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Sr.No	Subject	Page No.
1	Polity and Governance	3-11
2	Economic and Social Development	12-24
3	Science and Technology	25-33
4	Environment and Climate	34-38
5	Current Events	39-51

## **POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

**PIB,SEP2,2024**

**“Double Engine Government to drive Vision J&K @2047” says Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**

**Historic J&K Assembly Elections: Dr. Jitendra Singh Calls It a Milestone for Democratic Aspirations”**

**From Militancy to Mainstream: Dr. Singh Highlights J&K’s Progress and Future under PM Modi’s Leadership”**

**Empowering J&K: Dr. Jitendra Singh Unveils Vision for Self-Governance and Development**

Addressing a press conference here today, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh laid out the ambitious Vision J&K @2047, and said “Double Engine Government will drive Vision J&K @2047” describing it as an integral part of Vision India @2047.

Speaking against the backdrop of the upcoming Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, Dr. Jitendra Singh hailed this as a landmark development, noting that for the first time in a decade, J&K will witness assembly elections—a realization of the region’s vibrant democratic aspirations. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh termed this electoral event as a “seminal step in the history of India,” attributing the progress to the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Since PM Modi’s tenure began on May 26, 2014, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that several revolutionary steps have been taken at the national level, which have had a significant positive impact at the regional level as well. He emphasized that PM Modi has effectively “unshackled India from age-old restrictions.” With militancy in J&K now in its final phase and Zilla Parishads being established for the first time since independence, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformation in local self-governing institutions. Despite the implementation of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments decades ago, J&K remained an exception due to previous leaders’ ulterior motives and vested interests. The abrogation of Article 370, he noted, was a crucial step in this transformation.

**Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined how Vision 2047 would impact both globally and domestically, stressing that while we view 2047 through the prism of 2024, many current concepts will become obsolete. He drew a parallel with the advent of television in the 1950s, which transformed US presidential politics in 1960 and compared this to India's current standing among the world's leading nations, a status he attributed to PM Modi's leadership. Dr. Jitendra Singh asserted that the "Double Engine Government" at both the Centre and in J&K will be a boon, focusing on three key areas of transformation: a) Democratisation of Democratic Institutions: Revamping and expanding democratic processes. b) Governance Through Self-Governance: Enhancing local self-governance and administrative efficiency. c) Development by Exploring Unexplored Sectors: Unlocking new development opportunities, such as the innovative Agri-Startup through Aroma Mission, which has created employment and entrepreneurial avenues for thousands of youths in the region. He recalled past inefficiencies in local governance and electoral processes, such as the election of representatives with minimal vote share. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted his opposition to this practice in Parliament and proposed to establish a minimum threshold for electoral representation.**

**Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that in the past five years, historic changes have led to blooming democratic aspirations and a stable, peaceful J&K. He pointed out that overall voter turnout in recent Lok Sabha elections was nearly 60%, almost matching the national average. He underscored the importance of J&K's integration into the mainstream. The Minister lauded the CPGRAMS model for grievance redressal, which ensures a nearly 97-98 percent disposal rate. He also mentioned technological advancements, such as drone mapping for farmers, which are empowering local communities. Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled PM Modi's announcement from the Red Fort about eliminating the interview process to ensure equal opportunity, a reform that was only implemented in J&K after Governor's rule. He also highlighted the shift to self-attestation, reducing bureaucratic hurdles for ease of governance. Addressing the potential for development, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that despite J&K's wealth of natural resources, development was stymied by unexplored sectors. He cited the Shahpur-Kandi project, which had been stalled for years but is now on track due to special efforts and PM Modi's priority. He also predicted that Kishtwar will emerge as a power hub for North India, addressing previous neglect of projects like Rattle.**



**Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised India’s remarkable achievements under PM Modi’s leadership, including rising to the 3rd leading startup destination globally, a significant increase in the number of StartUps, and improved rankings in the Global Innovation Index. He highlighted India’s transition from being among the fragile five economies in 2005 to now being in the top five, with expectations to rise further.**

**Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by affirming that with the continued patronage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister in the state, the “Double Engine Government” holds promise for J&K to play a pivotal role in India’s future growth story and the realisation of Vision India @2047.**

**PIB,SEP4,2024**

**EPS Pensioners to get pension from any bank, any branch, anywhere in India from 1st January 2025: Dr. Mandaviya**

**Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Approves Centralized Pension Payments System (CPPS) for Pension under EPS 1995; More than 78 Lakh EPS Pensioners to be Benefitted**

**Transition to Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) in the Next Phase**

Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Chairperson, Central Board of Trustees, EPF has approved the proposal for a Centralized Pension Payment System (CPPS) for Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The CPPS marks a major shift by establishing national-level centralized system, enabling pension disbursement through any bank, any branch across India. Speaking about this landmark decision, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said, "The approval of the Centralized Pension Payment System (CPPS) marks a significant milestone in modernization of the EPFO. By enabling pensioners to receive their pensions from any bank, any branch, anywhere in the country, this initiative addresses the long-standing challenges faced by pensioners and ensures a seamless and efficient disbursement mechanism. This is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to transform the EPFO into a more robust, responsive, and tech-enabled organization, committed to serving the needs of its members and pensioners better."

The Centralized Pension Payment System is expected to benefit more than 78 lakh EPS pensioners of EPFO. By harnessing advanced IT and banking technologies, it will offer a more efficient, seamless, and user-friendly experience for pensioners. The CPPS would also ensure disbursement of pension throughout India without any need for transfer of Pension Payment Orders (PPO) from one office to another even when the Pensioner moves from one location to another or changes his bank or branch. This would be a great relief to pensioners who move to their hometown after retirement. This facility will be launched as part of EPFO's ongoing IT modernization project Centralized IT Enabled System (CITES 2.01) from 1st January 2025. In the next phase, CPPS will enable a smooth transition to Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS).

The CPPS is a paradigm shift from the existing pension disbursement system that is decentralized, with each Zonal/Regional Office of EPFO maintaining separate agreements with only 3-4 banks. There will also be no need for pensioners to visit the branch for any verification at the time of commencement of pension and the pension shall be immediately credited upon release. In addition, EPFO expects a significant cost reduction in pension disbursement after moving to the new system.

PIB,SEP6,2024

NCGG achieves a significant milestone - 1st Advanced Leadership Development Program on Public Policy and Governance for Latin American & Caribbean Countries commenced. 22 Civil Servants from 10 Nations participate in the Multi-Country program

India's Governance models of "Maximum Governance – Minimum Government", Digital India, PM Gatishakti, Procurement Reforms through GeM, Zero Tolerance to corruption approach, Capacity Building Programs through Mission Karmayogi presented

The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) commenced its 1st Advanced Leadership Development Programme on Public Policy and Governance specifically designed for Latin American and Caribbean nations. This two-week program is being organized from 2nd to 13th September 2024 bringing 22 Civil Servants from 10 countries, including Civil Servants from Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Suriname. Today, Secretary DARPG and DG NCGG Shri V. Srinivas, interacted with the 22 Officials of 10 Latin American countries. The commonalities in governance models across the Latin American countries and India were discussed. Saturation approach of priority sector schemes has been the defining goal of Government's all-round, all-pervasive and all-inclusive development model. The "Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal" – goal of developed India, to remove any trace of colonial mindset, take pride in our roots and unity and sense of duty among citizens represent the foundational principles of Good Governance in Amrit Kaal period. The Nation has focused attention on adoption of Next Generation Reforms, while empowering citizens and reaching the last mile as the priorities for Viksit Bharat@2047. The quest is for next generation infrastructure, for world class manufacturing, for cutting edge innovation and for New Age Technology. Information technology enabled a key competitive advantage, transforming work processes in every branch of government and facilitating citizens

interactions with the government. The two-week program will cover a wide array of topics such as the Aadhar Card a tool for Good Governance, Skill India: Policy and Practices, Vigilance Administration, Leadership and Motivation in Governance, India's Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Diaspora and Migration Issues, Approach to Achieve SDGs by 2030, Indian Culture and Sustainable Tourism, Paradigm of Governance, Digital Economy & Innovation, Urban Governance & Sustainable Cities, Food Security & Agriculture, Holistic Healthcare: Ayurveda, PM Gati Shakti, Disaster Management & Humanitarian Relief, Local Governance and Decentralization, Emotional Intelligence for Administrators, Vision@2047, GeM: Bringing Transparency in Government Procurement, E-Governance and Digital Public Service Delivery, among others. Participants will also be taken for study tours and exposure visits to the Forest Research Institute (FRI), District Administration Gautum Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, International Solar alliance, National Institute of Solar Energy, Visit to India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management and a heritage visit to Taj Mahal, Agra. The entire capacity building program is being supervised by Dr. Himanshi Rastogi, Course Coordinator and Associate Professor, Dr. Mukesh Bhandari, Associate Course Coordinator & Shri Sanjay Dutt Pant, Program Assistant, Dr. Zaid Fakhar, Consultant NCGG and Ms. Megha Tomar, Young Professional, NCGG with the entire NCGG capacity building team. Smt. Prisca Poly Mathew, Chief Administrative Officer & Consultant, NCGG, Dr. A. P. Singh, Associate Professor, NCGG and Shri. S. K. Pandey, Director, DARPG were also present during the occasion.

STATESMAN, SEP8, 2024

### Parliament tool kit

Parliament is not a mere structure of bricks and mortar, but the supreme deliberative, legislative and representative institution of a nation. Parliament can perform its multifarious functions if endowed with a robust tool kit of accountability.

Parliament is not a mere structure of bricks and mortar, but the supreme deliberative, legislative and representative institution of a nation. Parliament can perform its multifarious functions if endowed with a robust tool kit of accountability. Accountability is about instilling or reinforcing an ethos of legal compliance and efficient practices

tempered by the consideration of fostering a sense of responsibility, transparency and good governance, which is at the heart of parliamentary oversight and scrutiny. In the Indian parliamentary democratic system, there is no separation of power between the political executive and the legislature as the Council of Ministers is drawn from the legislature and their survival is contingent upon parliamentary support. Woodrow Wilson, who later became the US President, was enamoured of the parliamentary system where ‘ministers lead the Houses without dictating to them, and the ministers themselves be controlled without being misunderstood’.

The founding fathers of the Indian republic preferred accountability of the executive to the legislature over stability of the Government. But when the legislature is controlled and dictated by the executive, there is erosion of legislative power to hold the executive to account. The erosion of accountability is for a congeries of reasons. Not only have the number of sittings of Parliament come down alarmingly, the average duration of sittings too has decreased. The 17th Lok Sabha on an average had 55 sittings in a year, partly due to the pandemic. But the average sittings and the duration of sittings declined precipitously from the 13th Lok Sabha onwards. Even the Central Legislative Assembly under the Britishers sat for 74 days in a year.

This is deeply worrying if compared to the sittings of some of the leading parliaments of the world. Between the years 2003 to 2012, the UK House Commons sat on average for 140 days, US Congress for 136 days, the House of Commons, Canada for 110 days as against an average of 69 days of the Lok Sabha during the same period. The Conference of the Presiding Officers has recommended time and again to hold at least 100 sittings in a year. An unsavoury spectacle is the intermittent verbal tug of war between the Members and the Presiding Officers. The Presiding Officer is not a goal keeper of either side but the supreme Umpire. He belongs to none or to all. The Chair is expected to be completely neutral, devoid of bitter partisanship and courageous enough to assert its authority, may be, at times, causing discomfort to the treasury benches. In 1642, when King Charles-I stormed the House of Commons to arrest five MPs, Speaker Len – thall, displaying extraordinary courage, refused to reveal their whereabouts, uttering the famous words “May it please Your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me whose servant I am here”. The time for discussions on the Bills has been enormously squeezed. Thirty six per cent Bills were passed by the last Lok Sabha with less than an hour of discussion. During the 17th LS, 16 per cent Bills were referred as against 25 per cent during the 16th LS and 71 per cent during the 15th LS. Lord Hailsham, described the British Parliament as ‘Executature’- a legislative body

under the control of the executive. When legislation is pushed through in Parliament without discussion or without hearing the side opposite, Parliament becomes 'Executature', a rubber stamp of the Executive. There is a felt need that all Bills, except Appropriation Bill, the Finance Bill and small amendment Bills, must be referred to the Committees for comprehensive examination and consultation with the stakeholders. An unhealthy trend is the sudden and premature sine die adjournment of Parliament when vital issues of wider public concern are awaiting discussion. This is a sign of discomfiture and gives an avoidable occasion to the opposition to castigate the Government. Article 85 needs amendment to provide for at least 100 sittings of each House of Parliament in a year.

Similar provision for State Assemblies is needed, many of which meet hardly for 20 to 30 days in a year. MPs take an oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution but they failed to elect their Deputy Speaker during the 17th LS, though Article 93 ordains that the Lok Sabha shall, as soon may be, choose two members to be respectively Speaker and Dy Speaker. A command enshrined in the Constitution cannot be disobeyed by the House. There is no exception or non-obstante clause to Article 93. The Indian Parliament has a well-knit, allcom passing Committee system. A robust committee system demands a willing suspension of adversarial politics and display of commonality of purpose. It is said that the citadel never falls except from within. When a Committee gets polarised, it erodes the very edifice of the committee system.

If the malaise of polarisation persists, it will sound the death knell of the committee system. Some stark instances of polarisation deserve a mention. During the 15th LS, the PAC could not adopt their report on allocation of spectrum as the Committee got polarised. It was the first such instance in the otherwise golden years of the PAC. During the 16th LS, the Estimates Committee could not adopt a report on the metrics of measuring growth due to strong opposition from the Government members. The expulsion of a member during the 17th LS based on the report of the divided committee of Ethics is yet another egregious example. Passing of legislation after wholesale suspension of members poses a much graver danger to the edifice of any representative democracy. Democracies wither and perish when the institutional facade eviscerates the substance of democracy. Conventions have a great role in the working of Parliament and its Committees.

The Chair of the PAC goes to the principal opposition since 1967. The convention remains, gratifyingly, unbroken. But the convention of the chairs of the Finance Committee and the External Affairs Committee going to the opposition has since been side tracked. There is also a fond lament that the new Parliament building conspicuously lacks a Central Hall where Members of both the Houses met, cutting across political divides and ideological differences, and exchanged pleasantries and views in an informal atmosphere of mutual trust and camaraderie, without any fear of being quoted or seen together. There is a need to introduce the PM's Question Hour, as in the UK and elsewhere in the Commonwealth countries. It would really be a break from the colonial past, and inaugurate a new era in the Indian parliamentary annals. Also, there is a need for changing the nomenclature of Private Members' business, which is a relic of the British Raj. All members are legislators and therefore have the inherent right to initiate legislative proposals. In fact, between 1951 and 1970, fourteen Bills by members, i.e., other than Ministers, were passed and enacted. Further, at least one day in a week needs to be earmarked for urgent issues sought to be raised by the Opposition. The Rule of Procedure needs amendment to provide for convening Parliament and also to introduce and consider legislation when at least one third of the MPs so demand. This will help reduce disruption of normal proceedings of the House like the running of Question Hour and also significantly curtail the tendency to move adjournment motions. The challenges of accountability are the challenges of democracy and therefore Parliament must have a stronger and efficacious tool kit of accountability.

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PIB,SEP2,2024**

**Cabinet approves seven major schemes for improving farmers' lives and livelihoods with total outlay of Rs 14,235.30 Crore**

**The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of Rs 14,235.30 Crore.**

**1. Digital Agriculture Mission: based on the structure of Digital Public Infrastructure, Digital Agriculture Mission will use technology for improving farmers' lives. The Mission has a total outlay of Rs 2,817 crores. It comprises two foundational pillars**

### **1. Agri Stack**

**Farmers registry**

**Village land maps registry**

**Crop Sown Registry**

### **2. Krishi Decision Support System**

**Geospatial data**

**Drought/flood monitoring**

**Weather/satellite data**

**Groundwater/water availability data**

**Modelling for crop yield and insurance**

**The Mission has provision for**

**Soil profile**

**Digital crop estimation**

**Digital yield modelling**

**Connect for crop loan**

**Modern technologies like AI and Big Data**

**Connect with buyers**

**Bring new knowledge on mobile phones**

**2. Crop science for food and nutritional security: with a total outlay of Rs 3,979 crore. The initiative will prepare farmers for climate resilience and provide for food security by 2047. It has following pillars:**

**Research and education**

**Plant genetic resource management**

**Genetic improvement for food and fodder crop**

**Pulse and oilseed crop improvement**

**Improvement of commercial crops**

**Research on insects, microbes, pollinators etc.**

**3. Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences: with a total outlay of Rs 2,291 Crore the measure will prepare agriculture students and researchers for current challenges and comprises the following**

**Under Indian Council of Agri Research**

**Modernising agri research and education**

**In line with New Education Policy 2020**

**Use latest technology ... Digital DPI, AI, big data, remote, etc**

**Include natural farming and climate resilience**

**4. Sustainable livestock health and production:** with a total outlay of Rs 1,702 crore, the decision aims to Increase farmers income from livestock and dairy. It comprises the following

**Animal health management and veterinary education**

**Dairy production and technology development**

**Animal genetic resource management, production and improvement**

**Animal nutrition and small ruminant production and development**

**5. Sustainable development of Horticulture:** with a total outlay of Rs 1129.30 crore the measure is aimed at increasing farmers' income from horticulture plants. It comprises the following

**Tropical, sub-tropical and temperate horticulture crops**

**Root, tuber, bulbous and arid crops**

**Vegetable, floriculture, and mushroom crops**

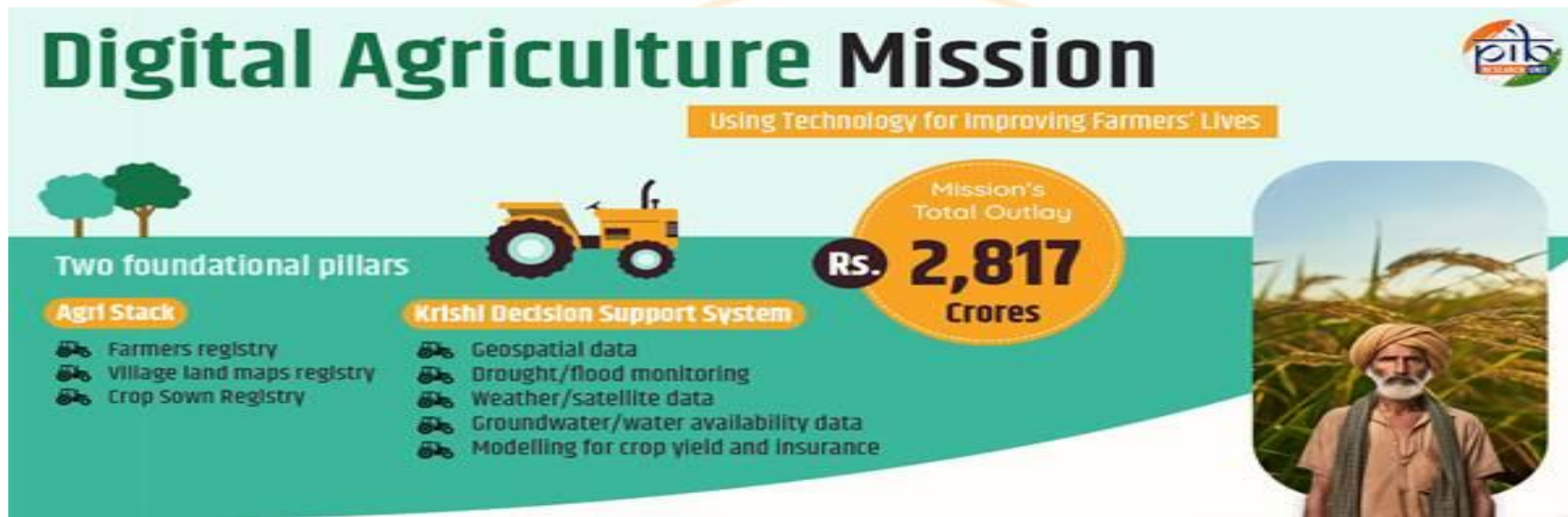
**Plantation, spices, medicinal, and aromatic plants**

**6. Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra with an outlay of Rs 1,202 crore**

**7. Natural Resource Management with an outlay of Rs 1,115 crore**

**PIB,SEP4,2024**

## **Digital Agriculture Mission: Tech for Transforming Farmers' Lives**



### **Introduction.**

India's digital revolution has significantly transformed governance and service delivery in recent years by creating digital identities, secured payments and transactions. This progress has paved the way for a thriving digital ecosystem across various sectors, including finance, healthcare, education, and retail, positioning India as a leader in citizen-centric digital solutions.

For a similar transformation of the Agriculture Sector, the Union Cabinet Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the 'Digital Agriculture Mission' with a substantial financial outlay of Rs. 2,817 Crore, including a central government share of Rs. 1,940 Crore, on September 2, 2024.

The Digital Agriculture Mission is designed as an umbrella scheme to support various digital agriculture initiatives. These include creating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), implementing the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), and supporting IT initiatives by the Central Government, State Governments, and Academic and Research Institutions.

The scheme is built on two foundational pillars:

**Agri Stack**

**Krishi Decision Support System.**

Additionally, the mission includes 'Soil Profile Mapping' and aims to enable farmer-centric digital services to provide timely and reliable information for the agriculture sector.

### **1. AgriStack: Kisan ki Pehchaan**

AgriStack is designed as a farmer-centric Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to streamline services and scheme delivery to farmers. It comprises three key components:

- 1. Farmers' Registry**
- 2. Geo-referenced village maps**
- 3. Crop Sown Registry**

A crucial feature of AgriStack is the introduction of a 'Farmer ID', similar to Aadhaar card, serving as a trusted digital identity for farmers.

These IDs, created and maintained by the State Governments/ Union Territories, will be linked to various farmer-related data, including land records, livestock ownership, crops sown, and benefits availed. The implementation of AgriStack is progressing through partnerships between the Central and State Governments, with 19 states having signed MoUs with the Ministry of Agriculture. Pilot projects have been conducted in six states to test the creation of Farmer IDs and the Digital Crop Survey. The six states include Uttar Pradesh (Farrukhabad), Gujarat (Gandhinagar), Maharashtra (Beed), Haryana (Yamuna Nagar), Punjab (Fatehgarh Sahib), and Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar).

Key targets include:

- Creating digital identities for 11 crore farmers over three years (6 crore in FY 2024-25, 3 crore in FY 2025-26, and 2 crore in FY 2026-27)
- Launching the Digital Crop Survey nationwide within two years, covering 400 districts in FY 2024-25 and all districts in FY 2025-26

## 2. Krishi Decision Support System

The Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) will integrate remote sensing data on crops, soil, weather, and water resources into a comprehensive geospatial system.

## 3. Soil Profile Mapping

Under the mission, detailed soil profile maps on a 1:10,000 scale for approximately 142 million hectares of agricultural land have been envisaged, with 29 million hectares of soil profile inventory already being mapped.

Further under the Digital Agriculture Mission, the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) will be used for crop-cutting experiments to provide precise yield estimates, enhancing agricultural production accuracy. The mission is expected to create direct and indirect employment in agriculture, providing opportunities for around 2,50,000 trained local youth and Krishi Sakhis.

By leveraging modern technologies like data analytics, AI, and remote sensing, the mission will improve service delivery for farmers, including streamlined access to government schemes, crop loans, and real-time advisories.

### **Key Components of the Mission**

The Digital Agriculture Mission focuses on grassroots implementation, targeting farmers as the primary beneficiaries.

Some of the key benefits of the mission include:

- 1. Digital authentication for accessing services and benefits, reducing paperwork and the need for physical visits.**
- 2. Enhanced efficiency and transparency in government schemes, crop insurance, and loan systems through accurate data on crop area and yield.**
- 3. Crop map generation and monitoring for better disaster response and insurance claims.**
- 4. Development of digital infrastructure to optimize value chains and provide tailored advisory services for crop planning, health, pest management, and irrigation.**

### **Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 that the Government, in partnership with states, will implement Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture over the next three years. This initiative will cover farmers and their lands, with a digital crop survey for Kharif planned for 400 districts this year. The goal is to update registries with details of 6 crore farmers and their lands.

The Union Budget 2023-24 had previously introduced the DPI for agriculture, which aims to provide comprehensive data on farmers, including demographic details, land holdings, and crops sown. The DPI will integrate with state and central digital infrastructures to offer a range of farmer-centric services, including information on livestock, fisheries, soil health, and available benefits.

## Conclusion

The Union Cabinet also approved six major schemes alongside the Digital Agriculture Mission, with a total outlay of Rs 14,235.30 crore.

These initiatives include Rs 3,979 crore for Crop Science aimed at ensuring food security and climate resilience by 2047, and Rs 2,291 crore for strengthening Agricultural Education, Management, and Social Sciences to support students and researchers. Rs 1,702 crore is allocated for Sustainable Livestock Health and Production to boost incomes from livestock and dairy, while Rs 1,129.30 crore is designated for Sustainable Development of Horticulture to increase income from horticulture. Additionally, Rs 1,202 crore will be invested in strengthening Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and Rs 1,115 crore towards Natural Resource Management.

These comprehensive approaches leverage digital technologies to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability in India's agricultural sector, potentially transforming the lives of millions of farmers across the country. By extending the digital revolution to agriculture, India aims to further solidify its position as a global leader in innovative, technology-driven solutions for critical sectors of the economy.

**STATESMAN,SEP4,2024**

## The Modi Surplus

**Has the Modi government lifted India's economic fortunes during its ten years in office? We know that India has become the fifth largest economy.**

as the Modi government lifted India's economic fortunes during its ten years in office? We know that India has become the fifth largest economy. Most people agree that India would become the third largest economy by 2026 or 2027. This is interesting because in its last year, the UPA government had set a target of reaching this point only by 2043. So what changed? Between 2004 and 2014, India saw hardly any change in its economic rank. We remained stuck between 10th and 12th place.

But take the other BRIC countries, for instance. Both Brazil and Russia had economies smaller than India in 2004. By the end of the UPA years, both countries had leaped ahead of India. The most alarming was the rise of China. In 2004, India's per capita GDP was 40 per cent that of China. By 2014, this was nearly cut in half, reduced to just 20 per cent. But these are still anecdotes. In the last twenty years, how has India performed compared to other developing countries? For this, we need a deep dive into the GDP per capita data. So here is a graph showing India's per capita GDP compared to all the 150 or so countries that the IMF classifies as emerging economies.

This basket includes China, the BRIC economies, and almost all the countries in South America, the Middle East and Africa. We notice two things right away. During the UPA years, the trend is mostly downwards, while the trend in the Modi years is clearly upwards. Indeed in 2004, India's per capita GDP was about 35 per cent that of the developing world. By 2014, this had shrunk to just 30 per cent.

This confirms that India fell behind other emerging economies in the UPA years. In contrast, it rose from 30 per cent in 2014 to 41 per cent in 2024. This shows that India performed better than other developing countries in the last ten years of the Modi government. The graph also allows us to compare the performance of the two governments during times of global economic crisis. The graph plunges sharply in 2008. This shows that India was actually hit harder than other emerging countries during the 2008 crisis. On the contrary, the graph is flat during the pandemic of 2020-21. This means that India did about the same as other countries when the world was hit by the coronavirus. We can now do a simple computation. What if India had kept up with other emerging countries during the UPA years? How much more would we have? Take for instance the year 2013. Between 2004 and 2013, emerging nations went from \$1790 per capita to \$5050 per capita.

In the same time, India went from \$624 per capita to \$1440 per capita. But if India had grown at least as fast as other emerging countries, we should have had \$1760 per capita. That means a "loss" of about \$320 per Indian. Multiply this by India's population (about 1.29 billion in 2013) and we have \$413 billion in lost GDP for that year. Because one dollar in 2013 is worth about \$1.35 today, the lost GDP for 2013 works out to \$557 billion! If we repeat this calculation for every year between 2005 and 2014 and add up, we get a figure of \$2.487 trillion. This is the total loss to India's economy in the UPA years, caused by falling behind the rest of the developing world.

Finally, let us look at the Modi years. Between 2014 and 2024, emerging nations went from \$5140 per capita to \$6700 per capita, while India went from \$1560 to \$2730. So if India had grown at the same pace as the others, we would have only \$2033 per capita. This time, we have a gain of \$697 per Indian. Multiply by population and this adds \$997 billion to India's GDP. Nearly one trillion dollars, just for 2024. If we do this for every year between 2015 and 2024, we get a total of \$6.533 trillion. We could call this the "Modi surplus." The numbers speak for themselves.

**PIB,SEP5,2024**

**Global study by leading experts : Swachh Bharat Mission Drives Significant Reductions in Infant Mortality Rates in India**

New Delhi- A recent study published in Nature, world's leading multi-disciplinary science journal, by leading experts reveals that the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), India's ambitious national sanitation program, has contributed significantly to reducing infant and under-five mortality rates across the country – averting 60,000 – 70,000 infant lives annually. The study, which utilized a quasi-experimental design, provides robust evidence linking increased toilet access under SBM with improved child survival outcomes. Launched in 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, SBM is one of the largest national behavioral change sanitation programs in the world, aimed at eliminating open defecation by providing household toilets across the country. This unique programme has now metamorphised into ensuring Sampurna Swachhata in the country.

**Study Overview and Key Findings:**

The study analyzed data from 35 Indian states and 640 districts spanning a decade (2011-2020), focusing on infant mortality rate (IMR) and under-five mortality rate (U5MR) per thousand live births as the primary outcomes.

**Key findings include:**

**Inverse Association Between Toilet Access and Child Mortality:** Historically, toilet access and child mortality have shown a robust inverse association in India.

**Scale of Impact:** Toilets constructed increased dramatically across India following the implementation of the SBM in 2014. Over 117 million toilets have been constructed since 2014 with a public investment of over 1.4 lakh crore. Results from the analyses suggest that for every 10 percentage point increase in district level access following SBM corresponds with a reduction in district level IMR by 0.9 points and U5MR by 1.1 points on average. There is further evidence of a threshold effect wherein the district level toilet coverage of 30% (and above) corresponds with substantial reductions in infant and child mortality. The study revealed that districts with over 30% toilet coverage under SBM experienced reductions of 5.3 in the IMR and 6.8 in the U5MR per thousand live births. In absolute numbers, this co-efficient would scale to 60,000 – 70,000 infant lives annually. This finding was supported by robustness checks and falsification tests, confirming the validity of the results.

**SBM's Unique Approach:** SBM's approach of combining toilet construction with substantial investments in IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) and community engagement represents a marked departure from prior sanitation efforts in India, which often lacked such comprehensive strategies. **Novel Evidence of Impact:** The study provides novel evidence of reductions in infant and child mortality following SBM's comprehensive national sanitation program, indicating its transformative role in improving public health outcomes. **Methodology:** The study employed two-way fixed effects regression models to control for sociodemographic, wealth, and healthcare-related confounders at the district level, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between sanitation improvements and child mortality.

**Broader Public Health Benefits:** The study also highlights that expanded access to toilets under SBM likely reduced exposure to fecal-oral pathogens, contributing to lower incidences of diarrhea and malnutrition, which are key drivers of child mortality in India.

**Implications for Public Health and Future Directions:**

The findings underscore the critical role of sanitation in improving child health and reducing mortality. The evidence from SBM's implementation provides a powerful case for the continued expansion of sanitation programs as part of broader public health strategies. The study's results suggest that future efforts should focus on sustaining behavioral changes and ensuring that constructed toilets are utilized effectively to maximize health benefits.

**HINDUSTAN TIMES,SEP6,2024**

**Terms of Trade | Unlocking India's economic fortunes requires shedding ideological blinkers**

**The ultimate economic wisdom in India is likely being lost in the cacophony of self-righteous arguments which are seeking gratification rather than the truth**

**India is in a unique predicament as far as its economy is concerned. It has been the world's fastest-growing economy for the past few years and is expected to retain this position for quite some time. That it has managed this feat without compromising its macroeconomic stability and suspending democratic freedom makes it an outlier among comparable economies in the world.**

**Deep within, there is a deep sense of frustration and concern among the Indian economy watchers. The simple reason for this is that India's current growth rate is just not enough to boost mass incomes for its 1.4 billion strong population, the majority of whom continue to face extreme economic precarity if not poverty. (Bloomberg)PREMIUM**

**Deep within, there is a deep sense of frustration and concern among the Indian economy watchers. The simple reason for this is that India's current growth rate is just not enough to boost mass incomes for its 1.4 billion strong population, the majority of whom continue to face extreme economic precarity if not poverty. (Bloomberg)**

**And yet, deep within, there is a deep sense of frustration and concern among the Indian economy watchers. The simple reason for this is that India's current growth rate is just not enough to boost mass incomes for its 1.4 billion strong population, the majority of whom continue to face extreme economic precarity if not poverty. The race to boost growth and mass incomes is increasingly becoming one against time as the demographic dividend window for India will close in the next couple of decades.**

**The truth, as is often the case, has been buried somewhere between these shrill conflicts. If India has to boost its economic fortunes, its economic discourse needs to seek truth from the facts rather than relying on one echo**

chamber or the other. This edition of the column will highlight recently published work by other economists which are doing justice on this cause on issues which are absolutely critical to the Indian economy.

PIB,SEP6,2024

### **Ministry of Panchayati Raj and UNICEF signed Letter of Intent to strengthen Systems for Social Change**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to collaborate on strengthening systems and engaging communities for social change. This partnership aims to set up and institutionalize mechanisms for effective communication between the Ministry, Elected Representatives & Field Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Communities. The collaboration will help accelerate progress on localized Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enabling better communication with citizens, particularly women and children and improving the delivery of services to rural citizens. By enhancing communication and feedback systems, the Ministry is committed to using technology to ensure that important government policies reach rural areas quickly and effectively. This effort will empower rural citizens to make informed decisions, improve service delivery, and increase transparency in governance, contributing to a more inclusive and connected rural India.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB,SEP3,2024

### Removing toxic chromium using sunlight can lower cost of waste water treatment

A low-cost method has been developed by INST researchers to remove toxic Chromium from wastewater of industries such as leather tanning and electroplating by using “sunlight” as catalyst in combination with microfluidic technology. Toxicity of hexavalent chromium is a serious concern and as per reports by WHO the tolerable concentrations of hexavalent and trivalent chromium in drinking water are limited to 0.05 mg/L and 5 mg/L. Thus, it becomes imperative to reduce this hexavalent form of chromium to the trivalent form. Several chemical and physiochemical methods, such as ion exchange, adsorption, and bacterial and chemical reduction, have been employed for the removal of Cr(VI). Most of these techniques are costly, with low removal efficiencies of Cr(VI).

Dr. Bhanu Prakash’s research group from Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology has developed a new technique of removing toxic Cr(VI) ions by utilizing sunlight for the catalytic process in combination with microfluidic technology for the conversion of the toxic hexavalent form of chromium to a less toxic trivalent form. They used a process called continuous flow photoreduction and validated this process in wastewater using TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles with the help of a smartphone based colorimetric technique.

Besides, the cost effectiveness of the process and the usage of renewable energy, with the microfluidics route, the reduction efficiency can also be tailored by fine-tuning the flow rate of the organic pollutant, reactor dimension, and architecture, precisely. One of the most advantageous features of using microreactors is the reusability of the photocatalyst without any recovery agents or cumbersome processes. Various microfluidic parameters such as reactor design, flow rate and channel length along with different catalyst phases were fine-tuned to bring about superior degradation efficiency. A superior degradation efficiency of 95 % was attained by utilizing a serpentine microreactor coated with a photocatalyst in the pure anatase phase at a flowrate of 50 µl/min.

The researchers started the process with the fabrication of microfluidic reactors and the synthesis of nanocatalysts. Next, the nanocatalyst was immobilized onto the microreactor bed and flow experiments were performed. The extent of conversion was monitored using a change in absorbance via UV-Vis spectroscopy. This was followed by evaluating the reactor performance on basics of long-term stability of microreactor and photocatalyst with respect to the number of cycles or volume processed.

This work published in Chemical Engineering Journal holds potential in industrial translation by increasing the throughput of the approach. This is possible by setting up microfluidic reactors in a parallel approach (arrays) or by microtexturing of the bulk reactor surface to increase the efficacy of the process after repetitive use.

**PIB,SEP4,2024**

**Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addresses 'International Conference on Materials Engineering and Technology'**

**From Energy to Defense: Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi's Leadership Drives India's Leap in Advanced Materials Research says Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**

**Anusandhan NRF: Pioneering India's Research Renaissance with PM Modi's Patronage, highlights Dr. Jitendra Singh**

**Building a Viksit Bharat: Catalyzing India's R&D Ecosystem in Advanced Materials announces Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Singh**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today virtually delivered keynote address at the "International Conferences & Exhibitions on MATERIALS ENGINEERING and TECHNOLOGY and the synergic HEAT TREAT (HTS) being held in Mumbai from 4th to 6th September 2024."The International conference organised by ASM International, India Chapter, has gathered over 300 international and national participants to showcase state-of-the-art technologies, products, and services. The ASM International, a 108-year-old society headquartered in Ohio, USA, has been dedicated to serving the Materials Science and Engineering Community since its inception. The India Chapter, established in 1979, is recognized as one of the most active chapters worldwide.

**In his address, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the critical role that advanced materials play in emerging technologies, offering diverse solutions and opportunities due to their fundamental attributes and enhanced customization to meet specific requirements. He highlighted the development of innovative, sustainable materials, ranging from nanostructured perovskites to macro-scale polymers, as a game-changing value addition to vital industry sectors such as energy, healthcare, space, agriculture, and defense.**

**Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the importance of integrating computational modelling, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence in advanced materials research. "These are likely to accelerate the discovery of tailor-made materials with novel properties that were difficult to attain otherwise," said Dr. Singh. He added that this integration would provide a significant push for technology development based on such materials.**

**Praising the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Dr. Singh stated, "India is currently witnessing a significant surge in demand for materials with high performance." He attributed this demand to increased R&D efforts and commercialization across the globe. Once these advanced materials are market-ready, they will be rapidly absorbed by industries such as renewable energy, automotive, aerospace, healthcare, agriculture, and more. Dr. Singh noted the growing demand for clean energy within the energy sector, leading to capacity expansions in energy storage, wind, and solar power generation.**



**Dr. Singh also highlighted the Department of Science and Technology's initiative on Advanced Materials, which aims to develop novel materials and technologies to address significant global challenges such as the climate crisis, environmental degradation, and unsustainable practices in agriculture, transportation, construction, and packaging.**

**The Science and Technology Minister underscored the support and patronage of PM Modi in the establishment of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF). "The NRF is a quantum leap in the Indian research enterprise. It will transparently seed, fund, and coordinate research across institutions in all disciplines in an integrated manner," he said. The Anusandhan NRF, with a special mandate to foster research and innovation in universities and colleges, is expected to transform the Indian R&D ecosystem, making it more vibrant, competent, and productive.**

**In a significant announcement, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that the Union Finance Minister had unveiled a funding initiative of Rs. 1 lakh crore in the FY 2024-25 budget to encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation significantly in deep tech and sunrise domains. The proposed corpus, established with a 50-year interest-free loan, will provide long-term financing at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector-driven research and innovation on a commercial scale."Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are strengthening the R&D ecosystem in the frontier of Science & Technology," reaffirmed Dr. Singh. He concluded by stating, "It has been a major target of our government to achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat as envisioned by PM Shri Narendra Modi."**

**PIB,SEP5,2024**

**Secretary, MeitY launches 2nd Cohort of Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH)**

**125 startups will be selected and supported through potential accelerators; To be provided with funding support and mentorship**

**The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is working for the growth of India's software product industry under the National Policy on Software Products (NPSP) - 2019. Indian software product industry including startups are being supported through various programmes such as Centre of Excellences, Technological Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) programme, Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS), ICT Grand Challenges, Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS) etc.**

**About SAMRIDH: Bolstering Indian Software Startups**

**SAMRIDH is a flagship programme of MeitY for startups acceleration under National Policy on Software Products – 2019. The SAMRIDH programme, launched in August 2021 aims to support 300 software product startups with outlay of ₹99 crore over a period of 4 years. SAMRIDH is being implemented through potential and established accelerators across India which provide services like making products market fit, business plan, investor connect and international expansion to startups plus matching funding upto ₹40 lakh by MeitY. The scheme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC).**

## **Diverse Accelerator Network for SAMRIDH**

As part of this programme, the second cohort SAMRIDH was launched yesterday (4th September, 2024) by Secretary, MeitY Sh. S. Krishnan. It is a part of the 100-day agenda of the Government of India to select and support 125 startups through potential accelerators so as to achieve the target of nurturing 300 startups. The interested accelerator may apply for 2nd cohort of SAMRIDH .

In the first cohort of SAMRIDH, 22 accelerators from 12 States were selected through open calls for proposals. List of accelerators comprises of Government Supported Organizations, Academic Institutions, Private sector and early-stage start-up funding platforms. These accelerators then select 5-10 startups each in the focused areas of health-tech, ed-tech, agri-tech, consumer-tech, fin-tech, Software as a service (SaaS), and sustainability through a multi-level screening process.

**PIB,SEP6,2024**

**Women-led StartUps to place India in global arena, says Jitendra Singh**

**Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 8 new NIDHI i-TBIs across India along with a new DST-NIDHI Website**

**S&T Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveils DST-GDC IIT Madras INCUBATE Program for Deep Tech Startups**

**DST's Nidhi Program plays a pivotal role in strengthening Startup Ecosystem, says Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**

**Celebration of 8 years of the NIDHI underscores Prime Minister Modi's commitment to empower Women entrepreneurs and extend financial inclusion, declares Dr. Jitendra Singh**

**Union Minister of State (I/C) Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that in the years to come, women-led StartUps will place India in the global arena.**

The Minister was speaking after virtually inaugurating 8 new NIDHI i-TBIs across India along with a new DST-NIDHI Website today at IIT Delhi celebrating 8 years of Department of Science and Technology's initiative (DST-NIDHI). The 8 new NIDHI Inclusive TBI's (i-TBIs) have been set up at different locations across the country ie. 1. Central University of Rajasthan Ajmer. 2. Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Ludhiana, Punjab 3. BLDE Bijapur, Karnataka 4. Aligarh Muslim University 5. Pranveer Singh Institute of Technology Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh 6. Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) Bilaspur, 7. GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women Mysore, Karnataka 8. University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES) Dehradun,)

i-TBIs (Inclusive TBI) is a three years duration initiative Supported by DST for educational institutions who are likely to foster innovation and entrepreneurship culture among the students, faculties, entrepreneurs, and nearby communities. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the DST-GDC IIT Madras INCUBATE Program for Deep Tech Startups. The GDC has been funded by grants from three illustrious alumni of IIT Madras Dr. Gururaj Deshpande, Mrs. Jaishree Deshpande and Mr. 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan. These initiatives are designed to extend our support to innovators largely from Tier II & Tier III cities and provide targeted assistance to Start-ups at critical stages of growth.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled the guidance of Prime Minister Modi for the Modi's Startup India Stand up India Initiative under which in 2016 DST launched NIDHI. Highlighting the essentiality he said, "NIDHI initiative was in response to a critical need identified within India's innovation ecosystem to bridge the gap between our academic institutions and industry. As institutes were producing world-class research there was a need to translate these ideas into market-ready products. He also emphasised on the early-industry linkage of StartUps for success. He guided that technological advancements with AI, Quantum Computing, and New Energy have the potential of innovation to transform today's Bharat into Bharat of the future.

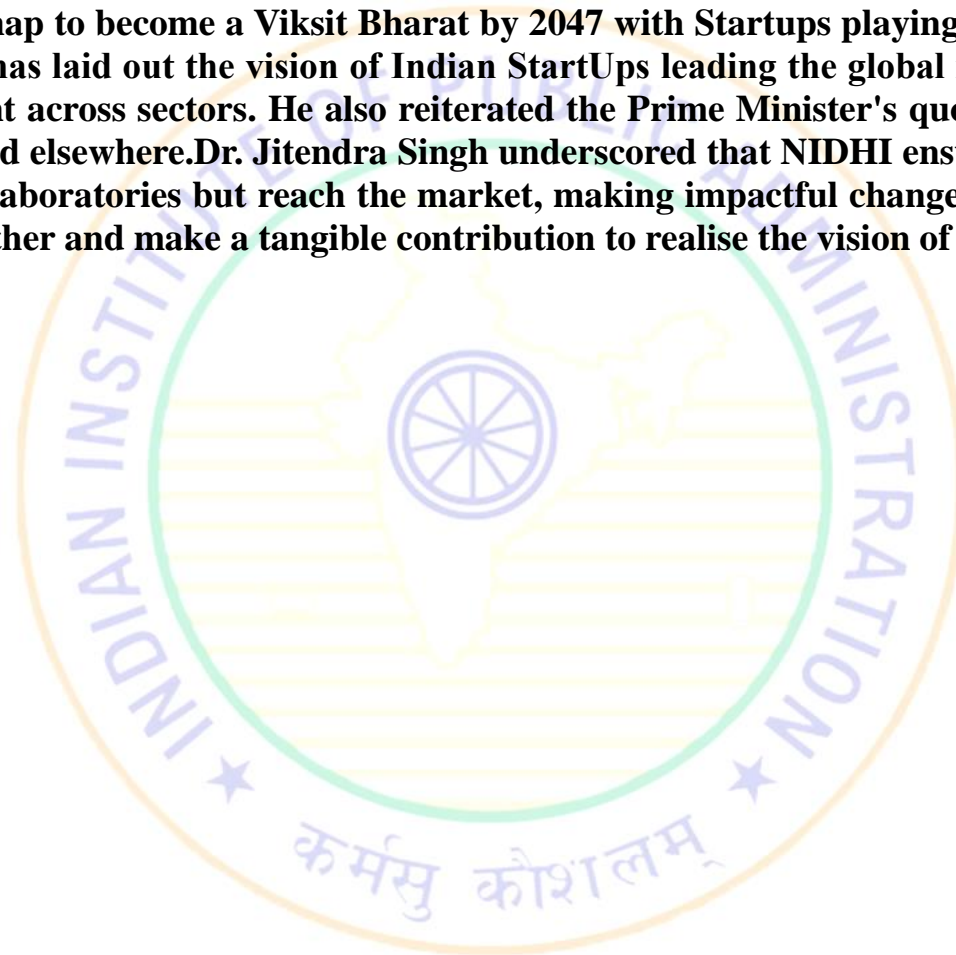
The Science and technology Minister traced back its journey since its inception in 2016 and remarked that DST's Nidhi program plays a pivotal role in strengthening Startup Ecosystem and plays a crucial role in nurturing a vast number of technology StartUps, of which a substantial proportion is led by women entrepreneurs.

Mentioning the details Dr. Singh said that the program offers a comprehensive stage-wise support structure that is tailored to the unique dynamics of academic environments. Through initiatives like the NIDHI Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) and NIDHI PRAYAS programs. Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that these ventures have created numerous jobs and have led to a thriving culture of innovation, resulting in the generation of a substantial number of intellectual properties.



**Highlighting the substantial economic success achieved reflecting the program's impact on India's growth and self-reliance. Dr. Singh said “Celebration of 8 years of the NIDHI underscores Prime Minister Modi’s commitment to empower Women entrepreneurs and extend financial inclusion”**

**Emphasizing India's roadmap to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047 with Startups playing a crucial role in the journey, Dr. Singh Said “PM Modi has laid out the vision of Indian StartUps leading the global innovation race with women-led Startups at the forefront across sectors. He also reiterated the Prime Minister's quote that those startUps which succeed in India will succeed elsewhere. Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored that NIDHI ensures that intellectual pursuits do not remain confined to laboratories but reach the market, making impactful changes. Dr. Jitendra Singh directed all innovators to work together and make a tangible contribution to realise the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.**



## **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE**

**PIB,SEP3,2024**

### **Over 52 Crore Trees Planted Nationwide Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign**

**The campaign was launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of World Environment Day**

**Union Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change Sh. Bhupender Yadav informed through a post on X today that the country has achieved a milestone in tree plantation under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and informed that over 52 crore saplings have been planted across India under the campaign.**

**'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign was launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of World Environment Day on 05.06.2024. In his clarion call for the campaign, the Prime Minister had urged everyone to contribute to a better planet and sustainable development through this initiative.**

**PIONEER,SEP6,2024**

### **A green tribute to mothers and the environment**

**Inspired by PM Modi's "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" initiative, the Chhattisgarh Government has launched the ambitious "People for Peepal" plantation drive in Nava Raipur**

**When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" (a tree in the name of the mother) initiative, a deep thought process went behind it. One, to cherish the memory of our mothers; and two, to environmental conservation. The Chhattisgarh government took it as a unique opportunity to give Nava Raipur a new identity. The Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority launched the "People for Peepal" plantation drive to transform the city into the first "Peepal Tree" city in India. We also saw it as an opportunity to address the pressing issue of climate change by establishing Nava Raipur as a "Peepal Tree" City in the coming years. This drive reflects a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and aims to set a new benchmark for urban green spaces. We envision a city where extensive tree planting and green infrastructure contribute significantly to improving the urban environment and combatting climate change. Echoing the Prime Minister's commitment to**

Mother Earth, the Chhattisgarh government is together with Modi's vision of nurturing our planet the way our mothers take care of us. The campaign, kick-started by Narendra Modi this World Environment Day on June 5, will help in reversing land degradation, recharge groundwater, prevent desertification and bring in drought resilience. The “People for Peepal” campaign aims to plant over 20,000 Peepal trees apart from 80,000 trees of other varieties throughout the city. Peepal or Ficus Religiosa, a large and fast-growing deciduous tree unique to India that is a revered symbol of eternal life, wisdom and spirituality, has been chosen for its significant ecological benefits and cultural importance. The massive plantation will ensure that Peepal trees become a prominent and recognizable feature across Nava Raipur. In addition to Peepal trees, which are one of the most oxygen-producing trees, the drive will include planting other key species such as Neem, Banyan, and Jamun. These trees are integral to the city’s green infrastructure, enhancing biodiversity and providing additional environmental benefits. To boost community involvement, the campaign includes a “virtual adoption programme”. This initiative allows individuals and organizations to adopt trees virtually, fostering widespread engagement and support for the drive. This approach encourages collective responsibility towards environmental conservation and helps ensure the campaign's success.

The ultimate goal of this extensive plantation drive is to position Nava Raipur as a model city for environmental preservation and to earn recognition as the first “Peepal Tree” City of India. By expanding green spaces and promoting biodiversity, the city aims to inspire other urban areas and set a global example for sustainable urban development. Through this initiative, Nava Raipur seeks not only to address climate change but also to enhance the quality of life for its residents, establishing itself as a leading example of environmental stewardship and green urban planning.

**PIB, SEP8, 2024**

**Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhajan Lal Sharma presented Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award, 2024**

**Nine best performing NCAP cities awarded on the occasion of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies which is also celebrated as Swachh Vayu Diwas**

**Under the leadership of Prime Minister, we are continuously striving for clean air and blue sky: Union Environment Minister**

**A green earth is essential for the blue sky and the Modi government is working to make our air clean by reducing the pollution of the earth through schemes and campaigns like Vehicle Scrap Policy, Waste to Wealth, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: Sh. Bhupender Yadav**

**Chief Minister Sh. Bhajan Lal Sharma informed that 07 crore saplings planted in Rajasthan and commended all the departments for their enthusiastic work for the achievement**

**The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (Swachh Vayu Diwas) was observed on 07.09.24 at Jaipur in the august presence of Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav and Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma. The event was also graced by Minister of State for Forest, Environment & Climate Change of Government of Rajasthan, Shri Sanjay Sharma and Union Minister of State Urban Development and Local Self Government of Government of Rajasthan, Shri Jhabar Singh Kharra. Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board was the host for this year's observance. On this occasion, an engaging video capturing the essence of NCAP program, contributions of the agencies involved and resulting improvements in air quality in 131 NCAP cities was displayed. It was informed that focused actions, convergence of resources and effective monitoring have shown positive results with declining trends of air pollution in 95 cities. 51 cities have shown reduction in PM10 levels by more than 20% with respect to base year 2017-18 and 21 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%.**

**A document titled 'Compendium on Viable Technologies and Practices: Lessons from NCAP cities', showcasing examples of initiatives undertaken by cities to improve air quality in line with local contexts and requirements, was released. Besides, 100 sapling under "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam", campaign were also planted at the 'Matri Van', Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre.**

Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards were presented to the best performing NCAP cities under Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs) to Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra; Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs) to Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi; and Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs) to Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh. The Municipal Commissioners of winner cities were awarded with cash prizes, trophy, and certificate.

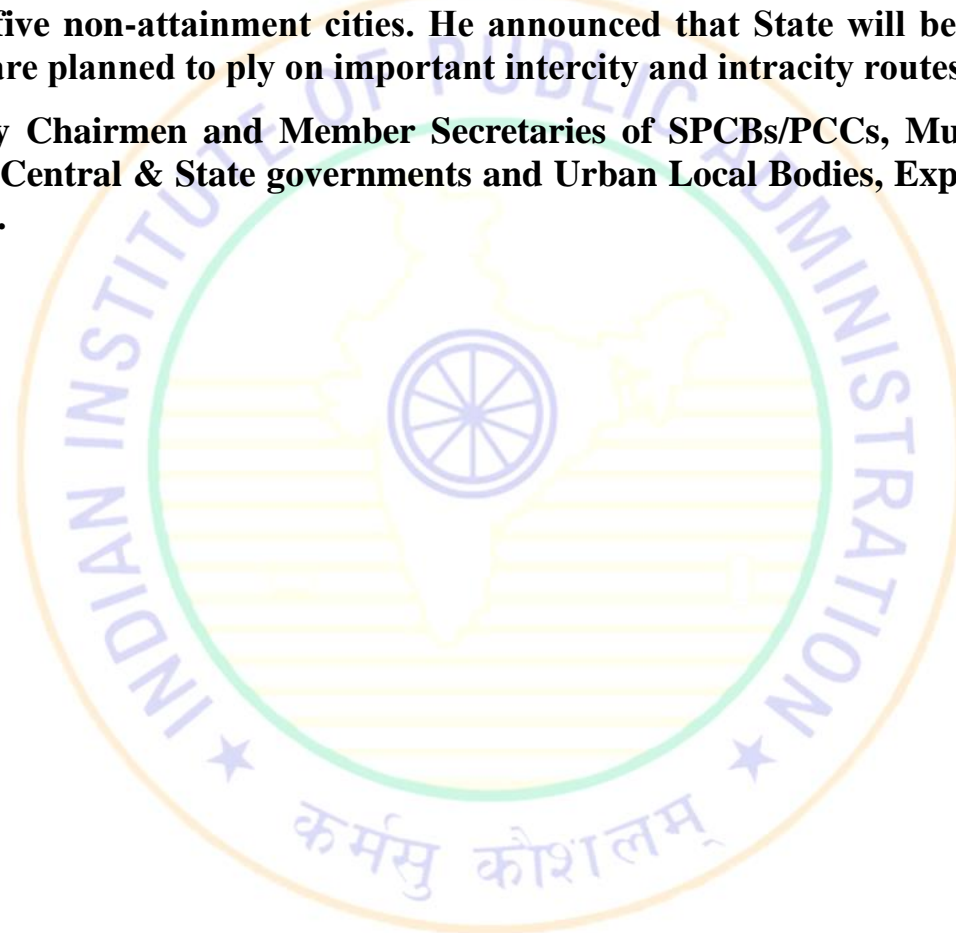
Congratulating the winning cities and encouraging the other NCAP cities, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav emphasized on the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships, bolstering investment in Clean Air Now and embracing our shared responsibility to address air pollution. He reminded the gathering that 'Nature gives us its best; in return, we should give nature our best'.

He also commended cities including smaller cities & towns on taking various strategic initiatives such as Central Command Monitoring Facility for air quality forecasting, Jan Bhagidari initiatives, technical interventions, etc. for improving air quality. It is the collective effort of all the agencies involved that the air quality has improved in most of the NCAP cities since the base year 2017. He motivated young scientists, researcher and students to participate in the Ideas4LiFE campaign and submit innovative ideas/ solutions on seven Mission LiFE themes, namely, Save Water, Save Energy, Reduce Waste, Reduce E-waste, Say No To Single Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems and Adopt Healthy Lifestyles. He reasserted commitment to realize the Prime Minister's vision for Mission LiFE and improving environmental quality in the country. He congratulated the Government of Rajasthan for massive tree plantation drive and express gratitude for hosting the day. On the occasion of Swachh Vayu Diwas, Union Environment Minister also chaired the 4th meeting of Apex Committee of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in Jaipur. He also planted sapling in Jaipur.

In his address, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, reinforced the Prime Minister's call for a cleaner and greener environment, as demonstrated through various schemes and initiatives, such as Swachh Bharat Mission and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. He informed that more than 07 crore saplings have been planted in the State and thanked all the departments involved for their enthusiastic work.

He emphasized that culturally, we are conserving society, revere nature and worship our rivers. We should keep this in mind and strive to embrace a more holistic, eco-friendly lifestyle. Focusing on the theme of this year's observance- 'Invest in Clean Air Now,' he emphasized on the need to invest our time, resources, and efforts to ensure clean air and an improved quality of life. He informed various actions taken in the State of Rajasthan for improving air quality, with focus on the five non-attainment cities. He announced that State will be preparing a 'Green Growth Budget' and electric buses are planned to ply on important intercity and intracity routes.

The event was attended by Chairmen and Member Secretaries of SPCBs/PCCs, Municipal Commissioners from NCAP cities, officials from Central & State governments and Urban Local Bodies, Experts, students, exhibitors and numerous virtual attendees.



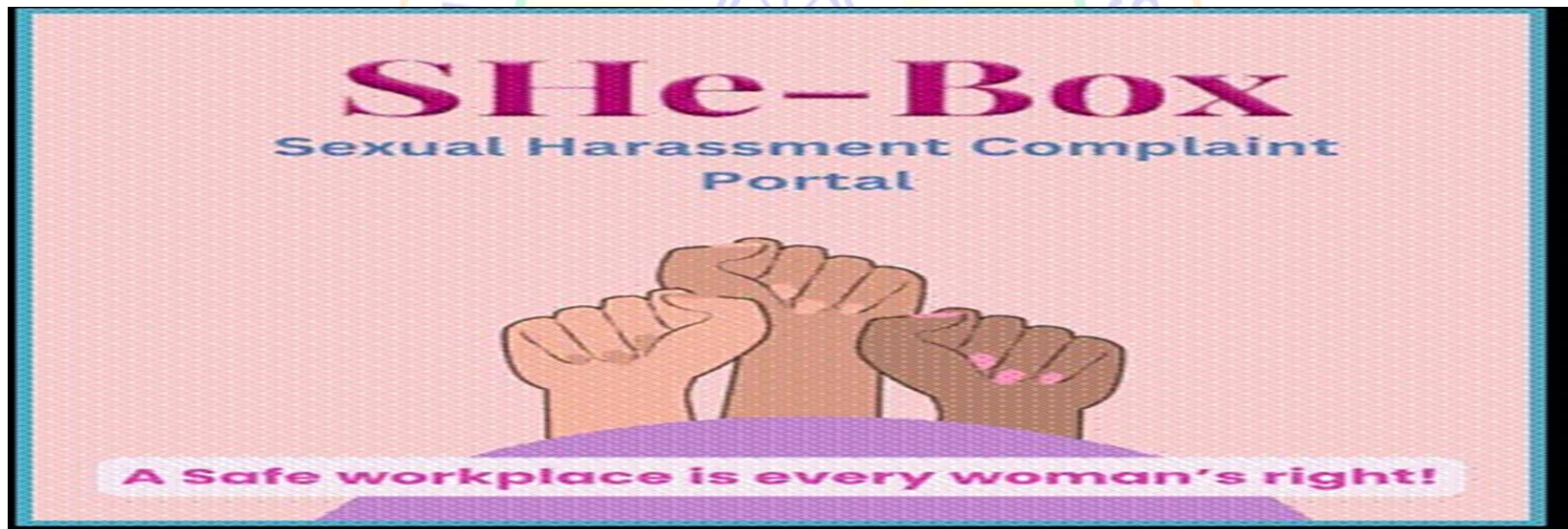
## **CURRENT EVENTS**

**PIB,SEP2,2024**

### **Union Minister Launches SHe-Box Portal**

#### **Strengthening Workplace Safety for Women empowerment!**

In a significant move aimed at bolstering workplace safety for women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, under the leadership of Union Minister Smt. Annpurna Devi, has launched the new SHe-Box portal in an event on 29 August 2024. The centralized platform is designed to create a repository of information related to Internal Committee (IC) and Local Committee (LC) established across the country and to streamline the registration and monitoring of complaints related to sexual harassment in the workplace.



The improved version of SHe-Box has feature to allow submission of complaints directly to the concerned IC or LC that will be chosen by the complainants. This will significantly reduce the delays and human interference in the complaint management system on Workplace related Sexual Harassment of women. The portal will be fully functional once all the Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, States/ UTs and the private sector update the information of their respective IC/ LC. The endeavour of the Ministry is to initially on-board the details of nodal officers and ICs of all Central Ministries/ Departments by October 2024. The launch event, held in New Delhi, also saw the unveiling of a new website for the Ministry, both of which are expected to enhance the government's digital engagement with the public.

### **A Major Step Against Workplace Harassment**

The SHe-Box portal is a crucial component in the government's ongoing efforts to deter sexual harassment of women in workplaces across India. Serving as a centralized repository, the portal will store information about Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) formed across both government and private sectors. It offers a unified platform for women to file complaints, monitor their status, and ensure that complaints are processed in a timely manner by the relevant authorities.

[1]

Smt. Annpurna Devi highlighted the importance of the portal in her speech, emphasizing that it will provide a more efficient and secure method for women to address workplace harassment. "This initiative furthers the government's commitment to creating a safer and more inclusive working environment for women across India," she stated. The Minister also assured that the portal is designed to protect the privacy of complainants, ensuring that personal information remains confidential.

### **Enhancing Women's Participation in the Workforce**

As India approaches its centenary in 2047, the government, under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has placed significant emphasis on women-led development. Recognizing the pivotal role of women in driving inclusive economic growth, the government has focused on creating a safe and secure environment that enables women to thrive in the workforce. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal)

**Act, 2013, which aims to protect women from sexual harassment and address their grievances, is a cornerstone of this effort.**

**[2]**

**The newly launched SHe-Box portal represents a significant step forward in implementing the provisions of this Act. It ensures that complaints are not only registered but also actively monitored, providing a robust framework for addressing workplace harassment.**

#### **The New Ministry Website**

**In addition to the SHe-Box portal, the Ministry of Women and Child Development also launched a newly developed website. This website is designed to create a cohesive visual identity across digital platforms, thereby enhancing the government's engagement with both national and global audiences. As digital platforms increasingly become the primary point of contact for citizens, the new website is expected to play a key role in maintaining a strong and compelling online presence.**

**[3]**

#### **Empowering Women Through Digital Innovation**

**The launch of the SHe-Box portal is part of the broader vision of empowering women through digital innovation. By providing a single-window access for the registration of complaints related to sexual harassment, the portal is expected to significantly ease the process for women across the country, regardless of their work status or the sector they belong to. The SHe-Box is accessible to all women, whether they work in organized or unorganized sectors, in public or private organizations, or even as domestic workers.**

**[4]**

**The portal also features a repository of resources related to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, including handbooks, training modules, and advisory documents.**

These resources are available in both Hindi and English and can be accessed or downloaded free of charge. The portal also includes videos aimed at raising awareness about the Act and its provisions.

### **Conclusion**

The launch of the SHe-Box portal marks a significant advancement in the government's efforts to create a safer and more equitable work environment for women in India. By integrating digital technology with legal frameworks, the portal ensures that women have a reliable and secure platform to address workplace harassment. This initiative, along with the new Ministry website, underscores the government's commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all women as India progresses towards its centenary in 2047.

**PIB,SEP4,2024**

**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates workshop on Institutional Development Plan for Higher Education Institutes and releases UGC Compendium of Regulations (1957-2023)**

**IDP should focus on facilitating learner-centric and multidisciplinary education - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**

**Our education must address 21st century aspirations and create solutions for local and global challenges - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**

Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated a one-day workshop on the Institutional Development Plan for Higher Education Institutes. He also released the UGC Compendium of Regulations (1957-2023) as a single, accessible & reliable source of all UGC rules. Shri Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; Dr. N.S. Kalsi, Former Chairman, NCVET and Chairman of the Committee working on formulating the IDP Guidelines; Shri M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC; Vice-Chancellors, Nodal Officers, and other dignitaries were also present at the event. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, while addressing the audience said the Higher education Institutes of the country will play a crucial role in realising the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of Viksit Bharat by embracing the core values and spirit of NEP 2020.

He also talked about the role of the HEIs in redefining the purpose and structure of education, empowering youth and making them future-ready, doubling the gross enrolment ratio, bringing a vast majority of the population under the higher education net, effectively utilising demographic advantage, achieving academic, research & innovation excellence and also the way forward for transforming 5000 HEIs into centres-of-excellence through holistic and inclusive approaches. Shri Pradhan also said that education will propel India from being a consuming economy to becoming a producing economy. The institutional development plan should focus on enhancing the competencies of our vast demography, facilitating learner-centric and multidisciplinary education, integrating Bharatiya Bhasha in higher learning, prioritising innovation, entrepreneurship and job-creation as an outcome, capacity building of teachers and achieving the global standard of research & development, he added. He also said that education must address 21st-century aspirations and create solutions for local and global challenges. The world looks at India's talent pool for new models and solutions to challenges of our age, he stated. He exhorted the academic fraternity to work in a focused and time-bound manner to reinvent their institutions, transforming the higher educational landscape and achieving national priorities.

Speaking on the relevance and importance of the workshop Shri K. Sanjay Murthy elaborated on the ambitious plan the Ministry of Education had presented to the Prime Minister as part of the social group with the vision for the next twenty-five years. Talent and competency would be needed to back up the tremendous work that would take place and the institutions must rise to the demand to meet the talent requirements, he added. He also emphasized the Future of Work and that the IDP must focus on enhancing the quality of the institutes. Introduction of the IDP will also help the institutes to be at par with the universities of the world, he said.

#### **About the Workshop:**

The workshop on Institutional Development Plan (IDP) brings together higher education institutions to discuss strategies for institutional growth and development. The compendium will serve as a valuable resource for institutions as they develop and implement their IDP. Over 170 representatives from HEIs across India are participating in this workshop. Aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the IDP provides institutions with a clear roadmap to develop their vision, mission and goals for a future-ready education system.

Through the two thematic sessions, the participants will have the opportunity to learn about governance enablers, financial planning and management, human resources and supportive-facilitative enablers, networking and collaboration enablers, physical enablers, digital enablers, and research and intellectual property enablers, innovative funding models, and curriculum development. Renowned experts from industry, academia, and government will share their insights and experiences on these critical areas.

In each session, different universities will share their best practices for creating their IDP. In a separate Q&A session, Chairman UGC, Former Chairman, NCVET and the speakers from the Panels will address the queries of the participants.

#### **About UGC Compendium:**

To provide a single source of reference to all the stakeholders, UGC has prepared a Compendium of all UGC Regulations, Rules and Notifications from 1957-2023. The compendium includes 15 Rules, 87 Regulations, and 28 Notifications covering a wide range of topics, including inspection, the fitness of institutions for grants, return of information, budget and accounts, establishments, affiliation, autonomy, accreditation, admission & fees, specification of degrees, and other miscellaneous matters. The compendium provides a one-stop reference for all regulatory requirements, ensuring that institutions can easily access and comply with UGC guidelines. This is expected to streamline operations and support informed decision-making, creating an environment of compliance and best practices. This compendium having more than 1100 pages, is available in the form of a PDF and e-book on the UGC website.

#### **About IDP:**

Institutional Development Plan (IDP) Guidelines were launched by UGC on 6th February 2024. The IDP Guidelines will help institutions make a strategic Institutional Development Plan with the joint participation of Board members, institutional leaders, faculty, students and staff based on which institutions will develop initiatives, assess their progress, and reach the goals set therein.

**PIB,SEP5,2024**

**NHRC, India with Sankala Foundation supported by NITI Aayog and MoHFW to organize a national conference on 'Universal Access to Health care: Digital Solutions' at IHC, New Delhi on 6th September 2024**

**The conference aims to bring various stakeholders and experts in the field of healthcare and digital solutions for ensuring 'universal access to affordable and quality healthcare'**

**The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India in collaboration with the Sankala Foundation supported by the NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is organising a national conference on 'Universal Access to Healthcare: Digital Solutions', at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 6th September 2024. The conference aims to bring together practitioners, government officials, leading experts, innovators and policy makers in the field of healthcare and digital healthcare technology to explore the way forward for universal access to affordable and quality healthcare services especially to people living in rural, remote and hilly areas.**

**Dr.V. K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog will inaugurate the conference and Mr Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will deliver the keynote address. They will also chair technical sessions. Mr Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India will give the context of convening this conference and challenges ahead. Other eminent persons participating in the conference are Dr. Rajiv Bahl, DG, ICMR; Shri S Krishnana, Secretary, MEITY, Shri C. K. Mishra, Former Secretary, Health & Family Welfare; Mr. Lav Agarwal, Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Dr. Manohar Agnani, Ms. L S Changsan, CEO, National Health Authority, Mr. Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary (E-Health), Mr Shashank N.D., Chair, Digital Health Committee (CII) and co-founder and CEO of Practo; Mr Girish Krishnamurthy, CEO and Managing Director, Tata MD and many innovators from civil society and start-ups. Domain experts from WHO, UNDP and states will also share their experiences during the conference.**

**The conference will have three technical sessions - 'Models of Change in Healthcare', 'Future Frontiers in Digital Health', and 'Technology-enabled Universal Health Coverage.' Besides the technical sessions, a report on 'Leveraging Digital Solutions for Universal Health Coverage' based on the research and field study carried out by the Sankala Foundation will also be released. Since government has taken several initiatives to ensure affordable and quality healthcare services to all, it is high time that all stakeholders sit together, share their experiences and find a way forward for collective action for universal access to affordable and quality healthcare services. This is crucial to ensure that no one is left out thus human rights of everyone are protected.**

Universal access to healthcare has also emerged as a basic human right with the National Human Rights Commission, India advocating for the use of technology in providing healthcare services to ensure better access to quality and affordable healthcare services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission had issued comprehensive advisories to ensure adherence to human rights and access to care.

The Conference will trace the impressive strides India has made in improving its healthcare delivery system to make quality services accessible and affordable to all and how this approach can be better leveraged digitally to far-flung areas. Significant gains have been made in improving the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and nutritional status (RMNCHA+N) that are central to the achievement of national health goals under the National Health Mission (NHM).

A person looking at a tabletDescription automatically generated

India has also committed to providing accessible and affordable quality healthcare under the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by the year 2030. To achieve the goal of Universal Health Coverage, the government has strengthened the public health infrastructure at the primary level, including training of human resource. Technology is being used to reach those living in the difficult geographies and the underserved and has the potential to be a game changer in healthcare delivery.

PIB,SEP6,2024

National Conference on 'Universal Access to Healthcare: Digital Solutions' concludes with several key suggestions optimizing the use of technology to achieve Universal Health Coverage

India at the cusp of rolling out the 'Amritkaal' version of technology, says, Dr V.K.Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog

**Emphasizes protection of human rights through privacy, safety from cybercrimes and frauds while scaling up use of technology**

**India working towards creating a life-long health record through an App for every individual in coming days, says, Mr Apurva Chandra, Secretary, MoHFW**

**NHRC, India Secretary General, Mr Bharat Lal says, the full potential of an individual cannot be realised without ensuring quality healthcare services to every individual throughout their life as a basic human right**

**The National Conference ‘Universal Access to Healthcare: Digital Solutions’ in New Delhi concluded with several key suggestions optimizing the use of technology to achieve Universal Health Coverage. It was organised by the Sakala Foundation with the support of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Inaugurating it, Dr. V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog said a collective thinking can help chart out a course of action to make sure that healthcare services are available to the people of India. He said there were positive developments in health sector in the private sector as well.**

**Pointing out that India’s leadership in digital technology has been accepted globally, Dr. Paul said that India launched the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) with the WHO during the G20 Health Ministerial Meeting last year. As a WHO Managed Network, GIDH aims to consolidate and amplify recent and past gains in global digital health while strengthening mutual accountability and serving as a vehicle for implementing the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–25. Dr. Paul stressed on the need for using and scaling up technology while at the same time protecting the human rights through privacy protection, safety from cybercrimes and frauds, bridging the digital gap and promoting user-friendly technology that promotes the ease of living making technology useable and accessible. It should enhance the quality of life and wellbeing, he said.**

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**Delivering the keynote address, Mr Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare announced that India was working towards creating a life-long health record for every individual in coming days. To begin with, the Ministry would be launching U-Win App that would record close to 2.7 crore newborns and 3 crore mothers in**

the country. This would be an Aadhar-based record of the vaccinations of baby and would subsequently be also linked to the Anganwadi Centres, Poshan tracker and even with the school health programme.

Further, to streamline and standardise health insurance claim processing and improving the patient experience, the government has also taken on board 41 insurance companies, 7 TPAs and 400 hospitals on board under the National Health Claims Exchange gateway under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. Mr Bharat Lal, Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India in his address emphasized that there is a need for various stakeholders in the health sector to come together to ensure that healthcare for all becomes a reality. Mr Lal said that healthcare is a basic human right and the full potential of an individual cannot be realised without ensuring quality healthcare services to every individual throughout their life. He mentioned that the potential of technology in delivering healthcare facilities and improving of quality of life of every individual is essential. He said that the technology holds the future of affordable and quality health care.

Mr Lal highlighted that the NHRC, India is also focussing on marginalized sections of society like people suffering from mental health issues, leprosy, older persons, widows, beggars, etc. so that human rights can be enjoyed by every individual. The Commission works with the approach that no one is left behind, he added.

A group of people standing at a podium

A Report Leveraging Digital Solutions for Universal Health Coverage prepared by Sankala Foundation was also released on the occasion. The Digital Nerve Centre (DiNC) is a unique health care delivery model in Kolar district of Karnataka. It has streamlined processes in public health facilities, reduced patient overload in secondary and tertiary hospitals, and increased the utilisation of primary health centres (PHCs).

A group of people standing on a stage

Being implemented since 2017, it has been devised and is being implemented by the TATA Medical and Diagnostics (TATA MD) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. At present, 90 health facilities including 82 PHCs, two community health centres (CHCs), five taluka (Sub District) hospitals (TH), and one district hospital (DH) are covered by the DiNC.

The conference brought together experts, government officials, and various stakeholders from the health and health technology sector together for achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage by the year 2030. Chairing the first technical session on 'Models of Change in Healthcare', Mr Bharat Lal said technology had a profound impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people, and thus is a leapfrog factor in ensuring basic services. Mr Basant Garg, Additional CEO, National Health Authority (NHA) said that technology had helped in reaching out to 55 crore people under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana through the use of digital technology and these were people who would otherwise not have been able to access and achieve specialised healthcare.

Spelling out various technology-driven initiatives under the NHA, he said that the patient is always at the centre. Mr Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary (E-Health), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare said that inaccessibility and unaffordability of quality health services was a violation of human rights and technology can help in overcoming this along with capacity building and standardisation. Mr Girish Krishnamurthy, CEO and Managing Director, Tata MD said that adoption of technology in healthcare has always been slow though it has the potential to be the core of healthcare and not just an enabler. Talking about Andhra Pradesh's Telemedicine Programme, Mr Chevuru Hari Kiran, Director, Health & Family Welfare said that 60-65% of people in the State were opting for public health services.

Chairing the second technical session on 'Future Frontiers in Digital Health,' Dr Rajiv Bahl, DG, ICMR focussed on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in health research and spoke about the National Institute of Health and Artificial Intelligence set up by the Council. Advocating for the integration of data, Mr Lav Agarwal, Resident Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Government said that data in India was available in silos and technology was frugal. Ms Debjani Ghosh, President NASSCOM, said India should not be the market for health solutions.

A group of people sitting at a podium

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In the third technical session on 'Technology-enabled Universal Health Coverage,' Mr C.K. Mishra, former Secretary Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Advisor IPE Global said that technology should reduce the cost of healthcare.

**Mr S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, said that technology can be an enabler in healthcare but it cannot substitute for healthcare workers. He spoke about India's AI Mission that would help in crunching large volumes of data and making this data base useable. The largest chunk of database is from the health and insurance sector.**

**Prof Manohar Agnani, Professor (Public Health), Azim Premji University and former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare said that there were several models such as the DiNC Model of Kolar in Karnataka that could be replicated. He highlighted the need for creating institutional frameworks and stringent regulations for the use of technology. The conference concluded that India was ready to roll out the 'Amritkaal' version of technology and the time was right for the comprehensive use of technology and AI in primary healthcare, validation of data was critical, India cannot be a market for healthcare solutions and there was a need for a change in medical education.**

**PIB,SEP7,2024**

**Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Jammu is organizing a transformative 5-day Management Development Programme from 9th to 13th September 2024**

**The Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Jammu (IIM Jammu) is organizing a transformative 5-day residential Management Development Programme (MDP) from 9th to 13th September, 2024. Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions including Presidents and Vice Presidents of District Panchayats/Block Panchayat Samitis, Heads of Gram panchayats (s) and various Panchayat officials from across 11 States and UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Jammu & Kashmir will be participating in this upcoming MDP.**

**MDP aims to enhance the leadership, management and governance skills of the Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The five-day intensive program will cover various aspects of leadership, management and ethics, resource mobilisation and convergence, Rural Innovation, effective management of projects and Artificial Intelligence (AI) etc. Participants will benefit from expert-led sessions, case studies, and interactive discussions designed to equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to lead their communities more**

effectively. A key focus of the program is on augmenting Own Source Revenue (OSR), which is essential for attaining financial sustainability and transforming Panchayats into "Saksham" (capable) Panchayats. By strengthening their financial independence, Panchayats can better address local needs and drive rural development. As Panchayats are the grassroots level agencies responsible for providing basic amenities and governance to the rural population, their Elected Representatives and officials are extremely important stakeholders in fulfilling constitutionally mandated duties and making the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) a reality. Recognizing their crucial role, the MDP is aimed at enhancing their capabilities for serving their communities better.

It is expected that this program will significantly contribute to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of local governance in India and facilitate accelerated development and improved quality of life for citizens in rural areas. The initiative shows the commitment of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to strengthen local governance and empowering Panchayats for better service delivery at the grassroots.

#### **Background:**

Launched earlier this year in January 2024, the initiative of Leadership/ Management Development Programme is a strategic effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to enhance the leadership and management skills of representatives and officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The program has garnered positive feedback from the participants as well as the States/ UTs and management institutions, marking a significant achievement. The program aims to foster effective governance at the grassroots and ensuring high quality of public service delivery.