without any way diminishing it, I would say it's necessary for independent-minded countries to actually speak their mind, to seek to shape and influence the direction in which the world is going. Because the world today is very polarised."

"It's a double polarisation. It's an east-west polarisation, but also a north-south polarisation. You know the richer, more developed countries are not fully grasping how much the poorer countries are being hurt by what is happening in the world. It's a very stressful, unhappy world. The countries are struggling and in this, those who have the confidence, experience and capability to speak out, it's important that they don't go with the tide, so to speak. Voices of sobriety, sanity and reason are needed at this point of time. Certainly, I see India has such a voice and there are other countries with a similar bent of mind," Jaishankar said.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC TIMES,OCT10,2022

UAE expects trade with India to cross USD 100 bn in 2-3 years

The UAE expects trade with India to cross USD 100 billion-mark over the next 2-3 years, boosted by the comprehensive economic partnership agreement. The Indo-UAE trade stood at USD 73 billion in FY22, which got a major fillip since the two nations signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) on May 1, 2022. Between FY21 and FY22, the overall trade rose 68 per cent to USD 73 billion, after declining for two years. But the trend has reversed since the signing of CEPA. The bilateral trade has increased markedly with total value of non-oil trade at USD 29.5 billion in first six months of 2022, growing 22 per cent over the same period in 2021. Non-oil exports too rose 31 per cent with total value reaching USD 2.7 billion between May and June, junior foreign trade minister of the UAE, Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, told the Indo-UAE economic forum organized by industry lobby CII here.

Though we've set a five-year deadline to take the UAE-India bilateral trade to USD 100 billion from what it is now, going by the way trade has been growing since the signing of the CEPA, I am confident that we'll achieve the target much earlier, say over the next two-three years," Zeyoudi told PTI later during an interaction. The minister said trade is still dominated by oil, which constitutes 62 per cent of the overall trade value and only 38 per cent are non-oil trade now. But he expressed hope that CEPA will change this over the years. The minister also said while non-oil trade balance is still in favour of India by a whisker, overall India has a trade deficit of USD 17 billion in FY22, led vastly by large oil imports. During the first half of 2022, bilateral non-oil trade grew 22 per cent to USD 29.5 billion, the minister said. The UAE minister also said, his country's cumulative investments in India is over USD 20 billion, of which USD 14.4 billion are FDI, making the UAE the eighth largest FDI source for India. In April-June this year, FDI flows into the country from the UAE stood at USD 2.14 billion. Zeyoudi also said his country is open to invest in the now-stalled West Coast Refinery if India revives the 60-million tonne refinery involving over Rs 3 lakh crore investment.

Addressing another session at the same forum, joint secretary in the commerce ministry Srikar Reddy said, since the CEPA, overall exports from the country to the UAE rose 16 per cent to USD 10.46 billion from USD 9 billion between May and August, which is commendable given the decline in overall global trade during the period. Reddy also said exports under the

CEPA have been outpacing the country's overall exports by 5:1. On the other hand, non-oil exports to the UAE grew 14 per cent. Reddy said non-oil trade is still dominated by gems & jewellery which constitutes around a third of the total trade, which has grown by 33 per cent to USD 1.4 billion. Companies from the UAE that have invested in India are Mubadala, DP World, Sharaf Group, Lulu Group, Emaar Properties, RAK Ceramics. Companies from India that have invested in the UAE are ONGC & PetroResources, Tata Motors, Larsen & Turbo Middle East, Oberoi Group, Zuari Agro Chemicals, Essar Steel Manufacturing Company.

PIB, OCT 11, 2022

PM lays foundation stone and dedicates to the nation, various healthcare facilities around Rs. 1275 crore in Civil Hospital Asarwa, Ahmedabad

“If the heart and intention of the government is not filled with concern for the people’s problems, then the creation of suitable health infrastructure is not possible” “In Gujarat, the work and achievements are so much that it becomes difficult to even count them at times”. “Today Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas Government is working tirelessly for Gujarat” “When the government is sensitive, then it is the society that reaps the biggest benefit including the weaker sections and the mothers and sisters of the society” The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones and dedicated to the nation, various healthcare facilities around Rs. 1275 crore in Civil Hospital Asarwa, Ahmedabad.

After arriving at the venue, the Prime Minister took a walkthrough of the Health Infrastructure Projects. This was followed by the Prime Minister’s arrival on the dais where he was felicitated. The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque and dedicated to the nation: (i) Institute of Kidney Diseases Research Centre (IKDRC) in Manjushree Mill Campus (ii) Hospital Building 1C of Gujarat Cancer Research Institute at Civil Hospital Campus, Asarwa (iii) Hostel at UN Mehta Hospital (iv) Expansion of Gujarat Dialysis Programme with One State One Dialysis (v) Chemo Programme for Gujarat State. This was followed by the Prime Minister laying the foundation stone of (i) New Medical College, Godhra (ii) New Super Speciality Hospital of GMERS Medical College, Sola (iii) Medical Girls College at Civil Hospital, Asarwa (iv) Ren basera Civil Hospital, Asarwa (v) 125 bed District Hospital, Bhiloda (vi) 100-bed sub-district hospital, Anjar. The Prime Minister interacted with patients in CHCs in Morva Hadaf, GMLRS Junagadh and CHC Waghai.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that it is a huge day for health in Gujarat and congratulated everyone associated with these projects for completing them on time. Shri Modi remarked that the most advanced medical technology of the world, improved benefits and medical infrastructure will be made available to the public of Gujarat thereby benefiting the society. With the availability of these medical benefits, the Prime Minister informed that those who cannot afford private hospitals can now head to these government-run hospitals where medical teams will be deployed to serve with urgency. The Prime Minister recalled that approximately three and a half years ago, he got the opportunity to inaugurate a maternal and child health super speciality hospital with a 1200 bed facility.

The Prime Minister noted that the capacity and services of the Institute of Kidney Diseases and U N Mehta Institute of Cardiology are also being expanded. Facilities like upgraded bone marrow transplants are also starting with the new building of Gujarat Cancer Research Institute. “This will be the first government hospital in the country where state-of-the-art technology like Cyber-Knife will be available”, he said. The Prime Minister said that Gujarat is rapidly scaling new heights of development. He pointed out, then the pace of development is like that of Gujarat, the work and achievements are so much that it becomes difficult to even count them at times.

Dwelling upon the ills of the system in Gujarat 20-25 years ago the Prime Minister listed the diseases of backwardness of the health sector, mismanaged education, scarcity of electricity, misadministration and law and order issues. At the top of this was the biggest ill, that is, vote bank politics. He said today Gujarat is moving ahead, leaving behind all those diseases. Today, when it comes to hi-tech hospitals, Gujarat stands at the top. When it comes to educational institutions, Gujarat has no match today. Gujarat is moving ahead and scaling new trajectories of growth, he added. Similarly, water, electricity and law and order situation in Gujarat has improved tremendously. Shri Modi said, “Today Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas Government is working tirelessly for Gujarat.”

The Prime Minister said that Health Infrastructure Projects that were unveiled today have given a new identity to Gujarat and these projects are the symbols of the capabilities of the people of Gujarat. He also noted that along with good health facilities, the people of Gujarat will also feel a sense of pride that the world's top medical facilities are now witnessing continuous growth in our own state. This will also contribute to the medical tourism potential of Gujarat.

The Prime Minister stressed that intention and policies both need to align for good health infrastructure. “If the heart and intention of the government are not filled with concern for the people’s problems, then the creation of suitable health infrastructure is not possible”, he said. The Prime Minister pointed out that when efforts are made wholeheartedly with a holistic approach, their results are equally multifaceted. “This is the success mantra of Gujarat”, he said.

Taking the analogy of medical science further, the Prime Minister said that he, as Chief Minister, applied ‘surgery’ i.e. weeding out old irrelevant systems with intention and force. Second ‘medicine’ i.e. ever-new innovation for strengthening the system, third ‘Care’ i.e. working with sensitivity for the development of the health system. He informed Gujarat was the first state who took care of animals also. He said given the nature of diseases and pandemics, One Earth One Health Mission needs to be strengthened. The Prime Minister pointed out that the government acted with care. “We went among the people, shared their plight”, he added. Reflecting on the efforts that were made by connecting people together through public participation, the Prime Minister said that when the system became healthy, the health sector of Gujarat also became healthy and Gujarat was being used as an example in the country.

The Prime Minister reiterated that he applied the learnings from Gujarat to the Central Government. He informed that in the last 8 years, the Central Government has presented 22 new AIIMS in different parts of the country and Gujarat has also benefited from this. “Gujarat got its first AIIMS in Rajkot”, Shri Modi added. Reflecting on the work done in the health sector in Gujarat, the Prime Minister pointed out the day will not be far when Gujarat will excel in medical research, biotech research, and pharma research and make a name for itself on the global level.

The Prime Minister noted that when the government is sensitive, then it is the society that reaps the biggest benefit including the weaker sections, as well as mothers and sisters. Recalling the time when infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate were of grave concern to the state and the previous governments had blamed destiny for such unfortunate incidents, the Prime Minister interjected that it was our government that took a stand for our mothers and children. “In the last twenty years”, Shri Modi added, “we drafted the required policies and put them into application that resulted in a drastic decline of the mortality rates.” Throwing light on ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan’, the Prime Minister remarked that the number of girls being born has now surpassed the number of newborn boys. The Prime Minister attributed such successes to the policies of the Gujarat government such as ‘Chiranjeevi’ and ‘Khilkhilaahat’. Shri Modi further added that Gujarat’s success and efforts are showing the way to central government missions like ‘Indradhanush’ and ‘Matru Vandana’.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister pointed out schemes like Ayushman Bharat for the treatment of the poor and needy. Elaborating on the strength of the double-engine government, the Prime Minister said that the combination of Ayushman Bharat and Mukhya Mantri Amritam Yojna is serving the health needs of the poor in the state of Gujarat. “Health and Education are the only two sectors that decide the direction of the future, not just the present.” Giving the example of a civil hospital with 1200 bed facility in 2019, the Prime Minister said that the same hospital emerged as the largest health centre and served the people during the Covid-19 pandemic that hit the world a year later. “That single health infrastructure saved the lives of thousands of patients during the pandemic”, he added. The Prime Minister concluded by stressing the need to improve the present conditions as well as work for the future. “I wish that you and your families stay free from any diseases”, Shri Modi said. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Members of Parliament, Shri C R Patil, Shri Narhari Amin, Shri Kiritbhai Solanki and Shri Hasmukhbhai Patel were those present on occasion among others.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones and dedicated to the nation, various healthcare facilities around Rs. 1275 crore in Civil Hospital Asarwa, Ahmedabad. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of shelter homes to accommodate families of poor patients. The Prime Minister dedicated new and improved facilities for cardiac care and a new hostel building at U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, a new hospital building of the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre, and a new building of Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute.

PIB, OCT 12, 2022

Cabinet approves new Scheme “Prime Minister’s Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) for the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved a new Scheme, Prime Minister’s Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) for the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26. The new Scheme, PM-DevINE, is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding and will be implemented by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

The PM-DevINE Scheme will have an outlay of Rs.6,600 crore for the four year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of 15th Finance Commission period).Efforts will be made to complete the PM-DevINE projects by 2025-26 so that there are no committed liabilities beyond this year. This implies front-loading of the sanctions under the Scheme in 2022-23 and 2023-24 primarily. While expenditure would continue to be incurred during 2024-25 and 2025-26, focused attention will be given to complete the sanctioned PM-DevINE projects.PM-DevINE will lead to creation of infrastructure, support industries, social development projects and create livelihood activities for youth and women, thus leading to employment generation.PM-DevINE will be implemented by Ministry of DoNER through North Eastern Council or Central Ministries/agencies. Measures would be taken to ensure adequate operation and maintenance of the projects sanctioned under PM-DevINE so that they are sustainable. To limit construction risks of time and cost overrun, falling on the Government projects would be implemented on Engineering-procurement-Construction (EPC) basis, to the extent possible.

The objectives of PM-DevINE are to:

- (a) Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti;
- (b) Support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER;
- (c) Enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
- (d) Fill the development gaps in various sectors.

There are other MDoNER Schemes for the development of North Eastern Region. The average size of projects under other MDoNER Schemes is about Rs.12 crore only. PM-DevINE will provide support to infrastructure and social development projects which may be larger in size and will also provide an end-to-end development solution instead of isolated projects. It will be ensured that there is no duplication of project support under PM-DevINE with any of the other schemes of MDoNER or those of any other Ministry/Department.PM-DevINE, was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 to address development gaps in the North Eastern Region (NER). Announcement of PM-DevINE is yet another instance of the importance being attached to the development of NE Region by the Government.

PM-DevINE is an additionality to the quantum of resources available for the development of the NER. It will not be a substitute for existing Central and State Schemes. While some of the projects to be approved for 2022-23 under PM-DevINE are part of the Budget announcement, projects with substantial socio-economic impact or sustainable livelihood opportunities for the general public (e.g., basic infrastructure in all Primary Health Care Centres, comprehensive facilities in Government Primary and Secondary Schools, etc) may be considered in the future.

The justification for announcement of PM-DevINE is that the parameters of NE States in respect of Basic Minimum Services (BMS) are well below the national average and there are critical development gaps as per the BER District Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2021-22 prepared by NITI Aayog, UNDP and MDoNER. The new Scheme, PM-DevINE was announced to address these BMS shortfalls and development gaps.

TRIBUNE,OCT12,2022

FM Nirmala Sitharaman says budget to address growth, inflation concerns

Identifies high energy prices among the biggest problems facing the Indian economy in the near future

Faced with twin challenges of slowing growth rate and high inflation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said her Budget for the next financial year would be 'very carefully structured' to help the economy sustain growth momentum and rein in prices. She identified high energy prices among the biggest problems facing the Indian economy in the near future. "Specifics (of the next budget) may be difficult at this stage because it's a bit too early. But broadly, the growth priorities will be kept absolutely on the top. Even as I speak about the concerns that inflation brings before me. So, inflation concerns will have to be addressed. But then how would you manage growth would be the natural question," Sitharaman said.

Visiting Washington DC to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the finance minister was responding to a question on the next year's budget at a fire-side chat with eminent economist Eshwar Prasad at the prestigious Brookings Institute. She is scheduled to present the annual budget for the fiscal starting April 2023 on February 1. Almost all institutional and private forecasters have cut their projections for India's GDP growth in the current 2022-23 fiscal on tighter monetary policy denting demand and the economy facing headwinds from a global slowdown.

TELEGRAPH,OCT14,2022

Poorer India: Editorial on World Bank data on poverty line

According to a recent estimate, about 80 per cent of the 70 million people who slipped below the poverty line worldwide during the pandemic were from India

Globally, in the year, 2020, extreme poverty levels increased to 9.3 per cent from 8.4 per cent the previous year.

Poverty numbers can be confusing as they depend on the choice of the poverty line and the statistical method of estimation. These may result in differences in the results arrived at. The latest data from the World Bank show that for South Asia as a whole, using the international poverty line of US \$2.15 per head, per day, measured in purchasing power parity, there are 182 million poor people. On employing the poverty line of US \$3.65 for lower-middle-income countries, the poverty count rises to 828 million. Despite these differences, one thing is clear: the pandemic threw a very large number of people — globally — below the poverty line. This means that the incidence of poverty increased significantly. For India, the estimates vary quite a bit, but going by the more conservative estimates, the numbers are very large. According to a recent World Bank estimate, about 80 per cent of the 70 million people who slipped below the poverty line worldwide during the pandemic were from India. With a rise in the headcount measure of poverty in India during the pandemic, it is only reasonable to infer that extreme poverty has gone up too, even though a study by the International Monetary Fund indicated otherwise, at least for India. There is also evidence that suggests that the rate of poverty reduction in India had slowed down during the past decade even before the pandemic hit the world.

Globally, in the year, 2020, extreme poverty levels increased to 9.3 per cent from 8.4 per cent the previous year. The lack of official data on poverty from India has held back getting accurate estimates of global poverty. It is, therefore, important for the Indian government to come up with its own estimates of the increase in poverty due to the pandemic. These estimates would have to be transparent and credible. Once this is done, the urgent policy implication would be to design carefully targeted cash transfers to reach the poor. Public spending must continue to be focused on enhancing long-term growth. To do all these, the Centre needs to mobilise additional tax revenue without hurting the poor or the shrinking middle class. This

would require a lot of political courage, especially with parliamentary elections due two years from now. The lack of data is an indication of the indifference of the government which results in the absence of a well-designed policy to remove poverty.

ECONOMIC TIMES,OCT16,2022

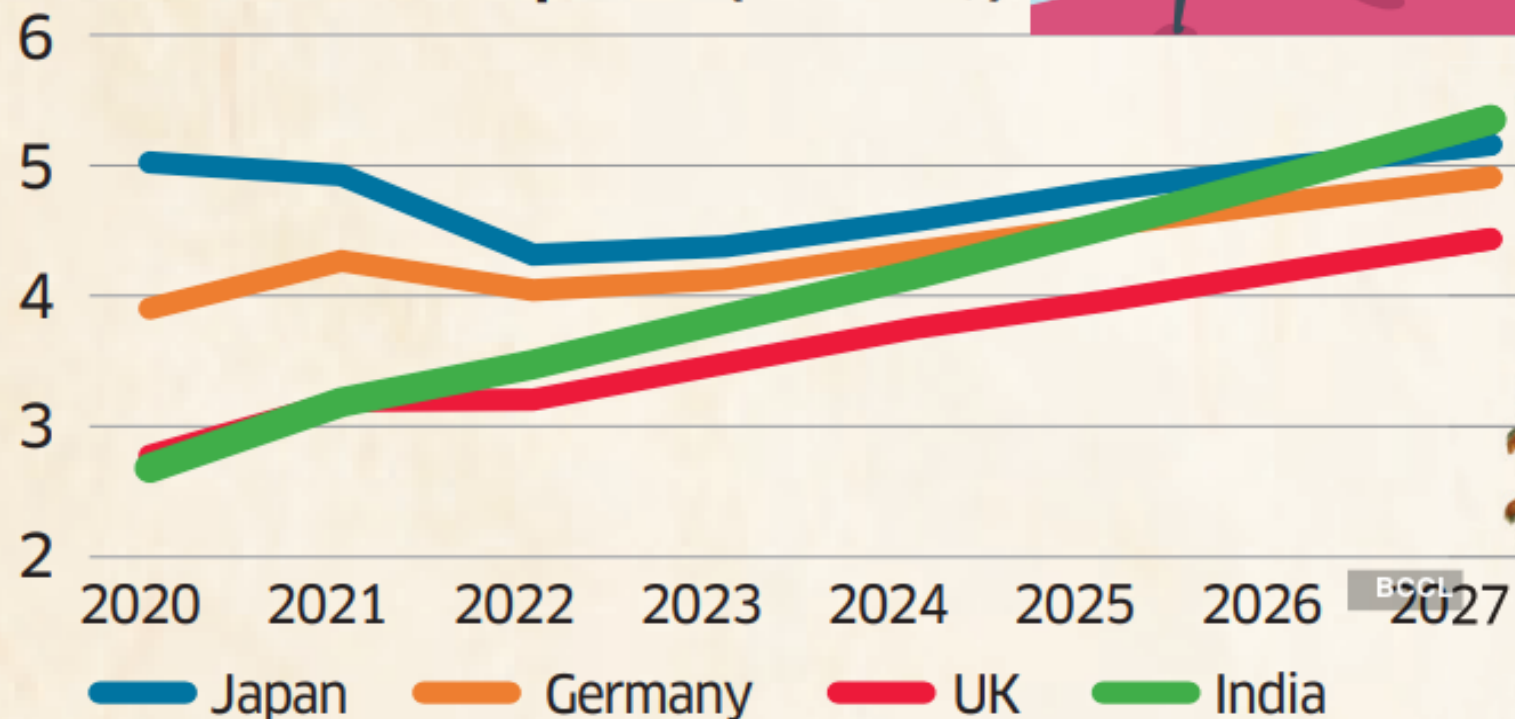
India likely to become third biggest economy behind US and China by FY28

India is likely to become the third-biggest economy behind the US and China by FY28, two years earlier than initially expected, overtaking Germany and Japan, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook database. It also projects India going past the UK this year to become the 5th biggest economy. A look at the projections:

CHART TOPPERS

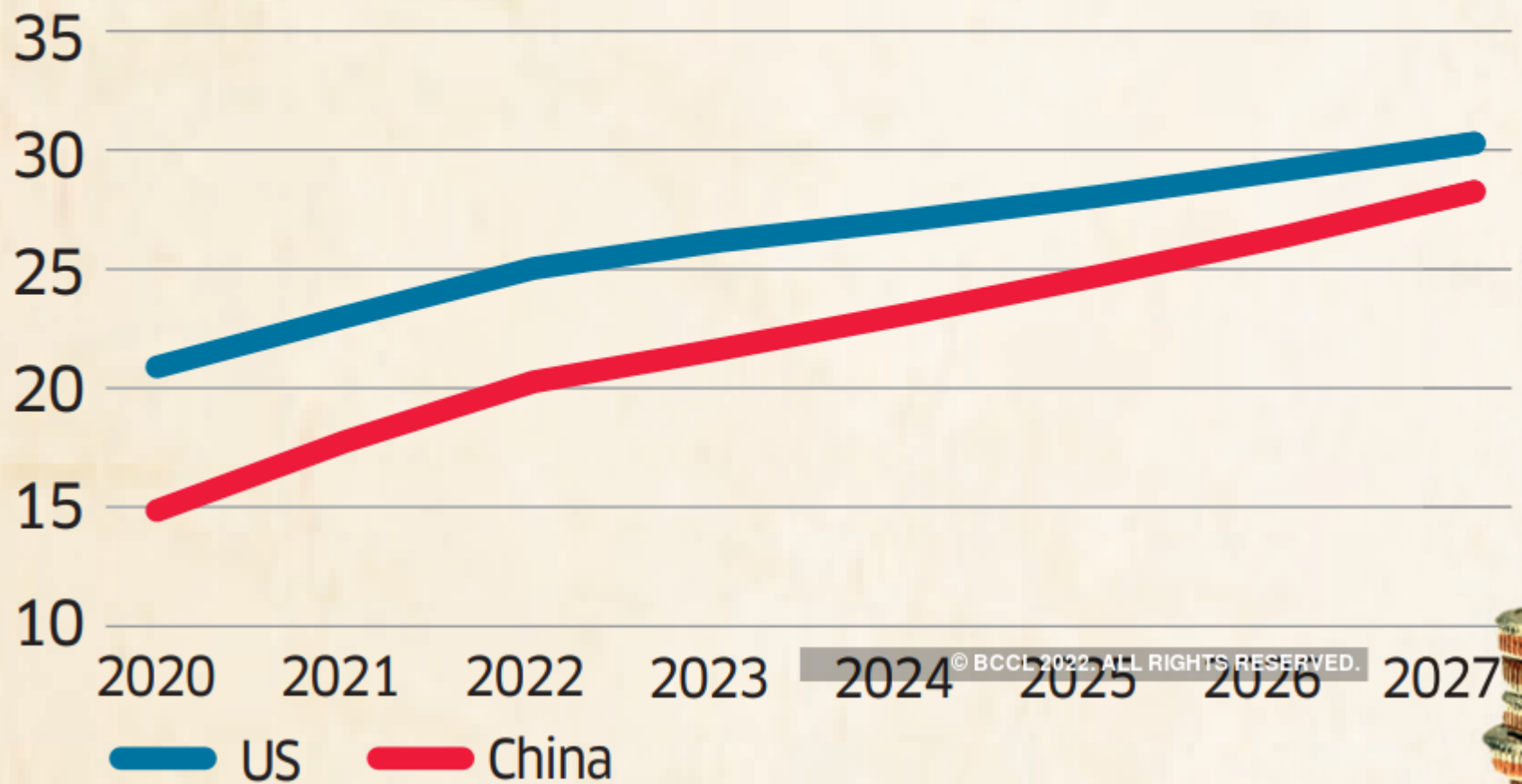
India will overtake UK*, Germany and Japan in the next five years

GDP at current prices (trillion \$)



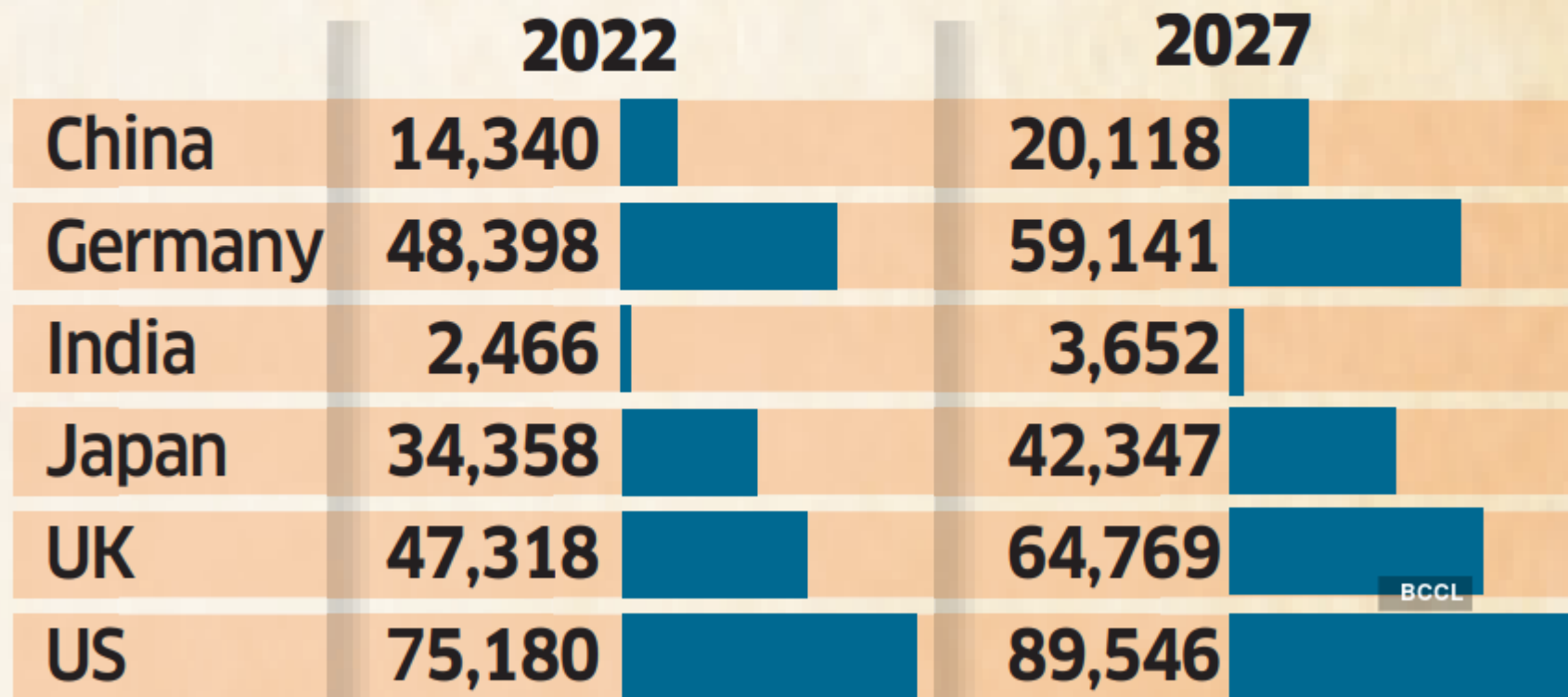
US, CHINA WAY AHEAD

GDP at current prices (trillion \$)



BIG ECONOMY, BUT PER CAPITA NUMBERS LOW

Per capita GDP, in US dollars



India's rapid progress...

Most developed economies hit hard by pandemic and war-triggered inflation

They will grow marginally or even go into recession

India's growth also took a knock but economy expected to expand at good pace

Rupee has depreciated less than many currencies against the dollar

...but not just relative outperformance

India has sound macro fundamentals

Inflation high, but is not skyrocketing Current account deficit high but expected to moderate

Forex reserves down but still at nearly \$550 b Fiscal situation is comfortable

Banks are in a strong position and credit cycle is picking up

*India had overtaken the UK in the Jan-Mar quarter. FY23 will be the first full year when India will go past the UK

ECONOMIC TIMES, OCT 16, 2022

World cannot afford India to follow China's manufacturing model, says Raghuram Rajan

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has batted for a services-led export model for India instead of following China's manufacturing-led one in order to grow faster.

In a lecture on globalisation and climate change, Rajan focused on the positive impact of liberalising services which offers massive potential in reducing inequality. Liberalising trade in services is good for both industrial as well as emerging market economies. Since many of these services are weightless, they have low climate impact benefiting the efforts to mitigate climate change.

"Weightless services also consume little energy on the way to the final consumer, unlike manufactured goods. Export-led services growth will be much less environmentally harmful – the world cannot afford India to follow China's path, even if it were open to it," Rajan said. He said liberalising manufacturing has diminishing returns and is politically fraught.

"One reason industrial countries have soured on open borders is their manufacturing workers have been disproportionately hit by global competition and outsourcing, while service workers have benefited. Both politically and economically, further liberalization of manufacturing has diminishing returns." He explained that services, unlike manufacturing, can be distributed across a country and reduce pressure on megacities that are turning into heat sinks and becoming increasingly unlivable. Such a distribution of services away from large cities will boost rural incomes and provide an alternative in case of loss of agricultural incomes.

"The production of these services can be distributed across a country. In developing countries, this will reduce the burden on the large megacities that are becoming heat sinks and increasingly unlivable. It will also generate a source of income and a reliable stock of human capital to seed rural communities that would otherwise lack the economic capacity to survive the loss of agricultural incomes," Rajan highlighted. This is not the first time that Rajan has spoken about the benefits of a services-led growth model. In the past, he has cautioned against the perils of blindly following a China-led manufacturing growth model. He has quite often said India needs to focus on spending on education and skilling its youth to create jobs which will come from services rather than manufacturing. Rajan has also called for a careful analysis of the benefits of the production-linked incentive scheme (PLI) to boost manufacturing in the country as the benefits accrue to bigger industrial houses rather than the small and medium manufacturers.

Rajan is not the only one to talk about the importance of services-led growth. Noted economic commentator Swaminathan Aiyar, writing for ET, argued for a services-led growth model stating that the future lies in services and not manufacturing. He said that India needs to focus not just on services like IT but education and health that have been grossly underfunded for years. He is of the view that the outsized focus on providing subsidies for manufacturing will undercut the limited resources for human development. The PLI scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Modi government to attract manufacturing to India. Multinational corporations want to diversify their manufacturing base away from China due to strict COVID policies along with rising costs of doing business in the country.

STATESMAN,OCT16,2022

PM Modi to launch 75 digital banking units across 75 districts today

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech for 2022-23 announced the setting up of 75 DBUs in 75 districts of the country to commemorate the 75 years of independence of the country.

With an objective to boost financial inclusion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) today via video conferencing. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech for 2022-23 announced the setting up of 75 DBUs in 75 districts of the country to commemorate the 75 years of independence of the country.

The DBUs are being set up to ensure that the benefits of digital banking reach every nook and corner of the country and cover all states and union territories. Eleven public sector banks, 12 private sector banks, and one small finance bank are participating in the endeavour.

According to Prime Minister's Office (PMO), DBUs will be brick-and-mortar outlets that will provide a variety of digital banking facilities to people such as the opening of savings accounts, balance-check, printing passbooks, transfer of funds, investment in fixed deposits, loan applications, stop-payment instructions for cheques issued, applications for credit and debit cards, tax and bill payment and nominations. The PMO statement said DBUs will enable customers to have cost-effective, convenient access and enhanced digital experience of banking products and services all through the year.

It said they will spread Digital Financial Literacy and special emphasis will be given to customer education on cyber security awareness and safeguards. Also, there shall be adequate digital mechanisms to offer real-time assistance and redress customer grievances arising from business and services offered by the DBUs directly or through business facilitators and correspondents.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,OCT10,2022

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, Indian StartUps will soon launch Space satellites as well as satellite constellations and try their rockets

The Minister addresses the India Space Conclave in Delhi on the occasion of first anniversary of the Indian Space Association, ISpA

Dr Jitendra Singh says, due to Space Reforms, Start-ups working in space sector have grown from 2 to 102 in a couple of years working in cutting-edge areas of space debris management., nano-satellite, launch vehicle, ground systems, research etc A Space Revolution led by ISRO along with the Private Sector and Start-ups is on the horizon: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh said today that Indian StartUps will soon launch Space satellites as well as satellite constellations and try their rockets. The Minister also informed that five PSLVs are being domestically produced by L&T and HAL, while OneWeb is all set to launch their satellites through ISRO and NSIL. Speaking at the India Space Conclave in Delhi on the occasion of first anniversary of the Indian Space Association, ISpA, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the revolutionary and out of box decision of PM Modi to unlock the Space sector for Private Industry in June, 2020 changed the very nature of Space ecosystem of the country. Dr Jitendra Singh said, Space reforms have unleashed the innovative potentials of start-ups and within a short span of time, from a couple of Space Start-ups three -four years back, today we have 102 start-ups working in cutting-edge areas of space debris management., nano-satellite, launch vehicle, ground systems, research etc. The Minister said, with the integration of R&D, Academia and Industry with equal stake, it is safe to say that a Space Revolution led by ISRO along with the Private Sector and Start-ups is on the horizon. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the strength and innovative potential of our young and private industrial enterprise will take a lead in the global space technology disruption in times to come. He expressed hope that India's young technology wizards shall breach new barriers in the field of Space Technology while they set out to address the limitless opportunities offered by the Space Domain. Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that while launching Indian Space

Association (ISpA), a premier industry association of space and satellite companies on 11th October, 2021, Modi said, “Our approach to space reforms is based on four pillars- freedom to the private sector in innovation, the role of the government as an enabler, making youth future-ready and seeing the space sector as a resource for the progress of common man”.

The Minister lauded the role of ISpA for marvellously working in developing and forming global linkages for the growth of the Indian Space Industry in a short span of one year. He said, members of ISpA are continuously striving in undertaking policy advocacy and engaging in the reciprocation of knowledge and vision to make India a flag bearer in the sphere of Space tech domain. Dr Jitendra Singh said, ISpA is acting as a major contributor toward supplementing the Indian Government’s endeavours to make India acquire a leading position in the arena of commercialised space-based excursions. He said, for this, ISpA’s role as a commune to deliberate interactions between the key stakeholders becomes a vital and critical one. The Minister hoped that ISpA keeping the motto of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ high will usher in important technological advancements and investments in the country which will eventually create high-skill job opportunities, while following the government’s approach to Space reforms. Dwelling on the strategic relevance of Space in view of recent global conflicts, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Space, a dual-use technology domain, is emerging as an important multi-faceted enabler that provides unprecedented reach. He added that many nations are today focusing on developing their military space capabilities to ensure its safe, secure, and friendly use along with deterrence capability to deny it to adversaries, when necessary.

Dr Jitendra Singh elaborated that India too has resolved to leverage the strengths of this emerging dimension of warfare and in fact, Indian government is undertaking strong and decisive steps towards ensuring Atma Nirbharta in the Space Sector to ensure our private industrial capability and capacity are effectively energised and channelized to develop cutting-edge solutions which would give India a decisive edge over our others in times to come. Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the constructive role played by ISpA in engaging with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Ministry of Defence and the three services to address their requirements and said that ISpA will play a much deeper role in supporting the capability and capacity-building initiatives of the Government in times to come. The Minister also thanked the Chairman and Director General of ISpA as well as their members for having put up a splendid show by organising this event. The Minister also unveiled a sector report titled “Developing the space ecosystem in India: focussing on inclusive growth” along with Chairman

ISpA, Jayant D Patil, Chairman, ISRO, S. Somnath. In conclusion, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the achievements of ISRO have earned us both Global recognition as well as admiration and it's no less than an honour when ISRO is carving a special place in astronomical space with the World's largest constellation of remote-sensing satellites. The Minister underlined that ISRO will keep making India proud of its achievements.

PIB,OCT12,2022

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh calls on Telangana Governor Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad

Both leaders exchange views about the status of various Central projects launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the State of Telangana; Also discuss modalities to implement Science, Technology and Innovation in the schools, particularly aimed at girl students

Dr Jitendra Singh said, CSIR-India Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) at Hyderabad will open their gates for school students to know their innovations

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh called on Governor Telangana & Lt. Governor Puducherry, Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad and exchanged views about the status of various Central projects launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the State of Telangana. The Minister also discussed the modalities to implement Science, Technology and Innovation in schools, particularly aimed at girl students in the State. Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated her address at the 'Women Scientists Conclave: Self Reliance,' at CSIR-IICT in Hyderabad, where Dr Soundararajan stressed on the need for encouraging more girls to take up research in science. The Minister promised all help from the Ministry of Science and Technology and the CSIR centre for empowering the girl child.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed Dr Soundararajan that only last month, Lucknow's three prominent scientific institutes opened their gates to curious boys and girls as part of the 81st foundation day celebration of the CSIR. The three CSIR labs - National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) and Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic

Plants (CIMAP) introduced students to their innovations. Dr Jitendra Singh said, CSIR-India Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) at Hyderabad will also open their gates for school students to inculcate scientific temperament among them, which the Governor deeply appreciated. Dr Jitendra Singh also discussed the role of Start-Ups in propelling the Indian economy and creating huge job opportunities in Southern States, particularly the leading centres of Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The Minister expressed his desire to replicate the same model in Northern States as well. Dr Jitendra Singh lauded the initiative of Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan to hold ‘praja darbar’ at Raj Bhavan and address the issues of needy persons with the discretionary grant available with the Raj Bhavan. Dr Jitendra Singh, a renowned Diabetologist and Dr Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan, a noted Gynaecologist also exchanged notes on recent advances in medical science and changing profile of the medical profession.

PIB, OCT 14, 2022

Importance of Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for supporting sustainable development goals discussed at UNWGIC

Experts discussed how the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), which provide a basis for developing, integrating, strengthening, and maximizing geospatial information management in all countries, could help supporting sustainable development and the well-being of society as well as overcoming challenges of the global village like flood, earthquake, pandemic, energy, digital security and so on at the 2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC 2022).

Stefan Schweinfest, Director, Statistics Division, United Nations, highlighted the need for participation from the government, private sector, data producer, and data user, as well as social and environmental perspectives from developed and underdeveloped countries for successful implementation of the framework, at a plenary session of UNWGIC. “There are three main components of the IGIF- overarching strategies, implementation guide, and country level action plan, to strengthen geospatial information management to deliver sustainable social, economic and environmental development for a better future,” Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, Chief, Geography Division, US Census Bureau, USA pointed out. “We are more physically

and digitally connected than ever, and there is a need to collaborate for improved geospatial data, innovation, education and communication, and engagement from all countries for implementing IGIF in tackling global challenges, as a major disaster in one country impacts adjacent countries,” she added. Albert Momo, Vice President and Executive Director, Trimble, an industrial technology company, emphasised the role of geospatial technology in digital transformation. “It can alter sensing, modeling, analytics as also the work of geospatial professionals, agriculture planning, heavy civil construction, building design, construction and operation, transportation and logistics, water and wastewater utilities, electricity utilities, field services, and government. Our goal is to enable a sustainable future for better world,” he elaborated.

Sydney Simelane, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Eswatini, underlined the need for availability of geospatial information to implement climate change mitigation and adaption, especially in small countries like Eswatini. “We also need legal frameworks for safeguarding the availability and usage of geospatial information and institutional frameworks to ensure data standards, interoperability, and accessibility. All policies, strategies, and action plans for tackling climate and other environmental changes are in vain without geospatial information because these occurrences take place somewhere,” Sydney pointed out.

During the 2nd UNWGIC, a report on “Indian experience in alignment with IGIF was unveiled by Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh. Based on this experience India is also bidding for the chairmanship of the newly constituted Working Group on IGIF under the UNGGIM-AP (Asia pacific). The five-day conference is being hosted by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and convened by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. With the theme of ‘Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind,’ the Second UNWGIC 2022 reflects on the importance of integrated geospatial information infrastructure and knowledge services to support the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals.

TELEGRAPH, OCT 16, 2022

ISRO's heaviest rocket LVM3 to make commercial debut with launch of 36 satellites on October 23

The launch of 'LVM3 - M2/OneWeb India-1 Mission' is scheduled at 0007 hours IST on October 23 (midnight of October 22). ISRO's heaviest rocket LVM3 will launch British start-up OneWeb's 36 broadband satellites from the spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on October 23, marking the launcher's entry into the global commercial launch service market.

LVM3 was earlier called GSLV Mk III. The launch of 'LVM3 - M2/OneWeb India-1 Mission' is scheduled at 0007 hours IST on October 23 (midnight of October 22), the Bengaluru-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. "Cryo stage, equipment bay (EB) assembly completed. Satellites are encapsulated and assembled in the vehicle. Final vehicle checks are in progress," it said.

Earlier this month, ISRO said that NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a central public sector enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space and the commercial arm of the space agency, had signed two launch service contracts with the UK-based Network Access Associates Limited (OneWeb) for launching OneWeb LEO (low earth orbit) broadband communication satellites on-board ISRO's LVM3. "It is the first LVM3-dedicated commercial launch on demand through NSIL," ISRO had said. "This contract with M/s OneWeb is a historic milestone for NSIL and ISRO, as LVM3, is making its entry into the global commercial launch service market," it had said. The newest rocket is capable of launching a four-tonne class of satellites into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). LVM3 is a three-stage vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons, a liquid propellant core stage and a cryogenic stage. India's Bharti Enterprises is a major investor and shareholder in OneWeb.

PIB, OCT15, 2022

PM Chairs CSIR Society Meeting on 15th October

Prime Minister urges CSIR to develop vision for 2042 when it turns 100 years old

PM urges to develop technologies not only for India but for the world and maintain high standards and benchmarks

PM calls upon the industry, academic and research organizations to work seamlessly with greater integration and focus on addressing India's energy needs and also foster circular economy. PM asks leaders of scientific community to adopt one person

one lab approach.Emphasizes that for technology to reach the common man, an integrated approach of scientific, technological, commercial and social components is critical.Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who is President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) chaired the meeting of CSIR Society at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg earlier today.Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is the Vice President of CSIR and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal were present in the meeting along with other CSIR Society members who include eminent scientists, industrialists and Secretaries of scientific and other ministries in the government.

Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of CSIR in the past 80 years and urged to develop vision for 2042 when CSIR turns 100 years old. He also highlighted the significance of documenting the journey of the past 80 years, which can help take a review of progress achieved and identify areas of lacunae which can be addressed. He emphasized that for technology to reach the common man, an integrated approach of scientific, commercial and social components must be pursued. He asked the leaders of the scientific community to adopt a one person one lab approach to help boost scientific research and development through such a focussed approach. He also suggested that a virtual summit of all labs can be held regularly in which they can learn new things from each other's experience.

Prime Minister called upon scientific community to come up with technological solutions to increase protein content in cereals and new varieties of millets to improve the yield and also the nutritional content. He asked scientists to develop a catalogue of high nutritional value of indigenous food products, which will help enhance their global acceptability. He called upon the industry and academic and research organizations to work seamlessly with greater integration and focus on addressing India's energy needs and also foster circular economy and develop economically viable solutions towards sustainable development.Prime Minister called for India to develop technologies not only for India but for the world and pursue novel approaches for addressing energy needs focussing on Green energy. He highlighted the need to use scientific approach and technology such as AI in various fields ranging from traditional knowledge to mapping students to their interest, skill sets and competencies which will make them better suited to meet the demands of future India and the world as we move towards Vision 2047 with the aim of India being a global leader.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that this year CSIR has completed 80 years just around the time when India celebrated 75 years of independence and the two have traversed the journey together. He emphasised for integration, synergy and desiloization of industry, academia and research.

DG-CSIR, Dr N Kalaiselvi made a presentation on the recent achievements and contribution of CSIR and highlighted the recent efforts on India's first Hydrogen fuel cell bus, ushering in purple revolution in J&K and opening of TKDL library to spur innovation based on India's rich traditional knowledge. The preparedness for future pandemics through mRNA platform technology, nurturing young scientific leaders, and sustainable start-ups and reaching out to the school students through Jigyasa virtual lab were some of the other major initiatives that were highlighted by DG-CSIR. She also presented the road map of CSIR Vision 2030 which is aligned to national ambitions and vision@2047.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,OCT10,2022

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav addresses the Inaugural session of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI

Ease of living is as important as Ease of doing business: Shri Yadav

Union Minister highlights PM's vision that the world shall go towards Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)

Involvement of local communities is most important for environment friendly and responsible tourism

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to extend all support to the Ladakh administration for awareness and training of local stakeholders. Shri Yadav highlights PM's concept of "One sun, One world, One grid" to promote solar energy

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav attended the inaugural session of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI, (SMDS-XI) being held at Leh, Ladakh UT from 10-12 October, 2022.

The theme for SMDS-XI is 'Harnessing tourism for sustainable mountain development'. The main focus of the summit is to reduce the negative impacts of tourism while harnessing its positive contributions to building climate and socio-ecological resilience and sustainability.

In his address, he expressed that visiting Ladakh is always refreshing due to its beautiful landscape and magnificent mountains. Integration of science and policy is to be the core activity of IMI, in light of this, he suggested integration of uniqueness of cultures and environments to become essential part of such summits. He also highlighted the establishment of G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE) and its one Regional Centre at Leh, under MOEFCC which is particularly mandated on research and development activities for sustainability of the Himalayan environment. He emphasized that various unique landscapes of the country like the Himalayas, Western Ghats and Thar desert need special attention of the scientific community. During the event, capacity building of youth was another important aspect that was mentioned so that

it does not focus only on literacy for employment but also on preservation of local culture, environment protection and developing scientific integrity among youth.

R&D organisations under MOEF&CC like GBPNIHE, ZSI, BSI, WII have been conducting research on various pertinent issues like plant genetics for rapid breeding, digitization of Indian flora and fauna and reintroduction of Cheetahs in India for correcting ecological wrong to ecological right. Government has schemes like Skill India and various portals like National Career Service Portal, e-Shram Portal, Udyami and ASEEM portals etc., which are promoting financial literacy and integrated capacity building even for remote areas of the country. National Career Service Portal already has 1 crore applicants with 10 lakh employers which provided 4.28 lakh employment opportunity, largest so far. This portal is being further upgraded.

Shri Yadav stressed that Ease of living is as important as Ease of doing business and MoEF&CC is working on this. During COP-26 at Glasgow, Prime Minister highlighted that world should go towards Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE). The Government is promoting mindful use of resources rather than mindless use of the same. Ideas for such practices are already available in our culture and traditions. People living in harsh Himalayan conditions have all these values and the region is not only popular for tourism but also for cultural harmony. We have many strengths like Buddhist monasteries which are a symbol of peace in this world full of stress, depression, and anxiety.

He emphasized that tourism should be expanded for various aspects keeping in mind environmental fragility, sports, mountaineering, cycling, peace etc. The recent World Forest Conference in US passed a declaration that forests are not only for enjoyment but are an important source of peace. Himalayan forests are promoting peace for centuries. Tourism in the Himalayas should be promoted for nature seekers, pilgrims, and spiritual seekers. Like Ladakh, other states of the Himalayas such as Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya etc. have unique aspects which should be integrated into tourism. Not only environment friendly but responsible tourism is also the need of the hour. Involvement of local communities in the tourism is most important for integrating such initiatives. All our activities should be round the year and our educational institutions should have formats aligned with it. He suggested that for conserving the cultural and local heritage and for protecting Ladakh's resources, it is very important to identify and resolve all pending issues. Responsibility of local tourist guides if

deliberated in the summits shall have long lasting impact. He announced that MoEF&CC has disposed all Wildlife related proposals and applications submitted on Parivesh portal to expedite the development journey of Ladakh. The Parivesh portal is further being redesigned to integrate all environmental clearances in a centralized manner. He assured that MoEF&CC will extend all support to the Ladakh administration for awareness and training of local stakeholder on Forest Rights and other related issues. He stressed that Solar power is a big source of energy, and our Prime Minister has deliberated across the globe to promote solar energy. India has started International Solar Alliance which now has 106 members globally. In Glasgow, Prime Minister highlighted the concept of “One sun, One world, One grid” which was praised by international community. India with United Kingdom had formed Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) on climate change to address the issue of loss and damages due to climate change. The Minister also informed that the work on connecting remote landscapes by building tunnels like Atal Tunnel and ongoing Zoji La Tunnel will reduce carbon emission in the mountain environment. He suggested that the youth should follow the formula of LiFE in true spirit to ensure sustainable future for our country. He expressed confidence about achieving Prime Minister’s vision for “Carbon Neutral Ladakh”. “When every individual thinks of national good, when every nation thinks of global good, that is when sustainable development will become a reality”, the Union Minister quoted the PM in his concluding remarks. The Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) is a flagship annual event of IMI, a civil society-led forum working across the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) that comprises 10 mountain states, two union territories and four hill districts. In addition to the central event, two integral components of the SMDS include the Mountain Legislators’ Meet (MLM) and the Indian Himalayan Youth Summit.

ECONOMIC TIMES, OCT 14, 2022

India's energy future is looking green, report says

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis and Climate Energy Finance estimated that India, the third largest energy-consuming country in the world, will reach 405 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. It's expected to surpass the government's target of producing 50% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by the end of the decade. India's

renewables sector is booming, with the country projected to add 35 to 40 gigawatts of renewable energy annually until 2030, enough to power up to 30 million more homes each year, a report said Thursday.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis and Climate Energy Finance estimated that India, the third largest energy-consuming country in the world, will reach 405 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. It's expected to surpass the government's target of producing 50% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by the end of the decade. The Indian government's own projections estimate the country will produce even more renewable energy - 500 gigawatts - in the same time frame. Currently, fossil fuels account for 59% of India's installed energy capacity, but are expected to make up just 31.6% of the energy mix by 2030.

"While there were disruptions to India's clean energy journey because of the war in Europe among other reasons, India has big plans," said Vibhuti Garg, co-author of the report and senior energy specialist at IEEFA. "India is energy hungry and this hunger will only increase with our economic and population growth." She added that the low cost of renewables as well as the need for cleaner energy sources to curb climate change have driven the growth of the sector in the country, which is the world's third largest renewable energy market. No other country's energy needs are expected to balloon as much as India's in the coming years, as living standards improve and its 1.3 billion population grows.

The report, which analyzed data from various green energy corporations and publicly funded energy companies, also found that 151 gigawatts of renewable energy will be added by private clean energy companies alone. Adani Green Energy, a private company, will account for the largest single addition, going from 5.8 gigawatts to 45 gigawatts of renewable energy production. Although the country has made significant strides in clean energy, experts say there is still room for improvement. India's "ambitious renewable energy policies" haven't yet halted the country's coal pipeline, said Nandini Das, a climate and energy economist at the Berlin-based think tank, Climate Analytics.

She added that there should be a "scheduled retirement plan of the existing coal capacities to give a clear signal that we are moving towards clean energy" and the current subsidies for fossil fuels in India should be reformed. But shutting down coal and moving towards greener energy needs financing. Recent estimates say India will require around \$223 billion of investment

to meet its 2030 energy goals. Long-time observers of India's clean energy transition point out rooftop solar energy is also lacking: the country has just 7.5 gigawatts of rooftop solar installed of a planned 40 gigawatts by the end of the year. "The challenge is that different states have different rooftop solar policies. We don't have a holistic national policy for this segment," said Aditya Lolla of the London-based environmental think tank, Ember.

Lolla added that other renewable energy projects also need to be ramped up. "We really need to increase the build rates. This year we are installing an average of 1.7 gigawatts every month and we need to be hitting 3.7 gigawatts," he said. "We can do many things to ramp up but that is the foremost thing that needs to happen and this needs to happen very soon."

PIB, OCT 15, 2022

CAQM advises implementing agencies to ensure compliance and strict implementation of the directions

CAQM urges all concerned to strictly follow the Statutory Directions. 40 inspection teams/ flying squads to actively inspect, supervise and rigorously monitor enforcement and compliance of air pollution laws and statutory directions. Violations and non-compliances being viewed seriously and gross violations to attract immediate closure

More than 8,580 sites have been inspected by CAQM Flying Squads and closure directions have been issued to 491 gross defaulters. Citizens advised to strictly follow steps highlighted in the Citizen Charter in each stage of the GRAP earnestly in the days to come. Intensifying its actions in the battle against air pollution in Delhi-NCR in the coming days, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has urged all concerned including Industries and Project Proponents of Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites to strictly follow the statutory directions issued by the Commission. Citizens have also been advised to strictly follow steps highlighted in the Citizen Charter in each stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) earnestly in the coming days.

The 40 inspection teams/ flying squads constituted by the Commission are under directions to intensify inspections, supervise and rigorously monitor enforcement and compliance of statutory directions issued by the Commission to ameliorate the air quality of Delhi-NCR. These flying squads will conduct surprise inspections and field level incognito checks at industrial

units, C&D sites, commercial/ residential units, air pollution hotspots, etc. These flying squads will widely cover all parts of the Delhi-NCR to track down violators and report the details to the Commission for stringent actions against them..As on 14.10.2022, more than 8,580 sites were inspected by the CAQM flying squads and closure directions have been issued to 491 defaulters flouting the statutory directions of the Commission, 110 in Delhi; 118 in Haryana (NCR); 211 in Uttar Pradesh (NCR); and 52 in Rajasthan (NCR).

CAQM will make every effort towards strict enforcement of its statutory directions and orders. Violations and non-compliance of the directions issued by the Commission air pollution control rules/ regulations are being viewed very seriously. The Commission in case of gross violations will not only pass closure orders but will also impose Environmental Compensation (EC) and initiate prosecution. CAQM has also advised the State implementing agencies including State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and DPCC to ensure compliance and strict implementation of the directions issued by the Commission.

TRIBUNE,OCT16,2022

Shrinking biodiversity

An alarming wake-up call to halt unsustainable growth

The World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Living Planet Report-2022 has shown a massive 69 per cent decline in wildlife populations across the globe during the 1970-2018 period. This staggering rate of downfall is yet another reaffirmation of the fact that our planet is in the throes of a biodiversity crisis. At the same time, this acute disruption in the ecosystem should serve as a wake-up call to the world for taking a renewed pledge to redouble efforts for arresting the downward spiral and preventing the endangered species from going extinct. It is crucial for the survival of all forms of life on Earth. Undoubtedly, rampant overexploitation of the limited natural resources over the past 50 years by humans — in the name of development — is the main driver of this humongous loss.

In India, the report points out, 137 km of the Sundarbans mangrove forest have been eroded since 1985, which has resulted in a reduction in the benefits provided by the ecosystem to 10 million residents of the area. Also, the country's rivers have

been counted among 73 per cent of the over 1,000-km-long rivers of the globe that are no longer free-flowing and, thus, raise the risk of migration of fish. Equally worrisome is the decreasing population of honeybees and 17 species of freshwater turtles in India.

It is clear that the nations have failed to make sufficient progress in switching over to a sustainable mode of living designed to halt the catastrophic slide. The relentless strain on the flora and fauna and their habitats in pursuit of short-term goals and polluting industrialisation have pushed the people dependent on agriculture, fishing and forestry to the brink. This has jeopardised the other aim which is crucial to protecting biodiversity: that of reducing carbon emissions so as to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The rising temperature spells doom, with the climate change-induced extreme weather events likely to becoming the dominant cause of biodiversity loss in the coming decades. Policy-makers must step up conservation and restoration efforts to mitigate the crisis before it is too late.

PIONEER,OCT16,2022

Hindukush Himalayas: Missing climate discourse

Medha Bisht

Can South Asian capitals have one voice on issues related to climate diplomacy? Our neighbours would respond otherwise. The primary reason for their response would be India's own climate diplomacy patterns, which has followed a distinct trajectory since 2010. Indeed, some climate watchers would argue that the Indian posturing on climate issues post-COP-21 has changed the pitch of the South Asia voice from a more revolutionary to a more reformist version.

Even though India has reiterated its voice on climate vulnerabilities and its position is close to the position of the Least Developing Countries with regards to climate finance, particularly adaptation needs and preservation and resilience of communities and natural habitats, the Indian policy discourses in the public domain suggest otherwise. This becomes visible as one traces the debate on mitigation and adaptation.

At the international level, India has been a part of the G-77 group, the BASIC group and the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LDMC) group. Except the BASIC group, all South Asian countries are part of these groups. India is also part of discursive space on emerging economies making its presence in the BRICS and the Emerging 7. Further, it has been regularly invited to G-7 summits. While in all these groups, India has strongly reiterated its commitments to the Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Related Capabilities; with regards to climate change and adaptation needs of developing countries, it has also made voluntary commitments to fighting global warming, as a responsible climate leader, opening up space for mitigation reforms.

Significantly, at the domestic level, there has been a clear shift to a distinct Green Industrial Policy, and India is no longer just relying on Clean Development Mechanism and Export of carbon credit. In fact, one sees a bold shift in India's position post-2015 primarily towards mitigation through the green growth debate. This green growth debate, seen in terms of the smart city campaigns, plans to move towards green ammonia and hydrogen, vocabularies being inspired by green innovation ideas and increasing role of state in being potentially more active in environmental regulation.

Further, there has also been a diversification of policy ideas around the green growth debate, where there is optimism that environmental protection and economic growth are compatible, and India can make it possible through domestic reform. Some of the specific policies that India has taken at the domestic level are its commitment to the net zero target by 2070, transition to clean energy by 2030 where the focus on sustainable transport has been identified as one key means, and reducing the emission intensity to GDP by 45 per cent. Meanwhile State Action Plans are being updated, and the race to net zero target campaign is being encouraged.

However, while the goals are optimistic, there is scepticism also. The scepticism comes from the big elephant in the room which is climate finance. Currently, much of the climate finance in India stems from domestic sources. The promise since the Copenhagen Summit which matured in the Paris Summit was to mobilise 100 bn USD by developed countries for climate financing. As per some Indian estimates, only 2.2 billion is the credible estimate. It has been argued that India would need 1

trillion USD of foreign support to reach net zero. As the debate on conditional carbon sequestration is very much dependent on climate finance, much of the green vision stands on slippery ground.

Meanwhile, on their part some South Asian neighbours feel that through these policy articulations India is putting its wrong foot forward as it is diverting attention away from the broader principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. They argue that the western countries should be made accountable to cap their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, not developing countries. In between the desirability and feasibility of these climate goals, a missing discourse on the international climate diplomacy is the Hindukush Himalayas (HKH) region, where climate vulnerability is a looming issue. Scientists claim that a 1.5 degrees Celsius rise is too hot for the glaciers in the Himalayas, which are the sitting time bombs. In fact, it has been repeatedly pointed out by climatologists that in a 1.5 degrees Celsius world, warming will be 0.3 degree Celsius higher in the HKH region.

While the countries are responding to the international climate discourse through domestic responses such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which are conditioned on climate finance, a regional initiative and discourse seems to be missing in substantive terms in the public domain. One way for India to foreground the climate diplomacy at the regional level is to shift the gaze and discourse regarding climate finance to the location of these climate vulnerable countries. The HKH hosts river systems and has also been considered as a pulse of South Asia. More importantly, the region is sustainable to cascading hazards often making the people inhabiting this region vulnerable. While common-sense would demand that the South Asian countries join their hands and heads together in climate proofing this seismically sensitive ecological zone, which is prone to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), landslides, earthquakes, riverine floods, flash floods, etc, partnership on the ground and cross-border ecological cooperation remain a tall order.

For instance, in the past India objected to a 35 million USD proposal financed by UNDP through GCF to mitigate GLOFs in northern Pakistan, claiming the status of the project was a big problem as it was a space of territorial contestation. Further, the fencing along the LoC has also posed some collective action challenges. For instance, forest fires have not only endangered the habitat of wildlife species but have also triggered several landmine explosions in recent years, thus challenging the

effectiveness of booby traps as a defensive weapon. Climate change is conspicuously absent from the Indus Water Treaty, which needs to be updated. The institutional arrangement that exists between India and Pakistan, the Indus Water Treaty also needs to be updated. The stories with the eastern neighbours are also not different. While in comparison to Pakistan, the degree of cooperation is greater and dense, particularly given the agency that civil society actors have, an ecological- integrated approach has been missing in the existing bilateral engagement. A good case in point are the bilateral water treaties which witness implementation challenges and need to be updated when it comes to responding to climate issues, being hazard resilient. Against this backdrop three suggestions are offered, which can help India firm its approach on climate diplomacy.

First, the countries need to adopt a river basin approach, as there are strong upstream and downstream interlinkages in the HKH. These interlinkages identified through a river basin approach will also help identify potential projects for international climate finance. While there has been a focus on structural approaches towards disaster resilience in the past, non-structural measures as a part of adaptation diplomacy needs to be prioritised.

Second, operational issues associated with land and water management, land zoning, flood proofing and retention measures based on nature-based solutions are needed. Last, but not the least, the lens of the global common approach should be highlighted to decenter the geopolitics in the high Himalayas. Given the independence between the socio-ecological systems, one needs to have a minimal understanding of the upstream areas of HKH as global commons. This will not only help the communities and the ecosystem of the HKH, but also help invite climate finance for critical areas which are intrinsic to a more resilient South Asia.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Department of international relations, South Asian University, New Delhi)

CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,OCT10,2022

PM inaugurates Phase 1 of Modi Shaikshanik Sankul in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase 1 of Modi Shaikshanik Sankul, an educational complex for needy students in Ahmedabad, Gujarat today. The project will help provide facilities to students for holistic development.

The Prime Minister cut the ribbon to mark the inauguration of the Bhavan. Shri Modi also lit a lamp on the occasion and took a walkthrough of the Bhavan,

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that he was fortunate to perform darshan and pooja before Maa Modheshwari yesterday. The Prime Minister recalled when General Cariappa narrated an interesting story. He said that wherever General Cariappa went, everybody used to salute him out of respect, but he experienced a different kind of joy and gratification when the people of his village felicitated him during a ceremony. Drawing an analogy to this incident, the Prime Minister thanked one and all for the blessing that his Samaj ushered on his return. The Prime Minister congratulated the members of the Samaj for making this occasion a reality and prioritising education. “It is true that the timeline did not match. But you did not give up the goal and everyone gathered and gave priority to this work”, he added.

Remembering the days when people from his Samaj had meagre opportunities to progress, the Prime Minister remarked, “today we can see people coming forward in their own way in Samaj.” The Prime Minister pointed out that everyone worked together to set up a system of education, and this collective effort is the strength of the Samaj. “The path is right, and in this way, the welfare of the Samaj can be achieved” Shri Modi added, “As a Samaj, it is a matter of great pride that they tackle their problems, overcome humiliation, yet do not come in anyone's way.” The Prime Minister expressed happiness that everyone in the Samaj is united and thinking about its future in Kali Yuga.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to his Samaj and said that he has to clear a debt of the Samaj. He further added that the son of this Samaj may have been the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a long time, and has now become the Prime Minister of the country for the second time, but even in the midst of the responsibilities of his long rule, not a single person from this Samaj came to him with personal work. Shri Modi pointed out the sanskar of the Samaj and saluted them wholeheartedly with respect.

The Prime Minister expressed happiness that more youngsters are focusing on medicine, engineering and other such streams. Laying stress on skill development, the Prime Minister talked about the hardships that may arise during completing the child's education, and advised the parents to prepare them for skill development. He said that skill development empowers them in such a way that they will never have to look back. "When there is skill development, there is skill, then they will never have to look back. The times are changing friends, the power of those who are more skilled than those holding degrees needs a boost", Shri Modi added.

Recalling his interaction with the Prime Minister of Singapore during an official visit to the country, the Prime Minister said that he was persuaded to visit an industrial training institute that was set up by the Prime Minister of Singapore himself. Upon visiting, the Prime Minister remembered its modernity and said that after the formation of this institution, the situation is such that rich people stand in line to get admitted. The Prime Minister added that the Samaj has also been explained its greatness, and now our children can take part in it and feel a sense of pride. Concluding the address, the Prime Minister remarked that labour also has tremendous power, and a large section of our Samaj belongs to the hard-working class. "Be proud of them", he said. The Prime Minister expressed pride that the members have never allowed the Samaj to suffer nor did anything wrong with any other Samaj. "It will be our endeavour, I am sure that the coming generation will progress with great pride", Shri Modi concluded.

Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Members of Parliament, Shri C R Patil and Shri Narhari Amin, Minister of Gujarat Government, Shri Jitubhai Vaghani, and President of Shri Modh Vanik Modi Samaj Hitvardhak Trust, Shri Pravinbhai Chimanlal Modi were those present on the occasion among others.

PIB,OCT10,2022

PM lays the foundation stone and dedicates to nation multiple projects worth over Rs 8000 crore in Amod, Bharuch, Gujarat

“Today, from this land of Gujarat and from the banks of Maa Narmada I pay my respectful homage to respected Mulayam Singh Ji”

“Bharuch has a critical role to play in the development of Gujarat and India”

“It is a result of the double-engine government of Narendra-Bhupendra that strives to bring the tasks to completion at meteoric pace” “Both policy and intention (Niti and Niyat) are needed for realizing the dreams of an enabling environment”

“Indian economy has reached the 5th position from 10th place in 2014”

“Gujarat helped the country a great deal in the war against Corona. Gujarat accounts for 25 per cent share of the country’s pharma export”

“Adivasi community has contributed immensely to the journey of the development”

“Development of Bharuch and Ankleshwar is being carried out along the lines of twin city model of development”

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth over Rs 8000 crore in Amod, Bharuch, Gujarat today. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park at Jambusar, Deep Sea Pipeline Project at Dahej, Phase 1 of Ankleshwar Airport and the development of Multilevel Industrial Sheds at Ankleshwar and Panoli. The Prime Minister also dedicated several projects which will give a boost to the chemicals sector in Gujarat including GACL Plant, Bharuch Underground Drainage and IOCL Dahej Koyali Pipeline.

At the outset, the Prime Minister paid tributes to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. “My relationship with Mulayam Singh Ji has been very special. As Chief Ministers, when we used to meet, there was a feeling of mutual regard and closeness”, he said. Remembering when after becoming the Prime Ministerial candidate, Shri Modi had reached out to leaders of the various

parties, the Prime Minister said that Mulayam Singh Ji's words of blessings and advice are still very important to him. Mulayam Singh Ji maintained his 2013 blessings irrespective of changing times. Shri Modi also recalled Mulayam Singh Ji's blessing in the last session of the last Lok Sabha where the departed leader, without any political differences had predicted the return of Prime Minister Modi in 2019 who as per, Mulayam Singh Ji, is a leader who carries everyone along. "Today, from this land of Gujarat and from the banks of Maa Narmada pay my respectful homage to respected Mulayam Singh Ji. I pray to the almighty to grant strength to his family and admirers to bear this unbearable loss", the Prime Minister added.

Remarking that the Prime Minister has come to Bharuch at the time of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, he said that the soil of this place has given birth to many children of the nation that have taken the name of the country to new heights. He remembered a member of the Constituent Assembly and key comrade of Sardar Patel in the Somnath movement, Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi and Indian music great Pt. Omkarnath Thakur. "Bharuch has a critical role to play in the development of Gujarat and India", Shri Modi added, "Whenever we read the history of India and talk about the future, Bharuch is always discussed with pride." He also noted the emerging cosmopolitan nature of the Bharuch District.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the first Bulk Drug Park has been presented to Bharuch along with multiple projects related to the chemicals sector. "Two major projects related to connectivity have also been initiated today", he added. Shri Modi also informed that the foundation laying stone of Bharuch Airport in Ankleshwar has also been laid so that the people of Bharuch do not have to depend on Baroda or Surat. The Prime Minister also pointed out that Bharuch is a district that has more industry than other small states of the country, and with the new airport project, the region is bound to take the high road in terms of development. "It is a result of the double-engine government of Narendra-Bhupendra that strives to bring the tasks to completion at meteoric pace", Shri Modi added, "This is the new face of Gujarat." Gujarat, in the last two decades, has transformed from a state lagging in every field to a thriving industrial and agricultural state. With busy ports and a developing coastline, the lives of the tribal and fisherman community got transformed. Due to the hard work of the people of Gujarat, the Prime Minister said, in the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a golden age has started for the youth of the state. We should not lose this opportunity by creating an enabling environment free of obstacles, he said. Both policy and intention (Niti and Niyat) are needed for realizing these dreams, he said. He talked about the improved law and order situation in the Bharuch

area. He also remembered how agriculture, health and drinking water situations improved over the years. He recalled how, as Chief Minister, he grappled with one issue at a time and solved them. “Today, children do not know the word, curfew, which was common earlier. Today, our daughters are not only living with dignity and working late but also, leading the lives of the communities”, he said. Similarly, education facilities have come up in Bharuch, giving new opportunities to the youth. Due to long-term planning and leveraging of under-utilized resources, Gujarat has emerged as a manufacturing, industrial and business hub and many world-class facilities have emerged here. The Double-Engine Government has become a great example of double benefits, the Prime Minister pointed out.

The Prime Minister reiterated his call for vocal-for-local. By resorting to local products and shunning imported products, every citizen can contribute to Aatmnirbhar Bharat, he said. He appealed for using locally made things during Diwali as they will help the local businesses and artisans. He said that the Indian economy has reached the fifth position from 10th place in 2014. The feat was made more momentous by the fact that India surpassed its erstwhile colonial masters. For this youth, farmers, workers, small and big businesses, and industrialists deserve credit, he said. He congratulated the people of Bharuch for getting involved in the noble task of saving lives by manufacturing drugs. Pandemic has made the importance of the pharma sector very clear, he said. “Gujarat helped the country a great deal in the war against Corona. Gujarat accounts for 25 per cent share of the country’s pharma export”, the Prime Minister added.

The Prime Minister also recalled the time when some miscreants obstructed the path of development in Bharuch. He said, “When we came to power in 2014 and Gujarat felt the double-engine power of Narendra and Bhupendra, all obstructions were uprooted.” The Prime Minister pointed out the obstructions created by urban naxals during the development of Sardar Sarovar Dam. Pointing out the prevalence of naxalites in the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the Prime Minister heaped praises on the tribal communities of Gujarat who did not let naxals pervade the state of Gujarat and saved the lives of the people of the state. The Prime Minister cautioned against letting urban-naxal get any foothold in the state. He said, without ensuring good education in science and mathematics, it is not possible to get proper advantage of affirmative action and other schemes, due to government efforts. Today, tribal youth are getting pilot training and becoming doctors, scientists and lawyers. The Prime Minister informed that the Adivasi community has

contributed immensely to the journey of the development of the state and the country, and to honour their contribution the government had declared Janjatiya Gaurav Divas dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters on the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda who is revered as by tribal communities across the country.

In concluding the address, the Prime Minister said that the development of Bharuch and Ankleshwar is being carried out along the lines of twin city model of development, like that of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. “People are going to talk about Bharuch and Ankleshwar like they talk about New York and New Jersey”, he concluded. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Chemical and Fertilisers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, and Members of Parliament, Shri C R Patil and Shri Mansukh Vasava were those present on the occasion among others.

Background

In yet another step to make India Aatmanirbhar in the pharmaceutical sector, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park at Jambusar. In 2021-22, bulk drugs accounted for over 60% of total pharmaceutical imports. The project will play a key role in ensuring import substitution and helping make India self-reliant for bulk drugs. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Deep Sea Pipeline Project at Dahej, which will help in the disposal of treated wastewater from industrial estates. Other projects whose foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister include Phase 1 of Ankleshwar Airport and the development of Multilevel Industrial Sheds at Ankleshwar and Panoli, which will give a boost to the MSME sector.

The Prime Minister performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the development of multiple industrial parks. These include four Tribal Industrial Parks which will come up in Valia (Bharuch), Amirgadh (Banaskantha), Chakaliya (Dahod) and Vanar (Chhota Udaipur); Agro Food Park at Mudetha (Banaskantha); Sea Food Park at Kakwadi Danti (Valsad); and MSME Park at Khandivav (Mahisagar).

During the programme, the Prime Minister dedicated several projects which will give a boost to the chemicals sector. He dedicated 800 TPD Caustic Soda Plant integrated with a 130 MW cogeneration power plant at Dahej. Along with this, he also

dedicated the expansion of the existing Caustic Soda Plant at Dahej, whose capacity has been increased from 785 MT/day to 1310 MT/day. The Prime Minister also dedicated a project for manufacturing over one lakh MT per annum of Chloromethanes at Dahej. Other projects which were dedicated by the Prime Minister include the Hydrazine Hydrate Plant at Dahej which will help in import substitution of the product, IOCL Dahej-Koyali Pipeline Project, Bharuch underground drainage and STP work and widening & strengthening of Umla Asaa Panetha road.

PIB,OCT11,2022

PM addresses public function in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh after dedicating Phase I of the Mahakaal Lok Project to the nation

Performs pooja, aarti and darshan at Mahakaal

“Ujjain has led India's wealth and prosperity, knowledge and dignity, civilization and literature for thousands of years”

“Every particle of Ujjain is engulfed in spirituality, and it transmits ethereal energy in every nook and corner”

“In order to reach the pinnacle of success, it is necessary that the nation touches its cultural heights and stands proudly with its identity”

“In the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, India has called for Panch Prans like ‘freedom from the mentality of slavery’ and ‘pride in our heritage’”

“I believe, the development of our Jyotirlingas is the development of India's spiritual light, the development of India's knowledge and philosophy”

“Cultural philosophy of India is once again reaching the summit and getting ready to guide the world”

“India has remained immortal for thousands of years due to its spiritual confidence”

“Religion for India means collective determination of our duties”

“New India of today is moving forward with its ancient values while also reviving the tradition of science and research along with faith”“India is restoring its glory and prosperity, the whole world and whole humanity will benefit from this”

“Divinity of India will pave the way for a peaceful world.”

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed a public function after dedicating Phase I of the Mahakaal Lok Project to the nation, and performing pooja and aarti at the inner sanctum of the Mahakaal temple, in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The Prime Minister was felicitated upon his arrival. This was followed by Stuti Gaan of Shri Mahakaal by renowned singer Shri Kailash Kher and a light, sound and fragrance show.

The Prime Minister began his address by hailing Lord Mahakal and said, “ Jai Mahakaal! This energy of Ujjain, this enthusiasm! This aura of Avantika, this wonderfulness, this bliss! This glory of Mahakal, this greatness! There is nothing worldly in 'Mahakaal Lok'. There is nothing ordinary in the company of Shankar. Everything is supernatural and extraordinary. It is unforgettable and unbelievable.” The Prime Minister said that if one receives the blessings of Mahakaal, then the existence of Kaal (time) ceases, the boundaries of time dissolve, and the journey from nothingness to infinity begins. The Prime Minister said that Ujjain has not only been the centre of India according to astrological calculation but it has been the centre of India's soul too. Ujjain is a city that is counted among the seven sacred puris and a place where Lord Krishna himself came for education. Ujjain has seen the splendour of King Vikramaditya and the beginning of India's golden age. The Prime Minister remarked that Ujjain has gathered history in itself. “Every particle of Ujjain is engulfed in spirituality, and it transmits ethereal energy in every nook and corner.” The Prime Minister continued, “Ujjain has led India's wealth and prosperity, knowledge and dignity, civilization and literature for thousands of years.”

The Prime Minister explained, “In order to reach the pinnacle of success, it is necessary that the nation touches its cultural heights and stands proudly with its identity.” Continuing with the importance of cultural confidence, the Prime Minister said “the cultural splendour of a nation is so vast only when the flag of its success is fluttering on the world stage. And, to reach the pinnacle of success, it is also necessary that the nation touches its cultural excellence, and stands proudly with its identity.” “That is why in the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, India has called for Panch Prans like “freedom from the mentality of slavery” and

“pride in our heritage”, he added. For the same purpose, development work on the grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is going at a rapid pace. “Vishwanath Dham in Kashi is adding pride to the cultural capital of India. Development works are setting new records in Somnath. With the blessings of Baba Kedar in Uttarakhand, new chapters of development are being written in the Kedarnath-Badrinath pilgrimage area. For the first time after independence, our four Dhams are going to connect with All Weather Roads through the Chardham Project”, the Prime Minister said. “The pride of many such centres of our spiritual consciousness is being restored across the country with the help of Swadesh Darshan and Prasad Yojana. And now in this series, this grand 'Mahakaal Lok' is also ready to welcome the future with the glory of the past”, the Prime Minister added.

The Prime Minister explained his concept of the importance of Jyotirlingas. He said “I believe, this development of our Jyotirlingas is the development of India's spiritual light, the development of India's knowledge and philosophy. This cultural philosophy of India is once again reaching the summit and getting ready to guide the world.” The Prime Minister explained that Lord Mahakal is the only Jyotirlinga which is facing south and these are such forms of Shiva, whose Bhasma Aarti is famous all over the world. “Every devotee definitely wants to see Bhasma Aarti in his life. I also see the vitality and vibrancy of our India in this tradition”, Shri Modi added.

Talking about Lord Shiva, the Prime Minister said “Soyam Bhootim Vibhushanah”, that is, the one who wears the ashes is also 'sarvadhimpah always'. He is also eternal and indestructible. Therefore, where there is a Mahakal, there are no boundaries of periods. “In the refuge of Mahakal, there is vibration even in poison. In the presence of Mahakal, there is a revival even from the end”, he added.

Further elaborating on the role of the spiritual in the nation's life, Shri Modi said “It is the spiritual confidence of our civilization, due to which India has remained immortal for thousands of years. As long as these centres of our faith are awakened, the consciousness of India is awakened, and the soul of India is awakened.

Recalling history, the Prime Minister talked about invaders like Iltutmish who made efforts to destroy the energy of Ujjain. Shri Modi also recalled the efforts that have been made to exploit India in the past. Shri Modi said quoting our sages and rishis,” What will death do to us in the shelter of Mahakal Shiva? He continued, “India was revived, then rose again from the

energy of these authentic centres of faith. Today once again, in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Amar Avantika is proclaiming the cultural immortality of India.” Throwing light on what religion means to India, the Prime Minister underlined that it is a collective determination of our duties. “The goal of our resolutions is the welfare of the world, and service to mankind.” Shri Modi reiterated that we worship Lord Shiva, and bow to the Vishwapati who is engaged in the welfare of the whole world in many ways. “This has always been the spirit of the pilgrimages, temples, monasteries and faith centres of India”, he added. “How many inspirations can come out here for the good of the world, for the benefit of the world?”, Shri Modi exclaimed.

Talking about spirituality and education, the Prime Minister pointed out that spiritual centres like Kashi have been the capital of knowledge, philosophy and art along with religion, and places like Ujjain have been the centres of research related to astronomy. The Prime Minister further explained that the New India of today is moving forward with its ancient values while also reviving the tradition of science and research along with faith. “Today we are standing equal to the big powers of the world in the field of astronomy.” Throwing light on India’s space missions like Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan the Prime Minister remarked that today India is also launching satellites of other countries into space. “India is ready to take that leap in the sky”, Shri Modi added, “In the field of defence, India is moving towards self-reliance with full force. From sports to startups the youth of India are showcasing their talent on the world stage.”

The Prime Minister said, “Where there is innovation, there will be renovation.” Remarking on the losses incurred during the years of slavery, the Prime Minister said that “India is reclaiming its glory by renovating the places of its pride, honour and legacy.” He further added that the entire country as well as humanity will reap its benefits. Concluding the address, the Prime Minister said, “With the blessings of Mahakal, the grandeur of India will create new possibilities of development in the world and the divinity of India will pave the way for a peaceful world.”

Earlier today, the Prime Minister dedicated Phase I of the Mahakal Lok Project to the nation at Shri Mahakal Lok in Ujjain. Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Mangubhai Patel, Governor of Chhattisgarh, Shri Anusuiya Uikey, Governor of Jharkhand, Shri Ramesh Bains, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Union Ministers Narendra

Singh Tomar, Dr.Virendra Kumar, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and Shri G Kishan Reddy, Union Ministers of State, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste and Shri Prahlad Patel were those present on the occasion among others.

A memorable day as Shri Mahakal Lok is being inaugurated. This will add to Ujjain's vibrancy. <https://t.co/KpHLKAILeP>

Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) October 11, 2022

जहां महाकाल हैं, वहाँ कालखण्डों की सीमाएं नहीं हैं। pic.twitter.com/JgaxyI7kE2

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) October 11, 2022

जब तक हमारी आस्था के ये केंद्र जागृत हैं, भारत की चेतना जागृत है, भारत की आत्मा जागृत है। pic.twitter.com/YfunXDcNbJ

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) October 11, 2022

Ujjain has been one of top centres of research related to astronomy. pic.twitter.com/nYXpp4WLVO

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) October 11, 2022

Where there is innovation, there is also renovation. pic.twitter.com/nre4vH4Zzb

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) October 11, 2022

महाकाल के आशीर्वाद से भारत की भव्यता पूरे विश्व के विकास के लिए नई संभावनाओं को जन्म देगी। pic.twitter.com/8Q7djFXl3h

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) October 11, 2022

PIB,OCT13,2022

President of India in Assam; Inaugurates supercomputer facility and laboratory for the design and development of high power microwave components at IIT Guwahati and medical college and hospital at Dhubri; also lays foundation stones for two zonal

institutes of NIV. Science and Technology Institutes of the country should promote greater research and development to make India leader in technological innovations: President Murmu

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated Supercomputer facility Param-Kamrupa and laboratory for the design and development of high power microwave components at IIT Guwahati today (October 13, 2022). She also inaugurated the Medical College and Hospital at Dhubri and laid the foundation stones for two Zonal Institutes of National Institute of Virology (NIV) at— (i) Dibrugarh, Assam and (ii) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that within a short span of its existence, IIT Guwahati has made the region and nation proud with its achievements in the national and international arena. She was happy to note that a few days back, IIT Guwahati had constructed a 3D-printed sentry post for developing cost-effective and sustainable defence infrastructure for the Indian Army.

The President said that IIT Guwahati is a knowledge centre that can provide technology solutions to connectivity issues and other challenges in the North Eastern Region. Since this is the only IIT in the North Eastern Region, IIT Guwahati must shoulder responsibility to nurture other institutions in the region, work with the state government and the defence forces to strengthen our borders, and provide technological solutions to prevent recurrence of natural calamities in the region. She urged the institute to encourage innovations, work towards indigenization in cutting edge technologies, provide skill development avenues and be a fore-runner in making our country Atma-nirbhar.

The President urged the science and technology institutes of the country to promote greater research and development so that India can be a leader in technological innovations, beneficial for the larger good of the society. She said that The National Education Policy 2020 clearly acknowledges that addressing today's socio economic challenges requires high-quality interdisciplinary research that must be done in India and cannot simply be imported. She stated that research and innovation at educational institutions, particularly those engaged in higher education, is critical. She pointed out that India has a long historical tradition of research and knowledge creation and this needs to be further strengthened to make India lead research and innovation in the 21st century.

The President said that today, the North Eastern Region of India is making big strides towards development and is making extraordinary efforts to provide the high quality healthcare and education systems to the people of the region and the country. She noted that the government of Assam is further providing support to IIT Guwahati to set up an advanced multispecialty hospital. She said that it will serve as an example for other esteemed institutes in the country to undertake similar initiatives.

The President said that various projects of Central and State governments and the consequent progress of the region will set a foundation for making India a technologically advanced nation and an inclusive society. She said that we all know that the Sun rises first in the North Eastern Region of India and then spreads its light across the country. She expressed that the North Eastern Region should be the torch-bearer in spreading knowledge and inculcating 'scientific temper' among people of the country, in the spirit of our Constitution.

Earlier in the morning, the President flagged off Agartala-Khongsang Janshatabdi Express and Agartala-Kolkata Express from Agartala Railway Station.