



Government of India

**Third National Conference
of
Chief Secretaries**

27 - 29 December, 2023

**NASC Complex, ICAR, PUSA
New Delhi**

Minutes

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Executive Summary

1. The Third National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held in NASC Complex, ICAR, Pusa, New Delhi from 27th December to 29th December 2023. Chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Conference was attended by 215 participants with representation from all States and Union Territories as well as select Central Ministries/ Departments and domain experts. The list of participants is given in **Annexure-1**.
2. The Conference was the culmination of substantial efforts put in by the lead Central Ministries and Departments, senior officials from NITI Aayog and the Government of India (GoI), domain experts, Chief Secretaries/ field functionaries and many other young officers from the States/UTs. More than 150 rounds of deliberations were conducted over six months.
3. With the overarching theme of 'Ease of Living', the conference had five thematic sessions:
 - (i) Drinking Water: Access, Quantity & Quality
 - (ii) Electricity: Quality, Efficiency & Reliability
 - (iii) Health: Accessibility, Affordability & Quality of Care
 - (iv) Schooling: Access & Quality
 - (v) Land & Property: Accessibility, Digitisation, Registration & Mutation
4. There were special sessions on five themes as follows:
 - (i) Perspectives on AI
 - (ii) Cyber Security: Emerging Challenges
 - (iii) Stories from the Ground: Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programmes
 - (iv) Role of States: Rationalisation of Schemes & Autonomous entities and Enhancing Capital Expenditure
 - (v) AI in Governance: Challenges & Opportunities
5. Besides, there were focused deliberations during the meals covering the following subjects: (i) Drug De-addiction & Rehabilitation; (ii) Amrit Sarovar; (iii) Tourism Promotion, Branding & Role of States; and (iv) PM Vishwakarma Yojana & PM SVANidhi.

Programme Schedule

Day 1: 27th December 2023 (Wednesday)

Time	Duration	Programme
6:00-6:30 PM	30 min	Briefing the delegates regarding the Conference
6:30-7:30 PM	60 min	Perspectives on AI
7:30-8:30 PM	60 min	Special Session 1 Cyber Security : Emerging Challenges
8:30-9:30 PM	60 min	Dinner
<i>Post Dinner Informal Discussion</i>		

Day 2: 28th December 2023 (Thursday)

Time	Duration	Programme
7:00 - 8:00 AM	60 min	Yoga
8:30 - 9:30 AM	60 min	Breakfast
10 AM		Arrival of Hon'ble Prime Minister
10:00 - 10:15 AM	15 min	Welcome and Context Setting by Cabinet Secretary
10:15 - 10:35 AM	20 min	Action Taken Report - 1 st & 2 nd Conference by CEO, NITI Aayog
10:35 - 11:50 AM	75 min	Drinking Water : Access, Quantity and Quality
11:50 AM - 12:20 PM	30 min	Break
<i>Move to auditorium for Special Session 2</i>		
12:20 - 1:20 PM	60 min	Special Session 2 Stories from the Ground: Aspirational Blocks & Districts Programme
1:20 - 1:40 PM	20 min	Group Photograph
1:40 - 2:40 PM	60 min	<i>Thematic Lunch : Drug De-addiction & Rehabilitation</i>
2:40 - 3:55 PM	75 min	Electricity: Quality, Efficiency & Reliability
4:00- 5:00 PM	60 min	Special Session 3 Role of States: Rationalisation of Schemes & Autonomous entities and Enhancing Capital Expenditure
5:00 - 5:30 PM	30 min	Break
5:30 - 6:45 PM	75 min	Health: Accessibility, Affordability & Quality of Care

7:00 – 8:00 PM	60 min	<i>Thematic Dinner: Amrit Sarovar</i>
<i>Post Dinner Informal Discussion</i>		

Day 3: 29th December 2023 (Friday)

Time	Duration	Programme
7:00 – 8:00 AM	60 min	Yoga
9:30 – 10:30 AM	60 min	<i>Thematic Breakfast : Tourism Promotion, Branding & Role of States</i>
10:30 – 11:45 AM	75 min	Schooling: Access & Quality
11:50 AM – 12:50 PM	60 min	Special Session 4 New Age Technologies for Governance - AI
12:50 – 1:50 PM	60 min	<i>Thematic Lunch: PM Vishwakarma Yojana & PM SVANidhi</i>
2:00 – 3:15 PM	75 min	Land and Property: Accessibility, Digitisation, Registration & Mutation
15 min		<i>Move to Auditorium</i>
3:30 – 3:45 PM	15 min	Key Takeaways from the Conference
3:45 PM		Address by Hon'ble Prime Minister

Part A

Hon'ble Prime Minister Remarks

Third National Conference of Chief Secretaries
27-29 December 2023, New Delhi
Remarks of the Hon'ble Prime Minister

Address by the Hon'ble PM

1. The Prime Minister started his addressing by stating that the Third Edition of the Chief Secretaries Conference had built on the previous two Conferences. He said that in order to achieve the grand vision of Viksit Bharat over the next 25 years, the Chief Secretaries Conferences will play an important role. While Amrit Kaal's aspirations may look big, the last 10 years' achievements indicate that it is possible to achieve them. In the last decade, India has risen from the Fragile Five to the Top Five economies of the world through deep structural reforms like Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living and reach the last mile connectivity that is being celebrated through the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatras.
2. The Prime Minister congratulated all the State and UT Officers for the successful conduct of G20 events in 200 locations across States and UTs. He said that the world has acknowledged India's ability to organise large events. The same teamwork between Centre and States is required to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat.
3. He said that the Government of India has put in place sectoral teams for preparing strategic plans for Viksit Bharat, and that the States can also do the same at the District levels. States should leverage the networks developed during India's G20 Presidency. The Prime Minister observed that NITI Aayog has studied the outcomes of G20 Summit and that States should take up similar initiatives and leverage on the results of G20 meetings.
4. The Prime Minister said that Swasth Bharat is vital for Viksit Bharat, especially for the youth. Hence initiatives like Fit India, Har Ghar Yog, Poshan Abhiyan and Shri Anna have been prioritized. These may appear to be small initiatives but are vital for the wellbeing of the youth. He said that youth power is at the core of Viksit Bharat. But weak and unfit youth would affect the speed of achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.
5. The Prime Minister emphasised that there should be detailed follow-up on the Abha cards given to citizens as part of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) using AI. There is a need to focus on citizen's health data and quality of service delivery. While Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) are doing initial screening of NCDs, but there is a need make them top class with high quality standards and to take their services to the next level. States should prioritize this.
6. The Prime Minister observed that the Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) have not achieved their potential. While 12,000 of the planned 25,000 JAKs have been opened, there is a need to increase the turnover at each JAK. Doctors are not prescribing generic medicines. A middle-

class family spends Rs. 2,000-3,000 on medicines. Access to JAKs will help them save this valuable amount.

7. The Prime Minister said that TB Mukht Bharat and elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia should be a focus for all States. Tribals are most affected by this disease, and it destroys their life. Hence, there is a need to look at new research done within India and globally. He also cautioned the officers that the rise in Covid cases should not be taken lightly, and necessary processes must be followed.
8. The Prime Minister said that the young officers had shared their ideas on Aspirational Districts and Blocks with great energy. The ADP and ABP have demonstrated the power of micro-planning. Hence District and Block officers should add ideas and criteria for monitoring progress as per the local context. He observed that ADP and ABP help us bring about grassroots change and that there is a need to create more such models. Each plan for the Aspirational Districts and Blocks should be holistic and incorporate diverse local parameters. There should be clear timelines along with measurable and monitorable targets.
9. The Prime Minister said that young and committed officers should be encouraged to work in Aspirational Districts for a fixed tenure. Thereafter a favourable posting can be given to them. At the same time, no vacancy should be left in Aspirational Districts and Blocks as they require consistent monitoring to improve performance. Initiatives like PM Janman and the Vibrant Village Programme have also been initiated for enabling bottom-up transformation.
10. The Prime Minister said that the Chief Secretaries should work with the Capacity Building Commission for block level officers, and that government officials at all levels must be encouraged to get iGot Karmayogi certifications. He said that he would listen to the experience of Block-level officials at the next National Chief Secretaries Conference in December 2024.
11. The Prime Minister instructed NITI Aayog to develop a repository to collate the innovations developed in Aspirational Districts and Blocks so that other States and countries can learn from them as the work done in Aspirational Districts and Blocks is being discussed internationally.
12. The Prime Minister said that PM Janman should be a priority in tribal dominated Aspirational Blocks. He said that though there were only 25 lakh people targeted through the programme, there was a need to transform the lives of PVTGs to achieve real change. There should be focus on villages and blocks that are to be covered. Tribals know their traditional skills, but needs technology and marketing for their produce.
13. Similarly, PM Vishwakarma (PMVK) should be a focus for all States and UTs. Training the Vishwakarmas, providing them access to design, tools and technology, global branding will improve their productivity. Though, Bharat is not doing well in jewellery export, PMVK can

help in improving handmade jewellery that is in great demand overseas. It can be a great asset for global branding of Indian handmade jewellery.

14. Women-led development is a focus in the Amrit Kaal. Over 10 crore women have been associated with SHGs in the last 10 years. The Prime Minister observed that there is great confidence in young girls of the present generation, and this should be leveraged in the development process. In such a scenario, the target of creating 2 crore Lakhpati Didis is easily achievable. Chief Secretaries should prioritise providing guidance to young women and girls and provide them good quality raw material, packaging and marketing facilities for their products.
15. Drones are at the centre of a new revolution in rural agriculture. The Prime Minister advised that as part of the NAMO Drone Didi initiative, women should be encouraged to drones in agriculture as it would give a great global message. He also suggested that women SHGs should be connected with the service sector. They can be trained in serving food in the Pangat Bhojan format during community programmes so that they can get livelihoods while also reducing food wastage which is common in buffet meal (Sangat Bhojan) arrangements.
16. The Prime Minister said that Drinking Water needs a comprehensive and community-based approach. Jal Saksharta is vital in schools. There is also a need to focus on ground water rejuvenation and use of solar energy in Jal Jeevan Mission. He emphasised that Amrit Sarovars are for the benefit of ordinary citizens, there is grassroots interest in creating them and 75,000 of them have already been constructed. MGNREGA should hence be linked with the Amrit Sarovar programme and the number of Sarovars should keep expanding.. Soil from Amrit Sarovars should be used for rail and road construction projects.
17. The Prime Minister advised that State Governments should improve local capacity to address issues connected with climate change. Fire fighters should undertake weekly demonstrations in schools. This would lead to win-win outcomes as schools would benefit and the fire fighters would also remain agile with repeat practise sessions. While some States have strengthened Disaster Management, others need to do more.
18. The Prime Minister said that there is a need to focus on Green Growth, Green Hydrogen, Chemical-free Farming and Soil Testing. The Governor of Gujarat has been providing several insights on its benefits through several videos. He suggested that at least 5 villages per District can fully adopt Natural Farming driven by solar energy. States should also focus on creating and using farmers' databases and encouraging agri-startups. Government is working towards expanding the cooperative movement through Multi-purpose PACS, Dairy Co-operatives. Decentralized storage capacity model for effective distribution of food grains needs to be reviewed and adapted by the States.
19. The Prime Minister said that there is need for structured plans in order to reduce the losses of Discoms. RDSS has been designed for this. Continuous up-gradation and maintenance would be important so that electricity cost goes down. He instructed that Centre and State

Government should focus on rooftop solar in all government buildings and for street lighting. States should take rooftop solar as a Mission and implement it. This will not only help reduce the electricity expenses but also contribute to green growth.

20. The Prime Minister said that there is great international interest for investing in India. Hence States should map global markets for Indian products and make District-level plans. New brands should be created, and States through district-level export plans should leverage e-commerce and the Indian diaspora overseas to achieve success.
21. The Prime Minister said that capex is vital for the country's growth and the funds for this can be created through rationalisation of schemes. . There should be a focus on cutting waste and thinking big while planning for infrastructure. He gave the examples of the construction of Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhumi, New Parliament Building and Central Vista as capital projects that have given immense livelihoods to people in the thick of Covid. He instructed that a committee should be created under the Finance Secretary with 7-8 Finance Secretaries of States to focus on capex and reforming expenditure patterns. He encouraged the use of PM Gati Shakti during the planning stage of capital projects so that issues can be systematically addressed in time.
22. The Prime Minister said that just like the Central Government reviews projects with States, through the PRAGATI platform, State Governments should also review projects with ULBs on similar lines. He observed that there are several loopholes in GST collection and hence there is a need to make the processes more robust. He suggested that States can study the Gujarat model and that frauds in GST collection can be reduced through compulsory usage of Aadhaar based bio-metric verification. States should also focus on improving revenue collection by ULBs.
23. The Prime Minister observed that the financial situation in many States is declining and that there is a need to strengthen financial discipline. He cautioned the State and UT officers that several nations have been destroyed due to financial indiscipline and hence they should be extremely committed to their duty of serving national interests instead of succumbing to populism and freebies. Prime Minister emphasized that if we are to make the country Viksit we cannot have any State go backwards from the levels they have attained so far. He also instructed all officers to spend at least 100 hours a year in mentoring their junior officers.
24. The Prime Minister said that there has been a long felt need to transform the Indian Judicial System from the approach of Dand (punishment) to the approach of Nyaya (justice). Hence the new Nyaya Samhita has been introduced which should be studied by all officers. There should be necessary training and capacity building in this regard in all States and UTs.
25. The Prime Minister instructed that AI, Blockchain, Quantum Computing and other New Age Technologies must be adopted in Governance in the years ahead. Along with this, priority must be given to Cyber Security. Chief Secretaries must take charge of ensuring that Cyber

Security is strengthened at all levels of governance. Each officer should make it one's personal responsibility.

26. The Prime Minister concluded his address by stating that the future Conferences of Chief Secretaries can throw light on new areas. He said that his real strength is the officers and that actual satisfaction lies in bringing about change and transformation on the ground. Prime Minister also said that he looked forward to the next Conference of Chief Secretaries to collectively work toward the vision of India becoming a \$5 trillion economy and a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Session-wise Remarks by the Hon'ble PM

A. Drinking Water: Access, Quantity and Quality

1. Prime Minister congratulated all States for giving priority to the Jal Jeevan Mission by putting their best efforts. Going forward he suggested that innovative approaches must be adopted. He emphasized on taking a holistic approach towards the issue of water by establishing linkages of water with health, environment, and education. He stated that the aspect of piety associated with water, strengthens community ownership.
2. Prime Minister emphasized the need for engaging school children as change agents and suggested that students should be able to study about importance of drinking water through a special chapter on JJM in their syllabus. (School Education Department).
3. Prime Minister suggested that a tradition of 'Jal Utsav' (like the Nadi Utsav) could be developed to promote sensitivity towards importance and significance of water. Water can then become an issue of prime importance for every household. Group of students should be encouraged to adopt technology solutions and interact at rural levels. For example, a group of students in senior school, can undertake water testing using field test kit.
4. He suggested that like personalised testing kits for Covid, there can be personalised testing kits for water quality which can be designed by startups. This will help decentralisation of water quality testing from District Labs.
5. Prime Minister suggested that efforts should be undertaken to explore the possibility, whether solar panels can be put on the water tanks and that solar energy can be used for water supply during the day.
6. Prime Minister emphasized that three important aspects are paid attention to
 - a. **Water Conservation:** Every village should make rainwater catchment their campaign/Abhiyaan, which can be called Jal Sanchay.
 - b. **Zero tolerance towards leakages and wastage** of water

- c. **Waste-Water Treatment:** Developing a two-way mechanism to ensure utilization of wastewater. Within a 10-50 km radius of every city, farmers should be encouraged to use treated water supplied from cities for horticulture and cultivation of vegetables.
7. Prime Minister suggested that with the use of technology, there should be an increasing move towards adoption of prepaid meters.
8. He suggested that micro and sprinkler irrigation missions must be encouraged for 'more crop per drop' output. (Department of Agriculture)

B. Special Session 2 - Stories from the Ground: Aspirational Blocks & Districts Programme

Prime Minister stated that the focus on Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks has led to success and transformation on ground, also leading to the States overcoming their development lag. The Aspirational model is becoming accepted across India and the globe. However, we can still pay attention to minute details:

9. Districts/blocks should assess where they have managed to make progress, where have we reached and surpassed State average. What about any indicator where the district/block might have declined with its performance on this indicator deteriorating. Prime Minister emphasized that we should not move backwards in areas where the district/block is ahead and pay focus to such areas..
10. Every district/block to discover and grab the low-hanging fruit, i.e. identify 4-5 indicators where improvement can be made with less effort and high impact. The achievement will build confidence in the entire team and serve as inspiration to deliver on other parameters also.
11. Prime Minister emphasized that it is important to build the team for each identified task/priority. This will enable the designated teams to ensure continuity of work with sustained vigour.
12. Prime Minister also stated that for such identified tasks, citizens themselves should be able to take ownership and that it should become a Jan Andolan. There should be effective team work between Sarkar and Samaj. This will enhance citizens' awareness and participation towards work being done in the districts/blocks.
13. Prime Minister suggested that Districts/Blocks should be able to identify and add some indicators based on their local context and monitor them. This would enable districts/blocks to prioritize sectors where concerted action is needed. These indicators can be additional to the ones set by NITI Aayog.
14. The success model of the ADP and ABP model should be such that it can be scaled up in the Global South.

15. Economic activities should be given emphasis. Traditional modes of livelihood, like fisheries, animal husbandry, apiculture, etc., should be identified. Innovative solutions can be taken up to generate additional income. ADP/ ABP should be well documented.
16. A WhatsApp group to be created for all 500 Aspirational Blocks for real-time sharing of best practices and success stories.

C. Thematic Lunch: Drug De-addiction & Rehabilitation

17. **Chief Secretary, Punjab** informed that Punjab is encouraging sports, so that the youth is engaged in a constructive activity. He also informed that Punjab is taking up regular recruitment for Government vacancies so that the youth have avenues for employment. However, Hon'ble Prime Minister pointed out that the youth who have exhausted their options, would face bottleneck in this approach.
18. **HS-cum-Advisor, Chandigarh** remarked that in Chandigarh parents would be counseled to identify symptoms of drug use so that there is early detection and corrective action can be taken up. Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that mothers should be brought in the loop as the child can connect with mother and can get help in rehabilitation. Traditional family values like eating together should be revived, so that the parents can come to know the mental state of their children, Hon'ble Prime Minister also mentioned that sports is a critical way of engaging the youth bringing a sense of pride and purpose in life. He also stressed that police should organise community engaging activity so that there is better intelligence and counter measure for drug abuse.

D. Electricity: Quality, Efficiency & Reliability

19. Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized that government buildings should install solar panels. Ministries and State departments should earmark part of their respective budgets for solar PV installations. He advised prioritizing the installation of smart meters and LED bulbs in government buildings and installation of rooftop solar in urban areas, specifically for housing societies.
20. He stressed on exploring a model where multiple renewable energy installations such as electric vehicles, clean cookstoves and green hydrogen can be powered through solar energy. He suggested that energy storage in houses and clean cooking could help save on gas transportation. Electric vehicles (EVs) could potentially charge through in-house solar PV systems.
21. Big Government colonies, particularly of PSUs, should experiment with using solar power and green hydrogen from wastewater for transport purposes. He proposed that decentralized green hydrogen is more viable for electricity generation. Expanding solar

photovoltaic installations on road dividers and ensuring that such electrification is driven by renewable sources, was suggested. He further recommended that one city in every state should be selected for implementing such measures.

22. Hon'ble PM suggested that states should take up the challenge of having 100 villages in each state driven 100% by solar energy only. This would then set an example for others.
23. Hon'ble Prime Minister advised promoting startups to enhance solar panel efficiency through innovation. Experimenting with combined utility of solar and micro wind power generators on roof top requires was suggested. He stated that we should shift more quickly toward renewable energy, calling it 'समय की मांग,' implying that the energy transition is imperative and should be expedited. He finally added that it is not just about finances or the economy; we must make a commitment towards a 'सूर्य आधारित जीवन व्यवस्था'.

E. Special Session 3 - Role of States: Rationalisation of Schemes & Autonomous entities and Enhancing Capital Expenditure

24. PM did not make any remarks in this session.

F. Health: Accessibility, Affordability & Quality of Care

25. Hon'ble Prime Minister wanted states to be alert to the likely future incidence of COVID and other infections and take preventive measures for the same in time.
26. He also emphasized the need to conduct mock drills so that systems are in readiness to handle possible outbreaks in future.

G. Thematic Dinner: Amrit Sarovar

27. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24 April 2022 with an objective to construct/rejuvenate at least 75 Amrit Sarovars (Ponds) in every district of the country. Satisfaction was expressed on the large number of Amrit Sarovars that exceeded the target and people's participation at all levels in their completion. Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that the programme should continue and focus should be more on creation of new Sarovars than merely restoring the old Sarovars. He also encouraged the States to find innovative ways to scale up the number of Sarovars as well as the capacity of existing Sarovars. Local Universities should be encouraged to undertake research and development for this purpose. Hon'ble Prime Minister shared the experience of Gujarat, especially mentioning rejuvenation of Sabarmati through Narmada water. He also mentioned the role of IITs in evaluation of these projects and case studies. Further, he said that the GatiShakti portal should be utilized to pinpoint the potential snarls.

28. Mentioning the immense benefits of Amrit Sarovars, Hon'ble Prime suggested that health and environment studies in the areas where Amrit Sarovars have been completed should be undertaken. Emphasizing the role of Amrit Sarovars in water conservation and ground water recharge, Hon'ble Prime Minister also stressed upon the importance of check dams in the riverbed, revival of step wells and farm ponds. Also mentioning how water is lost in transit and distribution, Hon'ble Prime Minister urged the States to arrest waste of water by proper maintenance and supervision to improve the economy.

H. Thematic Breakfast: Tourism Promotion, Branding & Role of States

29. **Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir** informed that foreign tourists visiting the State have increased threefold and that the State is also renovating derelict temples to promote religious tourism. Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested to Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir that the State should also consider promoting sports tourism and conference tourism.
30. **Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands** informed that they have launched bird policy for the archipelago. With the help of this policy, all bird guides are being trained and trails are earmarked in the UT. Hon'ble PM said that bird tourism is a good area where we need to focus. He stated that birding community is one dedicated tourist group which stays at one location till it can see all species of bird. This helps the local economy as they spend substantially during their stay. Hon'ble PM also suggested that multilingual websites (especially in the UN languages) should be created to attract international birding community. He instructed that help from Indian mission abroad may be taken to disseminate the information about the bird's species available in the island. He suggested that programmes such as quiz competitions can be held to ensure that information is propagated at international level.
31. **Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh** informed that Atal Tunnel has given rise to new tourist destinations. Hon'ble PM suggested that small interventions can develop tourism locally. He gave an example about Roerich's art gallery. He informed that during late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime he suggested him to visit Roerich's gallery. It immediately brought the gallery's information in public domain and the gallery gained tremendous popularity. Small ancillary activities increased manifold. He also suggested that near Manali, there is a garden where huge rocks are standing, and in that garden, all major sculptors can be invited to chisel the rocks. After all the rocks are chiseled, then the garden can be opened for the tourists on tracks. It will help the local economy and create a unique thing in the State.
32. He also informed that Atal Tunnel has given rise to new tourist destinations. Hon'ble PM suggested that small interventions can develop tourism locally. He gave an example about Roerich's art gallery. He informed that during late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime he suggested him to visit Roerich's gallery. It immediately brought the gallery's information in public domain and the gallery gained tremendous popularity. Small ancillary activities

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33. **Chief Secretary, Gujarat** informed that the projects conceived by Hon'ble PM during his tenure as CM Gujarat is now up and functioning. Dhando has become a major tourist destination as almost 5000-6000 tourists visit the area on daily basis. Hon'ble PM also informed that in a place like Nadabet, programme like 'Seemadarshan' सीमादर्शन has been started. Though it does not have a similar infrastructure as Wagah as Pakistan's presence is not there, yet people visit the place to have a feel of the border line.
34. He also suggested that at least 5 world class destinations should be developed to attract international tourists. Hon'ble PM said that brand 'Gandhi' is the biggest brand available to the State. Areas such as Porbandar should be propagated properly. He further suggested that places like "Dandi" have tremendous potential to become world class tourist destinations.
35. The Hon'ble Prime Minister further suggested that emphasis should be on 'high value high volume' tourism rather than 'low value high volume' tourism.
36. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also suggested that at 100 important tourist destination of the country, souvenir shops of all other States should be established. This would not only help in the increased sale of handicraft items, but also draw tourists' attraction towards other States. A tourist would tend to decide his next destination. This will give fillip to the domestic tourism.

I. Schooling: Access & Quality

37. The Hon'ble Prime Minister spoke about Gujarat's Vidya Samiksha Kendra which is a Command and Control Centre for Schools. The World Bank has supported the Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiative in Gujarat. He said that World Bank's Chairman met him and offered to support a similar initiative in other States. However, the Prime Minister underscored that there should be a similar system across India to build on synergies.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that school consolidation should be done gradually, building trust within the community.. . He suggested that this could be done by gradually familiarising students in the catchment area with the consolidated school, beginning with once a week and then gradually expanding. Gradually, the students and the community will realise the academic advantages of having a large consolidated school.

38. Regarding the dearth of benches in some schools, the Hon'ble Prime Minister opined that the practice of sitting down is good for health and is an asset. All students should have the experience of attending the classes while sitting on the floor. However, the school may

explore the possibility that all the students can sit on furniture on a rotation basis for a few hours every week. Innovative solution should be thought of furnishing schools with furniture and for that purpose the repair of old furniture lying in schools can be done by jail inmates. This will also become a productive activity for jail inmates. On similar lines, midday meal requirements can be met through Jan Bhagidari, and Smriti Bhojans can be organized frequently with community participation during lunch breaks.

39. The Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that NITI Aayog could help the School Education department create a dashboard for education similar to the one created for ADP and ABP in which parameters could be identified for school education improvement. Under this, every district could select 100 schools for monitoring them on several parameters – 50 best and 50 upcoming. This would lead to competition among schools.
40. A 3-4 day conference can be organized on the theme of school education in which there could be discussion on best practices. This conference may involve teachers, students, parents and all other stakeholders.
41. The Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted that significant progress has been made in imparting virtual education during Covid 19. Schools can have virtual classes on rotation basis, 1 period using the virtual mode. This will reduce the pressure on resources in the school and the State. The best teacher in the District should be given the responsibility of delivering virtual learning. This will also lead to competition among teachers to improve their skills in online teaching.
42. Schools can try merging festivals with learning and promotion of scientific concepts. For example, sun is venerated during the Makar Sankranti festival. Therefore, during the entire week leading to the festival, students should be exposed to the concept and usage of solar energy so that they can encourage their parents to adopt solar energy solutions such as solar rooftop panels.
43. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also suggested that all should introspect on whether our education curriculum is linked to Government's development goals. Domestic tourism is growing strongly. There should be a special chapter on local tourism and domestic tourist circuits in the respective State/UT. Students should study and learn beforehand about the tourist place they would be visiting as part of any school trip. This could be done through essays, and other curricular activities. Thus, tourism culture can be ingrained in schools. This would also open new career avenues for them.
44. The Hon'ble Prime Minister concluded his comments by suggesting that schools and students should be connected with the idea of Aspirational and Viksit Bharat.

J. Special Session 4: New Age Technologies for Governance – AI

45. There must be a common repository of AI related innovations made by various States and Central Ministries. A common platform may be developed/devised wherein states can test their applications/IT initiatives before launching.
46. He suggested that the healthcare/ medical/ Ayush systems have great potential for AI and there is a wealth of data being collected here which can be a base. All medical colleges and hospitals could be on this AI platform.
47. He mentioned that AI also has potential for monitoring many aspects of service delivery in the healthcare and education fields and should be quickly explored. AI based tools could be deployed to monitor, melas, events, protests, prisons and check traffic accidents.
48. The data sets used for training AI tools should be based on simple spoken language and not literary or legal jargons. Bhashini can be trained using datasets gathered from prisons.
49. The Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that in order to increase the use of AI, MeITY and NITI should create Task Forces so that other parts of government are educated in AI and its usage expands systematically.
50. He concluded stating the Digital India (AI) is one of the key drivers for achieving Viksit Bharat@2047 and hence, has to be given top priority and attention.

K. Thematic Lunch: PM Vishwakarma Yojana & PM SVANidhi

50. Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that the need of safety net of PM SVANidhi Scheme is much more for the street vendors of small cities. Hon'ble Prime Minister impressed upon the Chief Secretaries that the strategy and focus should be to ensure coverage of street vendors of smaller cities and towns first.
51. Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized that in order to give further impetus to digital transactions by street vendors, efforts must be made to ensure that the wholesalers selling various items to the street vendors are also digitally active and accept digital payments from the street vendors. Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned that digital onboarding of all the street vendors who go house to house to sell goods should also be achieved.
52. Stating that the collateral free working capital loan with interest subsidy is a big relief for street vendors who had to resort to borrowing from local money lenders at exorbitant rates, Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized for achieving saturation at the earliest and for ensuring that no categories of street vendors including the fish market vendors in West Bengal and such other categories are left out from saturation coverage.
53. It must be also ensured that minimum time is taken by Banks in sanction and disbursement of working capital loans and there are no long delays, so that there are no chances that the street vendors who have small capital base, resort to high cost informal borrowings from local lenders.

54. Citing the example of Kashi Street Vendors Sammelan, Hon'ble Prime Minister advised Chief Secretaries to have such experience sharing sessions with the street vendors to document their success stories, the positive impact of the scheme on their lives and the future vision and aspirations of street vendors. The learnings from such sessions will also enable implementation agencies to fine tune their strategies.
55. For future growth of street vendors, skill enhancement initiatives to improve their soft skills, financial literacy, personality development, etc may be undertaken.
56. Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized that finance inclusion, easy and affordable institutional credit support to bring all these marginalized and dispersed actors in main economy and their socio economic upliftment through convergence of welfare schemes will result in a big driving force of economy and Chief Secretaries must work for achieving saturation at the earliest.
57. Hon'ble Prime Minister also asked about the implementation and impact of Svamitva scheme. He stated that use of technology to create high resolution and geo-referenced digital maps and property records in both rural and urban areas will reduce the high number of land conflict cases and boost the economic growth of the country.
58. Hon'ble Prime Minister enquired about the roll out and response of PM Viswakarma Yojana and impressed upon the Chief Secretaries to ensure maximum mobilization of Viswakarmas for enrolment and to take proactive steps so that benefits of all the components of the scheme are provided at the earliest for integration of Viswakarmas into domestic and global value chains. The enrolment and verification at Gram Panchayat/ULB level may be undertaken in camp mode also.
59. Hon'ble Prime Minister cited the examples of the artisans of Dhordo village of Kutch, which has been crowned as the best tourism village of 2023 by the UNWTO. After devastating Bhuj earthquake, the village has made commendable progress to elevate itself to international recognition. Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that the introduction of new modern design and training of artisans has resulted in the products of the artisans of Dhordo gaining national and international acclaim.
60. Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized on the need of using new designs and upgrading the skills of artisans to use modern tools including digital techniques so that both the productivity and quality of their products are enhanced significantly.
61. Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that under the scheme such trades have been covered which have so far not been provided any trade specific benefits under other schemes and proper implementation of the scheme can bring about transformative changes in the lives of these Vishwakarmas.

62. Citing that India's share in global jewellery market is only 3% although there is a huge demand of hand made jewellery, Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that enhanced skills using modern tools and techniques, deepening of entrepreneurial knowledge standardization, credit availability of affordable easy capital for business expansion and structured marketing support can make the Viswakarmas an asset for global branding of the country.
63. Apart from upgrading the skills of artisans, another major benefit under the scheme is affordable and easy credit support to the targeted beneficiaries for Enterprise Development. It should be ensured that there is maximum credit disbursement so that the beneficiaries are able to achieve substantial business growth.
64. Hon'ble Prime Minister asked the Chief Secretaries that a senior team under the Chief Secretaries should monitor the implementation of the scheme so that the intended benefits are delivered in a mission mode.

L. Land and Property: Accessibility, Digitisation, Registration & Mutation

65. PM did not make any remarks in this session.

Part B

Record of Discussion

**Third National Conference of Chief Secretaries
27- 29 December 2023, New Delhi
Record of Discussion**

Day 1: 27th December 2023

Briefing Session

1. The Conference started with a briefing session conducted by Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, where he outlined the broad contours the Conference sessions, the minute-to-minute programme over the subsequent 3 days, and the logistical arrangements made for all the delegates. He also assured the participants that a special team of rapporteurs is documenting all the proceedings of the three-day conference.

Special Session 1: Perspectives on AI

2. The session on "Perspectives on AI" explored the diverse facets of artificial intelligence, delving into **core AI, translational AI, the evolution of AI, value-based AI**, and its diverse applications. The discussions aimed to chart a strategic path for **positioning India as a global leader** in the realm of artificial intelligence.
3. **Secretary, MeitY** set the tone by highlighting the significant role of AI in various government programs. He stressed the need to harness AI capabilities effectively.
4. **Prof. Amit P Sheth, Founding Director** of the Artificial Intelligence Institute of the University of South Carolina (AIISC) made a presentation on emerging perspectives on AI with a focus on trusted, safe, and value-based Neuro- symbolic AI.
 - i. AIISC's portfolio was discussed covering Core AI issues such as knowledge graph development, Natural Language Processing, and Translational AI applications in the focus areas of **Health, Education, and Cybersecurity**.
 - ii. Evolution of AI was explained from **Symbolic AI to Statistical AI and the evolving Neuro symbolic AI**. Big data is essential but not the panacea for LLMs. (Large Language models). With the combination of Statistical AI System(Perception) and Symbolic AI System(Cognition), the need for **integrating syntactic, linguistic, data-based, and experience-based knowledge in Generative AI (GenAI)** was highlighted for **better cognition, personalized output and decision-making**.

- iii. Further, some of the existing frameworks and tools for Value-inspired AI to tackle the challenges in present AI models were presented:
 - a. The **CREST** framework - **C**onsistency, **R**eliability, **E**xplainability, and **S**afety, **T**rust was explained with illustrations.
 - b. **Multimodal fact verification** and **counter-Turing tests** were explained to counter challenges like **hallucination**, **fake news**, and **misinformation** with the existing LLM models. The Counter Turing test is employed to distinguish between a human and an AI system. A **Hallucination Vulnerability index** is designed for this purpose. In Neuro-symbolic AI, multimodal fact verification is conducted through cross-question-answer processes to ensure accuracy in fact-checking.

- iv. Key indicators that would augur well for India's leadership in the next phase of AI were listed as follows:
 - a. India's capability to generate diverse data and feedback systems for constructing **Knowledge Graphs (KGs)**
 - b. Given the success in achieving organization of **elections** at scale, India could position itself as a global AI leader by adopting AI technologies through innovative and strategic implementations in this area.
 - c. Similarly, in the field of yoga, given the substantial demand and use, India could show how technology can be developed for improving wellness through precision interventions.

- v. Developments in AI applications in sectors of Health, Education, and Cybersecurity were elaborated upon.
 - a. In the context of **health**, the **ALLEVIATE-MH** initiative was presented, featuring AI-enabled virtual assistance for telehealth, with a specific focus on mental health cases. Additionally, potential use cases like nutrition and asthma management were discussed.
 - b. The **Education** segment emphasized the role of Knowledge Graphs in personalizing education for complex concepts, connecting them to individual interests. The **EKAGRID**, an AI focused, private multidisciplinary research university for global competitiveness, with over 1000 faculty and 20000 students in doctoral and post-doctoral programs, was introduced as part of India's educational development in AI research.

- 5. **Secretary, School Education** raised concerns about disconnect between need for resources required for AI development and availability of resources within the country.

- 6. **Additional Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh** inquired about preventing rampant misuse of AI and its impact on individual thinking processes.

7. The response by **Prof Amit P Sheth** acknowledged the issues, also stating that the advantages of technology outweigh the disadvantages, suggesting policy measures and adoption of tools for fake news detection, and advocating the shift from Generative AI to Neuro-symbolic AI.
8. The **Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog** concluded the session with two insightful observations. Firstly, recognizing China's strategic advancements in technology, he emphasized the importance for India to ensure prudent resource allocation, between the quantum needed for leading-edge research and for practical use-cases. Secondly, the states need to mobilize their research facilities for localized use-cases and work collaboratively to advance the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 in the domain of AI development.
9. The **action points** emerging from the deliberations (as per the rapporteur team):
 - a. Short-Term Action Plan (1 year):
 - i. Initiate research and application of **AI detection tools and frameworks** to address issues like hallucination and misinformation.
 - ii. Lead the **global AI policy discourse** as the incoming chair of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) 2024 aligning with the **CREST** framework for Consistency, Reliability, Explainability, Safety and Trust in AI.
 - b. Medium Term Action Plan (1-3 years):
 - i. Mobilize state research facilities to identify **localized, implementable and scalable AI use cases**.
 - ii. Investing for **high-skilled workforce** and resources, including **shared infrastructure** like GPU clusters.
 - iii. Long Term Action Plan (3-5 years):**Expand AI applications** in health, and leveraging successes in elections and yoga to position India as a global leader.
 - iv. Invest in AI research capabilities, as proposed under EKAGRID, to drive innovation and collaboration in the field.
 - v. Develop **AI policies with guardrails of inclusiveness, justice, and adaptability, especially for vision-language models**.

Special Session 2: Cyber Security

10. The special session, chaired by Mr. Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary, focused on "Cyber Security: Emerging Challenges". The session's design included discussions on expanding cyber footprint and challenges, a G20 case study, NIC's cybersecurity approach, and insights into best practices from various states.
11. **Mr Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary** underscored the escalating cyber threats stemming from India's expanding digital landscape, exponential growth in digital economy

and being the largest digitally connected democracy. It impacts the "**Ease of living**" for citizens across diverse sectors such as agriculture, banking, healthcare, education, and transportation. He shared valuable information on key central cyber security agencies, including **Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN)**, **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**, **National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC)**, **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and others. Stressing the legal provisions under **Section 70, IT Act** and the policy framework, he urged Chief Secretaries to review and circulate this information for enhanced awareness and preparedness.

12. **Ms Sivagami Sundari Nanda, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs**, presented a contemporary case study on **countering cyber threats during India's G20 presidency**. Hacker groups, from different nations, targeted various G20 collaterals aggressively, including the G20 website, Bharat Mandapam, Delhi police, airports, and even the IT systems of hotels where delegates were staying. The highest number of cyber-attacks were routed through four cities: Surat, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad. In response, a "**Think like a Disruptionist**" approach was employed, including the establishment of a **real-time war room**, identification of anti-India actors and communication channels, along with swift countermeasures for fake news. The success of these measures can be attributed to the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders and the implementation of both proactive and reactive measures.
13. The presentation highlighted global cyber challenges, citing incidents like the Costa Rica attack, NOTAM 2023 outage and the Oil India attack. The common thread across these incidents is the targeting of **critical infrastructure**. The footprints of malware attacks have been recorded across all Indian states and Union Territories (UTs). Malicious scanning poses the maximum threats in Assam and Kerala, the reasons for which are being ascertained. Assessing sector-wise, the largest impact is observed in the **automobile, government services, education, and power sectors**, while telecom, banking, and IT-enabled services (ITeS) experience relatively lower threats due to inbuilt security-by-design in these services. The potential losses encompass financial ramifications, data loss, service disruptions, defamation, social unrest, and implications for human and national security.
14. With the continuous evolution of the threat landscape, marked by technologies like **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, an anticipated surge in exploitation by both state and non-state actors underscores the need for robust defenses. Vigilance against cyber-attack methods such as ransomware, Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), and advanced persistent threats becomes paramount. The introduction of cutting-edge technologies like crypto, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), and Augmented Reality further complicates the terrain, framing **cyberspace as the fifth dimension of warfare**.
15. **Shri Amit Agarwal, Director General of NIC**, introduced a **Systems approach to Cybersecurity**, emphasizing NIC's role as the system manager for Government ICT. Currently, 653 organizations are onboarded to the NIC's Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK),

where infections have reduced by 80%. Mr. Agarwal highlighted policy-level gaps, noting that while **331 Critical Information Infrastructures (CII) in 7 critical sectors have been identified**; states have predominantly declared only the Power Sector. Only 4 States/UTs have declared both State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) and private centers as protected systems, with 20 States/UTs declaring only SLDC, and 12 declaring neither.

16. Further, only 7 States/UTs have both **Security Operations Centre (SOC)** and **Network Operations Center (NOC)**, while 18 States/UTs have neither. In terms of preparedness, only one state has set up a **Computer Security Incident Response Team (C-SIRT)**, while merely 7 states have an audit agency in place. He recommended each state appoint a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and Security Operations Centre (SOC), Network Operations Centre (NOC), and Computer Security Incident Response Team (C-SIRT) for coordinated response. Mr Agarwal stressed the need for more states to conduct audits covering areas such as cloud, APIs, IT assets, databases, and data sharing protocols. NIC reiterated its commitment to collaborate with states in establishing protected CIIs and institutions.
17. **Shri K Sasidhar, Secretary, IT, Government of Andhra Pradesh**, outlined the state's best practices with a four-pronged strategy implemented after 2017. The strategy includes **policy interventions, infrastructure augmentation, process re-engineering, and human resource development**. The policy interventions involved the establishment of **Andhra Pradesh Technology Services Ltd. (APTS)** as a Section 8 company in 2021, ensuring credibility and cost-effectiveness in cybersecurity related projects. The Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Centre (APCSOC), with a **dedicated ethical hacking team** and guidelines for mandatory onboarding of all government departments' IT assets, has built a sustainable cybersecurity ecosystem ensuring data breach prevention, IT infrastructure protection, and cyber-regulatory compliance. Further, Mr Sasidhar presented a case study on addressing **crypto-jacking** and highlighted human resource development through International Institute of Digital Technologies (IIDT), Tirupati in collaboration with National Forensic University. **This approach to the government's in-house capacity building resulted in substantial cost savings**. Mr Sasidhar also provided a comprehensive **18-month blueprint of the AP model**, entailing a one-time capital expenditure of INR 14 crores and an annual recurring cost of INR 7 crores.
18. **Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Home Secretary, UT of Chandigarh**, emphasized the adoption of **predictive policing** for evidence collection, prosecution, and bringing perpetrators to justice. Under a three-year contract with DRDO, coupled with the recruitment of **IT constables**, Chandigarh initiated a comprehensive preventive mechanism. This includes **monitoring open sources and social media**, handling the victims, reaching out to 3 lakh citizens, focusing on youth and senior citizens, through the **Cyber Shiksha Mission**.
19. **Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chief Secretary, Assam**, highlighted the state's proactive cybersecurity measures. Assam enacted a comprehensive cybersecurity policy and institutional security governance framework. The state houses a robust **State Data Centre**

(SDC) with 85 physical servers hosting over 500 applications for various departments. Workshops on cybersecurity were conducted for widespread awareness, and the state's police force established a **cyber forensic lab** and **cyber financial fraud reporting and management system**. With 83 cyber commands, cybercrime fast-respondent kits and the integration of **blockchain technology**, Assam ensures tamper-proof criminal investigations and enhanced evidence management capabilities in cyber police stations.

20. In conclusion, **Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary, GoI** emphasized the imperative need for upgrading, maintaining, and scaling cybersecurity practices in digital systems. Highlighting cybersecurity as a **collective responsibility**, he stressed the importance of **technological measures, coupled with behavioral and systemic aspects under apex-level monitoring**. Mr Bhalla reiterated the role of Chief Secretaries in identifying Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), implementing a Zero Trust Cybersecurity architecture, establishing Computer Security Incident Response Teams (C-SIRTS). Security Operations Centers (SOCs), robust audit mechanisms, and focusing on skill development and awareness.

21. **Action points:**

a. Short Term Action Plan (1 year):

- i. **Grassroots Awareness:** Promote awareness for cyber hygiene at the grassroots level and channels for reporting cybersecurity incidents.
- ii. **Cyber Swachhta Kendras (CSK) Onboarding:** Launch a comprehensive drive to onboard IT assets and organizations to NIC's Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK) for collective defense against cyber threats.
- iii. **Infrastructure Review:** Review and audit critical infrastructure and protected systems, aligning with central guidelines and protocols.

b. Medium Term Action Plan (1-3 years):

- i. **Capacity Building Framework:** Implement a training and capacity-building framework, including the appointment of Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) and the establishment of Security Operations Centres (SOCs), Network Operations Centres (NOCs), and Cyber Security Incident Response Teams (C-SIRTS) in each state.
- ii. **Strategic Blueprint:** Consider adopting a long-term vision with reference to policy interventions, infrastructure protection, process re-engineering, and human resource development, drawing on the shared best practices.

c. Long Term Action Plan (3-5 years):

- i. **Zero Trust Cybersecure Architecture:** Move towards a Zero Trust Cybersecure ecosystem, emphasizing technology, behavioral aspects, and systemic enhancements, coordination mechanisms under apex-level monitoring.

- ii. The envisioned goal is to create a secure, trusted, and reliable cyber world for future generations, ensuring resilience and robustness in the face of evolving cyber threats.

Day 2: 28th December 2023

Arrival of Hon'ble Prime Minister

The Context

1. The second day of the Conference commenced with a context setting address by **Shri Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary**. He mentioned that in 2021, the Prime Minister had recommended that a National Conference of Chief Secretaries should be organized, and that this arrangement should be institutionalized as an annual feature. Accordingly, the First National Conference of Chief Secretaries was organized in June 2022 at Dharamshala. He further stated that the Prime Minister advised that the Conference should be held before the annual budgets so that the ideas may be incorporated at the Central and State Governments. Hence the third edition of the Conference had been organized in the month of December, with unprecedented rigour. The Prime Minister has provided regular guidance on the content and conduct of these conferences.
2. He mentioned that the Action Items identified during the First and Second National Conferences have been regularly monitored, and that a repository and portal had been created by NITI Aayog for the same.
3. The **Cabinet Secretary** mentioned that the three-pronged framework of whole-of-government approach, saturation of schemes, and ease of living, haven been pioneered by the Prime Minister. He said that on 15th August 2019, the Prime Minister had said from the ramparts of the Red Fort that while India had made great strides in Ease of Doing Business, the government's key commitment was on providing Ease of Living to all citizens. All citizens should be able to easily access basic services. In accordance with this vision, several initiatives have been institutionalised for Ease of Living during the last 5 years. The government has proactively moved towards a paperless, cashless and presenceless approach.
4. He highlighted that the agenda has been curated after careful and several rounds of deliberations between the Secretaries of Government of India, Chief Secretaries, and other Officials from States/ UTs, Cabinet Secretariat, NITI Aayog, experts and other stakeholders over the last 6 months.
5. The **Cabinet Secretary** stated that India needs to focus on capex and infrastructure, leverage AI for governance and prioritise cyber security. He also mentioned about the strides made by Aspirational Districts and Blocks on various socioeconomic parameters, and many have crossed State averages.

6. He said that thematic meals have been organised on various focus areas where Chief Secretaries will have an opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister. He concluded by stating that the presence of the Prime Minister on both days of the conference is indicative of his commitment to governance.
7. The next presentation was by **Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog**. He provided an overview to the dedicated portal created by NITI Aayog for monitoring performance of 130 action points pertaining to 10 Ministries/Departments that were identified during the previous 2 Conferences. He said that the dedicated web portal acted as a knowledge repository, facilitates knowledge exchange and monitoring of decisions.
8. He then elaborated on how the monitoring of Action Items was done by sharing one example from each of the themes discussed during the First Conference i.e. Achieving self-sufficiency through crop diversification, implementing National Education Policy in School and Higher Education, and Urban Governance. He subsequently shared an example each from the six themes discussed during the Second Conference i.e., Thrust on MSMEs, Infrastructure and Investments, Minimizing Compliance, Women Empowerment, Health and Nutrition, and Skill Development.
9. He concluded his presentation stating that the Prime Minister repeatedly reminds officers about the importance of third-party evaluation of schemes. He said that the Data Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog would engage independent external agencies to monitor and evaluate the qualitative and quantitative impact of action points at ground level and would present findings of DMEO by the next Conference.

Drinking Water : Access, Quality & Quantity

1. Discussions on the sub-theme was initiated by **Ms. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS)**. The session further had three stories from the ground, namely enhancing coverage, ease of accessing services and sustaining the services, followed by an open house discussion.
2. During the session, the Secretary, DDWS shared the status of household level tap coverage in rural areas that was merely 3.24 crore (16.82%) before the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission as on 15th August 2019 and post implementation the tap water coverage reached 13.92 crore (72.34%) households as on 28th December 2023. At present, there are over 5 lakh JJM schemes in the rural parts of the country with the frequency of 1 new tap connection provided every second in 2023. Similarly, in urban areas, coverage of tap water connection has increased, tremendously. Before the launch of the AMRUT as on 25th June 2015, the tap water coverage was 3.89 crore (38.87%) and post implementation it has reached to 7.05 crore (70%). About 1.87 crore tap water connections have been added in 500 AMRUT cities and approximately, 2.24 crore tap water connections are proposed in AMRUT 2.0.

3. Under the JJM, tap water coverage reached 100% in 9 States/UTs in rural areas. In urban areas, tap water coverage is over 80% in 14 States/UTs... Secretary DDWS presented some key statistics highlighting nationwide potential benefits by providing tap water coverage at household level, in terms of freedom from drudgery for women, improved health outcomes, employment generation in both construction and operational phases. It was mentioned that the implementation capacity has been enhanced, as is evident from the annual expenditure, which has increased from ₹ 6,500 crores to ₹18,000 crore for AMRUT and from ₹10,000 crore of annual expenditure to more than ₹95,000 crore for JJM in just 9 months of financial year 2023-24.
4. Despite the significant efforts made in improving the coverage of drinking water services, some of the challenges that remain to be addressed, are as follows:
 - i. Old and obsolete - infrastructure in the cities, unauthorized connections leading to increased share of NRW (Non-revenue water) and issues in getting right of way permission.
 - ii. Three states namely, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and West Bengal have reported less than 50% tap coverage in the rural areas. Similarly, in the urban context seven states /UTs currently have reported coverage of less than 50%.
5. On aspects related to water quality, unparalleled work has been done, wherein it was highlighted that due to the efforts undertaken in JJM, clean drinking water is being provided in all arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. For rural habitations, a network of 2,111 labs have been established out of which 1,331 labs are NABL accredited. About, 23.5 lakh women have been trained for using Field Testing Kits (FTK). A system of web enabled water quality MIS with auto alerts for prompt remedial action is designed and being implemented. In the urban areas, the capacity of water treatment plant of 3,653 MLD have been developed, another 12,097 MLD capacity is being developed with inhouse labs. However, the water quality test results through independent third-party assessments carried out for both urban and rural tap water supply, have indicated failures of water samples in meeting the water quality standards, largely on account of bacteriological contamination primarily due to pipeline pollution, unclean storage tanks in the urban areas and lack of robust chlorination systems in the rural areas.
6. Another key aspect of ease of living in drinking water is sustaining the schemes. Importance of community ownership of schemes and involvement of women and measures being undertaken to increase community ownership and participation of women, were highlighted. It was mentioned that availability of skilled manpower (Nal Jal Mitras), strengthening of *Pani Samitis*, use of technology in monitoring of schemes, O&M Policy for water supply schemes are essential elements where gap remains to be bridged. Secretary DDWS also indicated that there is a need to develop climate resilient -drinking water infrastructure so that service delivery can be ensured even in extreme weather conditions.

7. The need of sustaining the water supply sources was also stressed upon in the presentation with an agenda of convergent efforts towards building structures for rainwater harvesting (catch the rain and other water conservation movements), groundwater recharge and augmenting storage through effective rejuvenation of water bodies.
8. Under ease of access 25 States/UTs have included drinking water services in their Public Service Guarantee Acts/Citizen charter. States have developed various grievance redressal mechanisms. The states have also undertaken reforms such as reducing the time for new connections, slashing down the number of documents required and waiver of the connection costs. However, there remains a gap, and efforts should be made towards further streamlining of the processes of service delivery through measures such as reduction in the number of required documents, enforcement of time limits through robust monitoring systems, and responsive grievance redressal systems.
9. A short film showcasing current status, efforts and some of the best practices in states, in the drinking water sector, was also shown in the session.
10. **Presentation:1 Punjab: Towards saturation of Safe Drinking Water Services**
 - i. **The first session under the pillar of 'Drinking water: Access, Quality & Quantity' was on Enhancing coverage.**
 - ii. **Shri Ajoy Sharma, Principal Secretary, Local Government Department, Punjab** introduced the audience with the situation of state in terms of saturation of Safe Drinking Water Services.
 - iii. He explained the main challenges faced by the state including low coverage, irregular water supply and lack of water quality surveillance. The depleting groundwater and deteriorating water quality in Rural Habitations with high concentration of fluoride, arsenic and uranium.
 - iv. To cope with these issues, multiple initiatives were taken at both urban and rural sectors such for Urban, an exercise of Convergence of AMRUT with HUDCO, World Bank and other state schemes was undertaken. The state capacities were enhanced to carry out large scale projects. Smaller towns (Tier-II cities) were aligned with AMRUT framework. Surface water supply schemes were laid down for ensuring source sustainability. A rigorous Asset Management through GIS mapping was completed.
 - v. An mSeva portal was launched for Improving Services in urban areas which aimed at Process simplification, creation of requests for new connections, facilitating multiple digital bill payment modes, Multiple channels for grievance redressal, that later adopted by the Ministry of Housing, GOI for replication in other states.
 - vi. To ensure water supply saturation in rural areas, the restructuring of the water supply department was undertaken. The job description of all engineers was modified and dedicated Social and communication wing was established. About 1700 Community facilitators were inducted for the Water quality monitoring wing. Gram Panchayat Water and Sanitation Committees (GPWSC) were constituted in all 11,900 villages.

- vii. In further support of this initiative, the Young Engineers Skilling Program (YES) was launched to provide technical guidance to GPWSCs. A team of two students was allocated to six villages. Around 600 engineering students participated and received a Stipend of Rs 21000 for three months.
- viii. To educate and sensitize the masses, school students were chosen as *Agents of Change* where WASH was made a part of curriculum in 13000 primary schools – benefiting more than 11 lakh children.
- ix. To address the issue of Arsenic and Floride-affected Habitations, In-line Arsenic Iron Removal Plants were installed in partnership with IIT Madras that made use of Nano technology. A pilot project was implemented successfully for Uranium removal.

11. Presentation:2 Ease of Accessing Services Drink from Tap Mission of Odisha

- i. **The second presentation under the pillar of ‘Drinking water: Access, Quality & Quantity’ was on Ease of Accessing services.**
- ii. **Shri G. Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development, Odisha** commenced the presentation with elaborating on the situation around 2016-17, where the urban areas of state of Odisha dealt with inadequate coverage with only 40% of areas having water pipes and only about 30% of households having tap connections with slums outcasted and rampant illegal connection. Problems such as low pressure, erratic water supply, illegal connections depriving people at tail-ends. The revenue collection was extremely low, due to absence of metering and very high-water loss mounting to nearly 50%. This led to situation of outbreaks of water borne diseases and dwindling public trust on water supply systems resulting in flourishing trade of private water supply.
- iii. Currently, the cities in Odisha have tremendously improved the service delivery by providing household connections approximately 99% urban households and 97% slum households, and 100% household connections in 105 out of 115 cities.
- iv. Odisha has been pioneer in implementing Drink from Tap (DFT): 24X7(IS:10500), where in Puri became the first Drink from Tap city in India in July 2021. At present there are approximately 25 lakh beneficiaries of DFT scheme in 24 cities. As on date, 7 Cities are fully Drink from Tap in Odisha.
- v. Odisha government focussed on infrastructure augmentation, and in order to achieve this, more than 1200 projects with about 6000 Cr invested was brought through convergence. Over 8000km pipe network was added in the water supply system. The water treatment capacity over 300 MLD was added in the state’s infrastructure.
- vi. Shri G. Mathi Vathanan also highlighted the significance of process re-engineering with activities such as unbundling of large projects, amendment of pipe procurement policy and enable better participation of construction agencies through small projects, leading to reduction in costs.
- vii. Formulation of people centric policies and process simplification such as addition of drinking water services under the Right to Public Services act, simplification of application processes by reducing number of documents from 14 to 2, waiver of the connection fee for the urban poor, regularization of unauthorized connections, etc.

- viii. He also narrated the role of community partnership in this process where in about 947 Jal Sathi's were trained and equipped for providing door to door step service and act as bridge between water supply agency and consumers. They were also responsible for collection of water tax collection. The Jal Sathis receive incentives in lieu of the services rendered by them.
- ix. To assure water quality as per IS:10500 for Drink for Tap initiative, an online residual chlorine analyser and automatic chlorine dosing system was put in place. The state-of-the-art laboratories were established. Lab on wheels concept was set on track to assure water quality on the spot. Training and empanelment of plumbers was done for leak proofing of household connections.
- x. To tackle the issue of non-revenue water, Shri G. Mathi Vathanan stated that the industrial IoT was embedded in the network to capture vital data with frequency of 5 seconds. The Digital Water Management enabled flow and pressure management on real time basis. A 24x7 customer care centre with complaint redressal tracking was established along with an exclusive Non-Revenue Water (NRW) cell in each city.
- xi. He explained that the exercise of trust building was carried out in the cities with the name of *Pure for Sure* under which display of real time water quality in high footfall public places was done with concentrations of residual chlorine, turbidity, pH and pressure.
- xii. He also explained how the experience of providing 24x7 directly drinkable quality of water at scale, belies some of the myths associated with 24x7 supplies.

12. Presentation:3 Sustainable Drinking Water Supply -The Essence of Ease of Living

- i. **The third presentation under the pillar of 'Drinking water: Access, Quality & Quantity' was on Sustainable Drinking Water Supply.**
- ii. Ms. Shahmeena Hussain, Principal Secretary, Narmada, Water Resources, Water Supply & Kalpsar Deptt, Government of Gujarat defined factors responsible for sustaining the sources by water audit & promoting reuse, institutional strengthening by improving governance, technology use for water management, capacity building of local communities & partners, building disaster resilience.
- iii. She emphasized on shifting from ground water to perennial surface sources through inter basin water transfer schemes (*Sauni*), formation of water supply grids and multi villages schemes and setting up of desalination plants.
- iv. To enable assessment of water losses and supply reliability, she suggested mandatory water audit and promote reuses of municipal wastewater for various domestic and industrial purposes. The treated wastewater can also be developed as an important revenue stream for local bodies like in the case of Surat City.
- v. She stated that in order to improve institutional and engineering capacity, the local bodies should opt for hub and spoke model for better network design, standardization of pump configuration and head for backup and resiliency. Laying up for key performance indicators for operations and maintenance engineers.
- vi. An important component of sustaining the water supply is restructuring the O&M Policy for fast and effective citizen-centric service delivery and asset life maximization

through preventive rather than mitigative maintenance, community participation, engagement of women SHGs and sufficient finances in terms of collection of user charges for example in case of Ghuvadhar in Junagarh district of Gujarat.

- vii. Use of Technology in water management can be substituted with tools such SCADA systems to automate operations, alert generation in times of zero flow, pressure variation, power failure, tampering, differential analysis between multiple pumping stations, demand forecasting and service level agreement (SLA) based monitoring and reporting for example Ahmedabad City.

13. Open House Discussion

- i. An open house discussion was moderated by Dr. V. Venu, Chief Secretary, Kerala, where in states like Jharkhand, Assam and Andhra Pradesh actively participated and shared insights.
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Shri Dr. K. S. Jawahar Reddy, Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh stated that the face of water supply in the state has changed in the last two decades. Institute of Preventive Medicine has been made responsible for the conduct of water quality checks in urban areas. ANM and Anganwadi workers have been equipped with field testing kits at various schools, the tests of which are uploaded regularly on the e-jalshakti. Lack of chlorination and improper/manual mixing of bleaching powder was a major cause of concern in rural households. The state government in partnership with TATA trusts implemented a project of distribution of chlorine tablets to rural areas. Each chlorine tablet weighed 20 gms and could filter 40 KLD for 5 days. The average cost of chlorination per person per year summed up to Rs. 12.
 - **Jharkhand:** Shri Lalbiaktluanga Khiangte, Chief Secretary, Jharkhand stated that more than 25,000 frontline women workers worked in the water supply division that ensures quality drinking water. About 200 lakh rupees water user charges were collected by Jal sathis. Smart augmentation infrastructure was laid down in the state. About 4 lakh Jal chaupal sabhas were conducted. About 1,33,000 women workers were trained in using field-testing kits and testing water quality. An online tool named JHARjal was launched with an aim of establishing a 24x7 grievance redressal system. The objectives of Jal Jeevan mission also ensured health and wellness of the masses. Women played a pivotal role in the state of Jharkhand, ultimately contributing to SDG Goal 5& 6.
 - **Assam:** Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chief Secretary, Assam explained the importance of community led water initiatives. He stated that Assam has been a pioneer in making the first of its kind Operations and Management(O&M) policy in 2021, outlining roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. Jal Mitra were regarded a key resource in O&M of JJM Schemes wherein they were imparted quality training in Plumbing and Electrician from ITI training centres. Students were appointed as *Jaldoot* and multiple *Jalshala* workshops were carried out with

community ownership where over 22,000 Jal groups were formed. Safe drinking water to pregnant and lactating mothers was made a key objective in the scheme in order to ensure well-being. QR codes were installed at various water bodies in urban areas so as to check real time status of water quality, status of treatment and sewage contamination.

14. **Action Points**

- i. Chief Secretary, Kerala, explained the action plan emerging from eight months of rigorous efforts of brainstorming consultations that needs to be taken by the State Governments and Government of India, and agreed to by all the states/UTs:

✓ **Short Term Action Plan by September 2024**

- Tap water connection in rural areas 80% (15.4 cr) Households
- Ensure Source testing (rural)
 - Chemical - Minimum once a year
 - Bacteriological - Minimum twice a year
- Testing of water samples at household level, at regular interval
- Citizen's corner for display of water quality test results in public domain
- To prepare saturation action plan (SAP) (for urban areas).
- Ongoing AMRUT projects to be completed.
- Geo-tagging of all water supply sources

✓ **Medium Term Action Plan by March 2025**

- All AMRUT 2.0 project works to be grounded
- Each District to have at least one NABL accredited lab
- Each Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to have in-house lab or linkage to NABL accredited lab
- Provision of comprehensive O&M policy in each state for rural and urban water supply (Provision of Adequate financing, User charges, State/local bodies fund).
- Engage communities especially women Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- Upskilling & certification of WTP operators and plumbers
- Multi-skilling for at least one Nal Jal Mitra from each Panchayat/Gram Sabha.
- Building capacities and delineate clear roles and responsibilities for O&M.
- Ongoing water body rejuvenation projects to be completed (urban areas)
- Reverse boring of defunct borewell for ground water recharge (urban areas)

✓ **Long Term Action Plan by March 2026**

- Implementation of 500 already approved Drink from Tap projects 80% coverage by March 2026, 85% coverage by December 2027, (urban areas)
- Convergence of resources and efforts in rural areas for rejuvenating and sustenance of spring sources and of at least one recharge structure for each ground water source.
- Develop 1000 additional water bodies in cities as water supply sources (urban areas)

- ii. **Chief Secretary, Kerala** also emphasized that all states/UTs have agreed to adopt a whole of government approach for implementation of the agreed action items. He also presented that states would ensure adequate finance for the identified action points with convergence of resources from various schemes, as may be necessary, and that the Chief Secretaries being the Chair of the Apex Committee of the State Water & Sanitation Mission, shall themselves closely and periodically monitor progress of action taken on various identified deliverables.

15. Remarks by Hon'ble Prime Minister

- i. Prime Minister congratulated all States for giving priority to the Jal Jeevan Mission by putting their best efforts. Going forward he suggested that innovative approaches must be adopted. He emphasized on taking a holistic approach towards the issue of water by establishing linkages of water with health, environment, and education. He stated that the aspect of piety associated with water, strengthens community ownership.
- ii. Prime Minister emphasized the need for engaging school children as change agents and suggested that students should be able to study about importance of drinking water through a special chapter on JJM in their syllabus. (School Education Department).
- iii. Prime Minister suggested that a tradition of 'Jal Utsav' (like the Nadi Utsav) could be developed to promote sensitivity towards importance and significance of water. Water can then become an issue of prime importance for every household. Group of students should be encouraged to adopt technology solutions and interact at rural levels. For example, a group of students in senior school, can undertake water testing using field test kit.
- iv. He suggested that like personalised testing kits for Covid, there can be personalised testing kits for water quality which can be designed by startups. This will help decentralisation of water quality testing from District Labs
- v. Prime Minister suggested that efforts should be undertaken to explore the possibility, whether solar panels can be put on the water tanks and that solar energy can be used for water supply during the day.
- vi. Prime Minister emphasized that three important aspects are paid attention to
 - a. Water Conservation: Every village should make rainwater catchment their campaign/Abhiyaan, which can be called Jal Sanchay.
 - b. Zero tolerance towards leakages and wastage of water.
 - c. Waste-Water Treatment: Developing a two-way mechanism to ensure utilization of wastewater. Within a 10-50 km radius of every city, farmers should be encouraged to use treated water supplied from cities for horticulture and cultivation of vegetables.
- vii. Prime Minister suggested that with the use of technology, there should be an increasing move towards adoption of prepaid meters.
- viii. He suggested that micro and sprinkler irrigation missions must be encouraged for 'more crop per drop' output. (Department of Agriculture)

Special Session 2: Stories from the Ground : Aspirational Blocks & Districts Programme

1. The special session was conducted to present inspiring 'Stories from the Ground', which encapsulates the impact of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) to bring about socio-economic change through innovative solutions and improved citizen-centric governance. The objective was to emphasize ADP and ABP's context-specific, nuanced, and disaggregated strategy. For this session, five District Magistrates/CEO, Zila Parishad, were selected from Aspirational Districts to present the impact of unique initiatives taken up in their respective Aspirational District and upcoming targets to develop Aspirational Blocks in the august presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Further, officials from 329 districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks across the country were connected through video conference and were addressed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Initial Remarks & Context Setting: CEO, NITI Aayog

2. **CEO, NITI Aayog, Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** presented the journey and impact of ADP and ABP. CEO commenced the session by defining the 'Aspirational Approach', which became the base for implementing ADP & ABP. He stated that many indicators in health and education are close to saturation. Further, many Aspirational Districts have achieved the indicators to surpass State or National averages. An update was given on activities initiated under the Aspirational Blocks Programme since its launch on January 7, 2023., including leadership training of ~5000 block officials, consultations with communities and stakeholders through nationwide Chintan Shivirs, development of Block Strategy document, launch of ABP portal, conduct of week-long Sankalp Saptah and the release of maiden delta rankings for blocks. This set the tone for five thematic presentations to narrate 'Stories from Ground' under this session: Agriculture, Social Development, PM Gati Shakti, Vocal for Local and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Presentation-1: Agriculture: Women led development, Washim District, Maharashtra

3. **CEO, Zila Parishad, Washim, Ms Vasumana Pant**, highlighted the success of women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Aspirational District of Washim. Facing challenges like low per capita income in the agrarian society due to the underdevelopment of the agriculture sector, the district administration held extensive consultative meetings to identify issues. Training for 82,000+ women farmers was conducted to adopt indigenous agro technology. They received subsidies for user-friendly agri equipment. 13 farm labs were established to train farmers (50% women) to produce and use natural manure. This improved input quality, output grading, and market value. SHGs earned additional revenue by renting equipment in the sowing region. The administration made concerted efforts to enhance irrigation in the area. The overall impact in the region has empowered women SHGs to become systematic entrepreneurial ventures. In addition, health initiatives, including a TB X-ray Mobile Van, increased case notification and treatment success rates. Ms Pant emphasized their strategy to improve socio-economic conditions in the Aspirational Block of Malegaon in Washim district by focusing on women SHGs, with targets set for 2024.

Presentation 2: Social Development: Ending Child Marriage, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

- 4. District Collector, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. G. Srijana**, spoke about the initiatives in the Aspirational District of Kurnool to fight against child marriage. Dr Srijana gave an overview of the district profile, highlighting challenges like distress migration and lack of physical & social infrastructure, leading to an alarming rate of child marriages. She brought forward the story of a teenager called Nirmala, a bright student who approached the authorities to convince her mother against her impending child marriage. Widespread consultations were conducted with village leaders, women SHGs and mothers to find possible solutions. They implemented a three-pronged strategy: ensuring girl child education, providing accessible healthcare, and policy interventions through state-sponsored schemes. In addition, a preventive mechanism in the form of a toll-free helpline was established to receive distress calls against child marriages in the area. District and block-level child marriage prevention units were mobilized, which prevented 60 child marriages within a few months. Dr Srijana shared the targets for the year 2024 to improve targets for social development under ADP and ABP, focusing on women and child development and the transition of female students from secondary to higher education.

Presentation 3: PM Gati Shakti for Area Planning, Dahod, Gujarat

- 5. District Collector, Dahod, Gujarat, Shri Harshit P Gosavi**, outlined the area development planning and measures taken in the Aspirational District of Dahod through data from the PM Gatishakti portal. Sh. Gosavi shared the district profile, emphasizing that the predominantly tribal population of the area is majorly reliant on agriculture. Also, the region suffers water scarcity for irrigation during the Rabi season. Hence, the district administration of Dahod decided to resolve this issue and enable farmers to double cropping to uplift agricultural productivity, boost farmers' earnings, and strengthen local livelihoods. Collaborating with the BISAG-N team, the administration used extensive geospatial data to identify the village boundaries, irrigated and unirrigated areas in kharif and rabi seasons, existing water bodies and their water levels, terrain and slope data, farms near water reservoirs and soil health data. Interventions were made to construct pipelines in un-irrigated areas and undertake pilot projects to meet water requirements. The efforts revealed 175 untapped water reservoirs, with plans to use 61 reservoirs to irrigate 9785 hectares, benefiting around 12,000 farmers. Sh. Gosavi concluded by sharing the Block Development Strategy for the Aspirational Block of Garbada, focusing on strengthening irrigation infrastructure, partnering with Agricultural Universities, promoting organic farming, cooperative farming, seed banks, agro-industry, rainwater harvesting, and solar-based irrigation programs with targets set for 2024

Presentation 4: Vocal for Local: One District One Product, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

- 7. District Collector, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ankit Kumar Agarwal**, highlighted initiatives to promote 'Vocal for Local' under the 'One District One Product' program in Bijnor District, UP. Focusing on the traditional woodcraft in Nagina town of the Aspirational district of Kotwali, which was awarded a GI tag in March 2023, he emphasized its significance as a

livelihood for 70,000 artisans. Despite the export value of Rs. 250 Crores, the artisans could not receive their due credit due to the presence of middlemen and global competition from Chinese products. Hence, the promotion of Nagina's woodcraft work was taken up as a priority area in the 'Block Development Strategy' prepared for the Aspirational Block of Kotwali in Sep 2023. A focused SWOT Analysis identified two themes – tourism and business growth. Under the theme 'tourism', a woodcraft village is being developed in Nagina town to promote tourism, leveraging the area's proximity to the famous Jim Corbett National Park. For business growth, the Bijnor administration initiated capacity-building programs for design, finishing, and branding, built market linkages and provided financial assistance through Central Government schemes. These efforts have economically empowered the region, with 79 SHGs formed with 948 members with an average monthly earning of Rs. 8000-10000. Sh. Agarwal shared plans to establish a Common Facility Centre for woodcraft with a Rs. 10 Crore investment, targeting a significant increase in e-commerce sales and annual exports by FY 2025-26.

Presentation 5: Strengthening PVTGs, Gumla, Jharkhand

8. **District Collector, Gumla, Jharkhand, Shri Karn Satyarthi**, outlined initiatives for social inclusion and empowerment of 3525 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) families under ADP and ABP. He highlighted Gumla's progress in the last five years. It was once a highly affected Naxalite region and has now reached saturation for crucial indicators pertaining to health and school education. Sh. Satyarthi emphasized that five major PVTGs face issues of migration of the majority of male members and absence of basic infrastructure due to remote area location. Under the ABP, *Chintan Shivirs* were conducted in the Aspirational Block of Dumri, Gumla district, in September 2023. These consultative meetings were extended to all 161 *tolas* to cover 3525 PVTG families comprising 16,405 PVTG citizens. Issues related to health, basic infrastructure, education and identity were identified. The Gumla district administration organized Shivirs to provide caste certificates, household tap connections, health screenings and renovated 250 Anganwadi centres. Modern technology solutions such as QR codes were put up in all the Government buildings for citizens to report any issue. Unique initiatives were taken for school education, including an exposure visit to Satish Dhawan Space Centre for female students and computer programming training for teachers and students, leading to significant school infrastructure improvements. Mr Satyarthi concluded by sharing development targets for PVTG families through the PM-JANMAN initiative to be achieved by December 2024.

Concluding Remarks: CEO, NITI Aayog

9. **CEO, NITI Aayog** remarked that the five selected 'Stories from the Ground' testify that every district/block is working towards a common goal by adopting different strategies and practices to overcome the area's unique challenges. He asserted the effectiveness of the 'Aspirational Approach', which can prove to be a game changer in transforming India by bringing out the visible impact on the ground level within the next two years. Conclusively, he appealed to all Chief Secretaries to ensure the deployment of good, enthusiastic officials and

give them a long tenure. They should visit the Aspirational Districts and Blocks to ensure their support and focus in the area. This will motivate district and block officials to continue the work and achieve the desired outcomes.

10. Remarks by Hon'ble Prime Minister

Prime Minister stated that the focus on Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks has led to success and transformation on ground, also leading to the States overcoming their development lag. The Aspirational model is becoming accepted across India and the globe. However, we can still pay attention to minute details:

- i. Districts/blocks should assess where they have managed to make progress, where have we reached and surpassed State average. What about any indicator where the district/block might have declined with its performance on this indicator deteriorating. Prime Minister emphasized that we should not move backwards in areas where the district/block is ahead and pay focus to such areas..
- ii. Every district/block to discover and grab the low-hanging fruit, i.e. identify 4-5 indicators where improvement can be made with less effort and high impact. The achievement will build confidence in the entire team and serve as inspiration to deliver on other parameters also.
- iii. Prime Minister emphasized that it is important to build the team for each identified task/priority. This will enable the designated teams to ensure continuity of work with sustained vigour.
- iv. Prime Minister also stated that for such identified tasks, citizens themselves should be able to take ownership and that it should become a Jan Andolan. There should be effective team work between Sarkar and Samaj. This will enhance citizens' awareness and participation towards work being done in the districts/blocks.
- v. Prime Minister suggested that Districts/Blocks should be able to identify and add some indicators based on their local context and monitor them. This would enable districts/blocks to prioritize sectors where concerted action is needed. These indicators can be additional to the ones set by NITI Aayog.
- vi. The success model of the ADP and ABP model should be such that it can be scaled up in the Global South.
- vii. Economic activities should be given emphasis. Traditional modes of livelihood, like fisheries, animal husbandry, apiculture, etc., should be identified. Innovative solutions can be taken up to generate additional income. ADP/ ABP should be well documented.
- viii. A WhatsApp group to be created for all 500 Aspirational Blocks for real-time sharing of best practices and success stories.

Electricity : Quality, Efficiency & Reliability

Context Setting

1. **Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power**, began by citing a quotation of Hon'ble Prime Minister **underscoring the critical importance of Energy towards Ease of Living**. He provided context by describing how focused working groups had conducted two interactive workshops and collaborated to formulate a conceptual framework outlining a background note with **four key performance indicators** (KPI) - connection time, billing quality, hours of supply, and grievance redressal mechanisms.
2. He emphasized the need to satisfy consumer expectations, mitigate connection outages, and address grievances. Moreover, he reflected on major initiatives like DDUGJY, IPDS, RDSS, and SAUBHAGYA that received **financial backing to the tune of ₹ 2.23 lack Cr** by the Government of India aimed to enhance electricity access. Furthermore, he mentioned the achievements of 10 years and highlighted the impact of the Electricity (Rights of Consumer) Rules, 2020 and the Consumer Service Rating of DISCOMs (CSR) in improving service quality, efficiency, and reliability.
3. The adoption of National timelines by 18 states has led to significant advancements in streamlining manual backend operations and digitizing cumbersome paperwork, contributing to the delivery of timely services. The progress is evident with **monthly billing efficiency experiencing a substantial boost**; 77% of consumers now access digital bill updates and 37% engage in digital bill payments. Efforts continue to **streamline complex billing structures** and reduce long payment queues, enhancing consumer convenience further.
4. In terms of electricity availability, urban areas in 12 states are progressively nearing the 23.48-hour national average, with rural uptime in 9 states approaching the approximate 21-hour mean. Reflecting on this, infrastructure improvements and financial stabilization of distribution companies are identified as key areas to further **enhance resource adequacy**. Statewide customer care centers and grievance redressal forums are in place, with ongoing **initiatives to increase consumer awareness** of their rights and improve monitoring efficiency.
5. Accessing renewable energy is becoming increasingly feasible, with recent regulations paving the way for greater consumer participation. The Green Energy Open Access policy has already led to the approval of 17,000 applications, **facilitating the generation of 14,500 million units of green energy**. This positive trend is further supported by **six states already adopting these regulations and seven more in the process of implementation**, indicating a strong move towards sustainable energy solutions.

Presentation 1 : Madhya Pradesh

6. Shri Sanjay Dubey, Principal Secretary of Energy, presented on 'Enhancing Consumer Satisfaction', highlighting various regulatory interventions implemented for improved customer satisfaction. Service standards and timelines have been instituted, and if the service providers fail to meet these, consumers are entitled to financial compensation.
7. The presentation illuminated the current facilities that provide access to electricity services for consumers, including online connection applications that enable streamlined processing without in-person meetings, thereby providing convenience and transparency. Additionally, only two documents - identity and ownership/occupancy proof - are required, and **ERP/CMS systems** allow for expedited application processing with real-time updates. GIS and self-declaration-based **auto-estimation** further simplifies the process. **Digital payment** channels offer flexible remittance options, eliminating queues.
8. In Madhya Pradesh, new electricity connections are provided **with an average connection time of 2.7 days**. The adoption of paperless billing has achieved statewide **savings of ₹ 136 crore**. Electricity bills have been simplified for better customer comprehension.
9. Challenges highlighted in the power distribution network included the **non-unified billing systems**, encouraging the use of existing technologies (such as Bluetooth/OCR) until the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). **Aged equipment & dilapidated network** were noted as key factors impacting operations reliability.
10. To address operations reliability, real-time monitoring of maintenance workflows via mobile applications was outlined. Equipment quality is maintained through standard testing and **certification at NABL-accredited facilities**. Overloading of distribution transformers is mitigated using **automated protection systems to trigger supply interruption** upon detecting overload conditions.
11. Consumer grievances are handled via call centers with minimum waiting times through frequent capacity enhancement. Interactive voice response (IVR) systems enable complaint registration and tracking with Automatic Call Distribution/Voicebot. Madhya Pradesh's **3-tier grievance redressal mechanism** spanning district, corporate, and ombudsman levels was emphasized for timely dispute resolution.

Presentation 2 : Maharashtra

12. The next speaker, V.K. Singhal, General Manager of BEST (Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport), Maharashtra, presented on excellent power supply reliability in Mumbai. He stated that electricity **supply reliability in Mumbai is 99.88% with a 0.29% Distribution Transformer failure rate**, least in the country.
13. BEST has deployed a **ring distribution network** with high fault tolerance. 100% of the high-voltage transmission lines in Mumbai are underground, providing resilience. The city

has a **high network density** of 34 substations per square km, enabling consistent hours of power supply over the years.

14. However, he added that more **efforts are required to achieve global standards** for reliability indices like SAIFI (Interruptions by each consumer in a year) and SAIDI (OFF supply Duration to each consumer in a year) considering the interruptions faced by consumers annually.
15. Describing BEST's best practices, he explained that underground cable networks are digitally mapped to **identify faults through digitized joint detection**. This enables proactive cable replacement based on digital cable analysis.
16. Preventive and proactive maintenance is done through **transformer health monitoring**. Although Mumbai's dense population, large infra projects, and heavy rainfall pose challenges, **low transformer failure rates and optimum asset utilization** have improved customer satisfaction.
17. For the way forward, he emphasized on smart metering to improve reliability, automation with technology systems like ADMS/SCADA/ OMS to enhance grid resilience, network upgrades to reduce losses, **IT-ERP solutions** for unified consumer billing, and improving SAIFI/SAIDI for better consumer satisfaction.

Video : Electricity

- The video highlighted how recent infrastructure upgrades, automation initiatives, and improved service delivery by power companies have led to a **better quality of life for citizens**.
- Underground cable networks, compact substations, and transformer pilots have enhanced infrastructure.
- Real-time monitoring and outage management through SCADA systems have **improved monitoring and maintenance**. Automated accounting systems deployed in states like Bihar have **increased automation**. Electricity uptime has increased to 23.5 hours in urban areas and 21 in rural areas thanks to **better service delivery**.
- Online and mobile applications now allow for easier access to billing, payments, and grievance redressal. Billing and payments have been digitized for consumer convenience. With more **reliable electricity**, businesses perform better, and crime rates have declined.
- Several **best practices adopted by states** were mentioned in the video.
- The video reflected on how modernization initiatives in the electricity sector have **translated to socio-economic progress** and improved quality of life across urban and rural India.

Presentation 3 : Assam

18. The Managing Director of Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL), Mr. Rakesh Kumar, presented on the deployment of smart prepaid meters and strategies deployed for consumer engagement in Assam.
19. He reported that **10 lack smart prepaid meters** have been installed to date, **with 6,000 units being deployed daily**. These intelligent meters enable **'automated reconnection & load enhancement'** and were installed under a public-private partnership model.
20. In order to address concerns over rising electricity bills, **check meters and historical consumption data** were utilized alongside the smart meters to educate people. A mobile application called 'Smart Bijulee' facilitated bill payments, while a **credit window for a prepaid recharge** was offered along with alerts when the recharge balance became zero. Re-orientation and re-deployment of utility staff helped **mitigate job security apprehensions**.
21. **Multi-channel consumer education** included APDCL billing offices, mobile apps, social media, newspapers, public hoardings, pamphlets, public address systems and district electricity committee meetings. A demonstration of the mobile application was also conducted for the public.
22. Post smart meter deployment, a **15% reduction in energy consumption** (vs 2022) and significant consumer savings were achieved, with aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses decreasing from 18.5% to 7.8%. Further, it has helped to achieve **monthly savings of ₹ 200 per consumer** and **₹ 50 additional revenue per consumer** for the utility.
23. Proposed next steps include:
 - Educating consumers on smart meter benefits through diverse media to address concerns to negate the perception of higher bills.
 - Tracking performance metrics like AT&C loss reduction to quantify benefits and inform supportive consumer communication.
 - Passing of benefits of revenue gains to consumers
 - With robust consumer engagement and monitoring, target a 7-8% AT&C loss reduction through smart meters by 2026.

Presentation 4 : Gujarat

24. Jai Prakash Shivahare, Managing Director of Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL), presented the solar rooftop revolution in Gujarat with an **Installed Capacity of 2,144 MW**. Under the 'Har Ghar Solar' scheme, he reported that by installing rooftop solar systems, **households saved ₹ 2100 crore in electricity costs** and **₹ earned 300 crores by exporting excess solar power generation to the grid**.
25. This **lifestyle change** enabled residents to purchase other appliances including electric

vehicles, further reducing petrol expenses. Benefits extend to distribution companies (DISCOMs) through **reduced cross-subsidies** and meeting decentralized **Renewable Purchase Obligations** (RPO) targets.

26. Key success factors were the online single window clearance portal and **eliminating capacity ceilings or entry barriers** for rooftop solar.
27. GUVNL also implemented missed call registration, effective vendor rating, and grievance redressal to provide ease of access. Post-installation surveys showed **98% customer satisfaction** and word-of-mouth publicity. Identified challenges were the rural-urban divide, transformer capacity and the need for bi-directional net meters.
28. **Rural rooftop coverage increased from 17% to 20%** with efforts to saturate every village. For a way forward, an upfront payment of ₹ 30,000 -35,000/ kW post-subsidy will be introduced for the residential sector.

Open House Discussion

29. Chief Secretary of Haryana, Sanjeev Kaushal, facilitated the open house discussion, which was followed by a Q&A session.
 - i. Principal Secretary of Energy, Rajasthan requested to share best practices for **resource adequacy planning** to enable accurate demand forecasting.

In response, the Chief Secretary, Telangana stated that:

 - The state has successfully met the electricity demand of 15,500 MW.
 - 1,600 MW of bilateral banking of power was added by NTPC.
 - Battery energy storage systems and pumped hydro storage were commissioned to enhance generation capacity and attain resource adequacy.
- ix. Managing Director, U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Limited requested to share best practices for **electrifying unauthorized urban settlements**.

In response, the Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh highlighted:

 - The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) does not have the authority to provide electricity connections for illegal constructions.
 - However, a lack of authorized electricity supply results in higher tariffs for consumers and increased technical losses for distribution companies (DISCOMs).
 - In such cases, electricity connections can be provided in two ways:
 - *Pro-rata based individual connections (with a connection fee of ₹ 15,667/kW)*
 - *Collective connection infrastructure requested by a pool of consumers (with 75% of DISCOM charges paid in advance).*
- x. Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Uttarakhand requested to share best practices for **rural electrification and providing access to electricity in remote areas**.

In response, the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh highlighted:

- Decentralized distributed generation and dedicated agricultural feeders operated by local tribal youth.
- Use of aerial bunched cables in forested regions along with the use of Carbon transformers for better load management.
- Effective use of call centers, online portals, mobile applications, and WhatsApp chatbots as well as the 1902 helpline to address consumer grievances.

xi. Principal Secretary, Chhattisgarh requested to share best practices for the solarization of electricity feeders.

In response, the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra highlighted:

- i. Identification of suitable large areas of land for such installations using the PM GatiShakti national master plan portal.
- ii. Compensation of ₹ 1.25 lakhs per hectare was offered to individual landowners, while Gram Panchayats were offered ₹ 5 lakhs for providing appropriate land parcels.
- iii. Private investment of ₹ 30,000 crores will result in the creation of 20,000 jobs.

Summing Up

30. Chief Secretary, Haryana, Sanjeev Kaushal summarized the discussion by emphasizing how monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs) ensure quantifiable progress on parameters for ease of living. It was stressed that **behavioral training** is as important as technical skills in satisfying consumer interactions.
31. He then mentioned the **best practices by states** highlighting the potential for technology, infrastructure upgrades, digitization, process re-engineering, and consumer engagement to profoundly enhance electricity services.
32. **Notable mentions** in his concluding remarks included:
 - *Andhra Pradesh: Internally developed mobile application and infrared scanner for billing*
 - *Chhattisgarh: Mobile application (Mor Bijlee) in local language*
 - *Kerala: 'Service at Doorsteps' scheme for new connections*
 - *Uttar Pradesh: Use of multiple channels including SMS and notifications*
 - *Sikkim: Conversion of most overhead lines to insulated conductors*
 - *Ladakh: Solar-powered EV charging stations*
 - *Haryana: SARAL portal for E-delivery of services*
 - *Mizoram: WhatsApp groups with Village Council members for information dissemination*
 - *Maharashtra: Official mobile application 'PowerUpEV' for electric vehicle charging*
 - *Gujarat: The Outage Management System (OMS) portal improved the reliability of the power supply*
 - *Assam: Installation of smart meters*

33. Then he proposed a way forward to enhance ease of living by effectively addressing connection, billing, power supply and consumer complaint redressal mechanisms.
34. Chief Secretary further stated that the states should focus on **end-to-end digital processes**, minimal documentation, smart meters, and ensuring resource adequacy and viability of DISCOMs. For renewable energy access, he emphasized the need to simplify application processes, Publishing of Green open access regulations and promoting solarized EV charging stations.
35. Finally, the **timeline for improving ease of living and electricity access was outlined** from March 2024 to December 2024 with aligned tasks for effective planning.

36. Remarks by Hon'ble Prime Minister

- i. Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized that government buildings should install solar panels. Ministries and State departments should earmark part of their respective budgets for solar PV installations. He advised prioritizing the installation of smart meters and LED bulbs in government buildings and installation of rooftop solar in urban areas, specifically for housing societies.
- ii. He stressed on exploring a model where multiple renewable energy installations such as electric vehicles, clean cookstoves and green hydrogen can be powered through solar energy. He suggested that energy storage in houses and clean cooking could help save on gas transportation. Electric vehicles (EVs) could potentially charge through in-house solar PV systems.
- iii. Big Government colonies, particularly of PSUs, should experiment with using solar power and green hydrogen from wastewater for transport purposes. He proposed that decentralized green hydrogen is more viable for electricity generation. Expanding solar photovoltaic installations on road dividers and ensuring that such electrification is driven by renewable sources, was suggested. He further recommended that one city in every state should be selected for implementing such measures.
- iv. Hon'ble PM suggested that states should take up the challenge of having 100 villages in each state driven 100% by solar energy only. This would then set an example for others.
- v. Hon'ble Prime Minister advised promoting startups to enhance solar panel efficiency through innovation. Experimenting with combined utility of solar and micro wind power generators on roof top requires was suggested. He stated that we should shift more quickly toward renewable energy, calling it 'समय की मांग,' implying that the energy transition is imperative and should be expedited. He finally added that it is not just about finances or the economy; we must make a commitment towards a 'सूर्य आधारित जीवन व्यवस्था'.

Special Session 3: Role of States: Rationalisation of Schemes & Autonomous entities and Enhancing Capital Expenditure

1. **Dr. T.V. Somanathan, Finance Secretary, GoI** presented on the Rationalisation of Schemes and Autonomous Entities and Boosting Capital Expenditure. In his presentation, he highlighted on the rising expectations from the Government and aspirations of the public; the strategic choices available; and the role of State Government as facilitator and enabler in enhancing capital expenditure. He also suggested certain measures to improve State Finances such as higher tax rate/non-tax rate; tighter administration; faster economic growth; efficient utilization of resources; greater share of capital expenditure and reduction in wasteful expenditure. He outlined the process of rationalisation of schemes and autonomous agencies/bodies and suggested certain potential measures to the Chief Secretaries based on Central government's experience.
2. During the presentation, he also put forth certain challenges associated with the rationalisation process; key steps involved in the rationalisation process; appraisal/analysis of schemes and autonomous bodies; results/benefits of the exercise; limitations/lessons from the rationalisation exercise; and adverse effects of freebies/wasteful expenditure. He also suggested that the best way to improve revenue by the States is to achieve rapid economic growth. He also emphasized the need for efficient resource allocation and faster economic growth through enhanced capital expenditure, which in turn, enables higher welfare expenditure, thus, paving the way to increased public welfare and improved state finances.
3. Some of the key suggestions from the presentation included: (i) committed expenditure as the percentage of revenue receipts needs to be contained; (ii) schemes must have sunset date preferably with provision for appraisal at the end of every finance commission period; (iii) evaluation of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be done through Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office of NITI or any other third party agency; (iv) creation of autonomous bodies should have greater due diligence and better monitoring of expenditure; (v) rationalisation process should have top-down approach; (vi) Freebies should be minimized as they impact other development expenditure; and (vii) capital expenditure on good projects increases national income. Finance Secretary concluded by saying that State finances need to be improved, better use of limited funds is critical. Chief Secretaries have a critical role in sensitizing the State government on the potential benefits of such measures.
4. **Shri Samir K Sinha, Finance Secretary, Assam**, made a presentation on enhancing the pace of capital expenditure in Assam. He showcased the current scenario of capital expenditure in Assam, the key enablers and their impact and the role of GoI Capital scheme (Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment – SASCI) as the “Catalyzing Nudge” in enhancing the pace of capital expenditure. He stated that there has been a paradigm shift under this scheme as many structural reforms have been introduced in terms of project

management, new financial architecture and increased technical capacities. He also highlighted the key enablers, namely, (i). adoption of 'whole-of-government' approach; (ii) more experienced contractors - better manpower/equipment. The major impact of these measures were realized in the form of improved ecosystem for other schemes; timely release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS); increase in tangible benefits to the citizens (such as enhanced connectivity via rural roads and bridges and increased number of colleges); and significant improvement in the gross state income. He also suggested that the schemes based on incentives/conditionalities/timelines are required for robust growth.

5. **Shri Deepak Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Uttar Pradesh**, made a presentation on Role of States: Enhancing the pace of Capital Expenditure & Rationalisation of Schemes highlighting the growth in central transfers in Uttar Pradesh; State's own tax revenue; enhanced fiscal space – enabling investment-led growth; growth in capital outlay; and creation of physical and social infrastructure. He also emphasized on the steps undertaken by the state government to boost the capital expenditure and rationalization of schemes. These measures have been undertaken in sectors such as power, roads, railways, major irrigation, health, water supply, etc. He also stated that the state government has been working on the approach of enhanced public and private capital expenditure.
6. **Shri Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh** informed that the State has worked upon the rationalisation of schemes in agriculture and horticulture sector based on the recommendations of the NITI Aayog's committee under the Member, Prof. Ramesh Chand. He stated that about 52 schemes in these sectors have been segregated into different categories and some of the schemes were either merged or closed. He also mentioned that there has been a substantial reduction in the schemes in the current budget and there has also been a proposal for only one scheme in agriculture sector in the next budget. He also suggested to provide an incentive to the States for rationalisation of schemes.
7. The **action points** emerging from the deliberations were:

For unlocking the potential of States and improving the State finances, the following action plan needs to be taken by the State Governments:

1. Better use of limited funds and faster economic growth through:

- i. Rationalise schemes
- ii. Rationalise agencies/autonomous bodies
- iii. Reduce unproductive subsidies/freebies
- iv. Increased productive capital expenditure

2. Good preparatory work through evaluation and analysis for rationalisation of schemes

and agencies.

3. To devise a structure for collective deliberation and appraisal by the State Governments.

4. To develop a robust mechanism at top level for effective decision making.

5. Action points for Chief Secretaries:

- i. Starting an initiative to re-appraise at least some schemes immediately.
- ii. Fixing sunset dates and re-appraising all schemes on a periodic basis.
- iii. Starting a detailed review of government agencies.
- iv. Encouraging State Governments to reduce unproductive subsidies and increase capital expenditure.

8. Hon'ble PM did not make any remarks in this session.

Health: Accessibility, Affordability & Quality of Care

1. The presentation on Health and Wellness was made by **Shri Sudhansh Pant, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, GoI**, under the pillar of 'Promoting Ease of Living'. He commenced the session by highlighting the key areas of concern and challenges in the context of Ease of Living through the Health & Wellness Prism.

Presentation by States

2. **Shri Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma, Principal Secretary (Health), Uttar Pradesh** steered the session with a presentation on Promoting Ease of Healthy Living through use of technology and human resource management. Initiatives utilizing technology include the Attendance Management system, which resulted in an 88% daily attendance rate of Community Health Officers (CHOs) at Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) and over 60,000 daily teleconsultation services. Additionally, the implementation of e-RUPI vouchers increased access to ultrasound services for pregnant women, benefiting more than 4.2 lakh women since February 2023. The Scan & Share module was highlighted as a tool to minimize waiting times, reducing the average waiting time from 50 minutes to 4-5 minutes. As regards the human resource/ people focused interventions, the creation of a specialist cadre for regular doctors resulted in recruiting 1209 specialist doctors for regular positions. Further, a localized training ecosystem was created to ensure the timely availability of Community Health Officers (CHOs). Additionally, MD/MS students engaged in District Hospitals under the District Residency Program of NMC, were deployed for Ayushman Melas under the Ayushman Bhav Campaign to provide specialist services.
3. **Smt. Shilpa Prabhakar, MD-NHM, Tamil Nadu** made a presentation on Focus on Accessibility, Affordability & Promotion and Prevention. She shared the holistic approach to NCD management and trauma care in Tamil Nadu. Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam is a flagship initiative to address NCDs and to provide comprehensive healthcare and entails a tectonic shift from symptomatic treatment to community-based interventions. There is not only universal Home-Based screening through 11,000 Women Health Volunteers but also Doorstep Drug Delivery & Follow-up. In fact, there is not just home-based care with regard to NCDs but even physiotherapy, palliative care and peritoneal dialysis is provided via home based care. Importantly, the last mile service delivery to tribal areas, hard to reach areas, urban slums etc. are ensured. Tamil Nadu provides cashless treatment on assurance model to accident victims for the first 48 hours up to a ceiling of INR 1 lac. The GPS fitted ambulances are stationed at hot spots and have a response time of 12.20 minutes and ensure coordinated care through pre- arrival information to the hospital.
4. **Smt. Priyanka Das, MD NHM, Madhya Pradesh**, made a presentation - Focus on Affordability and Quality. She highlighted the two main initiatives in Madhya Pradesh to address the needs of patient satisfaction. The first one involves patient centric sustainable partnerships with private players (PPP in Health) and the second one involves Reaching the last mile. She explained the need for PPP in healthcare and how this model has helped Madhya Pradesh in improving referral transport, CT Scan services, pathology services, dialysis services and specialist teleconsultations. The outcomes have been improved access, affordable and higher quality of care. As regards reaching the last mile, she elaborated how with the launching of the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in 2018, the footfalls

have continuously increased leading to higher demand for drugs. However, their drug distribution system was plagued with frequent stockouts, unavailability of essential drugs and consequently higher out of pocket expenditure. An assured last mile drug supply mechanism was created under NHM, and route maps were defined. The outcome was a two- fold increase in the availability of essential drugs in the facilities and HWCs having substantial drugs for dispensation to patients.

5. This was followed by open house discussion. The **Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh** discussed the issue of access in difficult, hilly, and mountainous terrain. He shared the experience in Arunachal where drones have been successfully used to deliver not only medicines but also carry samples for diagnostic tests. Over 300 drone flights have been completed, covering more than 10,000 km distances and over 4000 products have been delivered benefiting over 220 patients. On average, the use of drones has led to 8-10 times faster drug delivery in the area. The Chief Secretary of Maharashtra shared the experience of universal health coverage mentioning that the population of the state has 100% universal health coverage and over 1740 crore has been paid in insurance premium. Furthermore, preventive health checks and referral service has been provided to select groups and there is a plan for expanding this going forward. Telangana stated that diagnostics are a major component of OOPE (Out of Pocket Expenditure) and that the state is providing the facility of diagnostics through a Hub & Spoke model where a fully automated central lab is tagged with PHC and CHC where the samples are collected. In fact, even radiology hubs have been created. Going forward the plan is to get all the labs NABL accredited, start teleradiology and create EHRs (Electronic Health Records)
6. **Dr. S. S. Sandhu, Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand** summed up the presentations and discussions and observed that tremendous work has been accomplished in the health sector over the past decade. There is intensified focus on what our health system should be in Viksit Bharat. To march towards a healthier India, he shared certain action points.
7. The **action points** emerging from the deliberations were:

The following action plan needs to be taken by the State Governments and Government of India.

1. Affordability

- a. Saturation of Ayushman cards for remaining beneficiaries (20 crore cards). Dec 2024
- b. Effective drug delivery supply chain management system till primary level Dec 2024

2. Quality

- a. NQAS certification of 50% public health facilities Dec 2025
- b. NQAS certification of 100% public health facilities Dec 2026

3. Health Professionals

- a. Fixed day for outreach services on lines of Ayushman Melas at AAMs and CHC/PHC level March 2024
- b. Enhanced use of IT for ensuring availability of health professionals at health facilities Dec 2024

4. Increasing Access

- a. Assured access to health schemes to PVTG through PM JANMAN
March 2026
- b. Scan and Share facility using ABDM ecosystem in all Central Govt. Institutes, Medical college hospitals and in district hospitals.
March 2025
- c. Launch of U-WIN Portal.
March 2024
- d. Registration of health professionals and health facilities on ABDM registries.
50% by Dec 2024
100% by Dec 2025

5. Healthy Living

- a. Strengthening co-location of Ayush professionals at PHCs and above
March 2025
- b. Screening of 100% eligible populations (30 years+) for Diabetes and Hypertension
March 2025
- 6. Intensify preventive efforts for **Tuberculosis**.
Dec 2024
- 7. Complete all **Critical Care Blocks** under PM-ABHIM.
March 2026
- 8. Ensure all facilities at **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs**.
80% by Dec 2024
100% by Dec 2025.

8. Remarks by Hon'ble Prime Minister

- i. Hon'ble Prime Minister wanted states to be alert to the likely future incidence of COVID and other infections and take preventive measures for the same in time.
- ii. He also emphasized the need to conduct mock drills so that systems are in readiness to handle possible outbreaks in future.

Schooling: Access & Quality

Context Setting

1. **Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, DoSE&L**, introduced the session and the speakers. He started with emphasizing the importance of each additional year of schooling leading to an increase of 0.37% of GDP. Further, he highlighted the ongoing major education initiatives under Ministry of Education:
 - i. Vidya Sameeksha Kendra- AI driven big data analytics for improved monitoring of activities and learning outcomes.
 - ii. DIKSHA- Digital Public Infrastructure for personalized learning and pedagogical support.
 - iii. PM SHRI- NEP 2020 exemplar schools benchmarking ease of schooling to become new normal in education system.
 - iv. Vidyanjali- Initiative for promoting community participation.
 - v. ITEP, NISHTHA, NPST & NMM- Improving teachers' quality and competency.
 - vi. PARAKH, NAS & SEAS- From rote based assessment to competency-based assessments.
2. He presented that between 2014 and 2023, various indicators related to school education such as Total Teachers which had increased from 85.6% to 94.8%. Similarly, various indicators in availability of basic infrastructure in schools also had seen huge improvements such as Schools with Computers increasing from 26.4% to 47.7%. Lastly, he highlighted the challenges to school education in access and service delivery which include multiple category of schools, inability to track a child, absence of repository of educational records.
3. A film highlighting the current efforts and achievements was shown.

Presentation 1: Ease of Schooling – Access & Services through leveraging technology

4. **Shri Praveen Prakash, Principal Secretary, DoSE, Andhra Pradesh** made a presentation on Ease of Schooling – Access & Services through leveraging technology. He turned the spotlight to various technology and AI driven initiatives that were being implemented as indicated below:
 - UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education) + application- The application has shown potential to improve Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) with nearly 1.5 lakh potential drop outs being identified and either brought back or retained.
 - Digital Locker application- The application allows every student to have online access to their documents like report cards, health cards, income certificates, marksheets etc.
 - Better learning outcomes through AI initiatives- These include connecting 6,806 High Schools with internet connectivity, providing 62,000 Classrooms from Class 6th Onwards with Interactive Flat Panels and students having access to Swift Chat App (AI Generative App) for doubt clearance of any school subject.
 - Improvement in attendance of teachers through AI facial recognition system in 45,000

schools with 97% in time attendance.

- PM POSHAN- AI initiative to identify the bad food with mandatory uploading of the food prepared for serving to the students.
- Improving sanitation through AI- AI initiative to identify poor quality cases of toilet maintenance in the schools with mandatory uploading of the pictures by the teachers.

Presentation 2: PM SHRI School (PM Schools for Rising India)

5. **Shri Naveen Jain, Secretary (Education), Rajasthan**, presented on PM SHRI initiative. He highlighted on PM SHRI's vision that is to showcase all the components of National Education Policy 2020, saturation of quality academic contents and better infrastructural facilities, emerge as new normal schools with new ideas, new pedagogy, new competencies, and joyful school environment and provide leadership in their respective regions. He drew attention to various focus areas and interventions being carried out under them:

- 21st Century skills (learning, literacy, & life skills)- In order to develop a student into global citizen having life skills, skills and employability are being enhanced through vocational and career exposure of students across different trades, industrial exposure visits, Kaushal melas and on job trainings.
- Green Schools- The sustainability and quality of school infrastructure is being enhanced through energy-efficient building, Solar Energy, Nutri-Gardens, water- harvesting structures, incinerator for used pads etc.
- Career counseling and psychological support- Schools are ensuring stress-free environment for students through regular psychological support and one-on-one and workshop-based career guidance. In addition, Teacher Mentor Concept and leadership training is under implementation to push for inquiry-driven teaching & stress-free environment.
- Safe and secure schools- Awareness session for personal safety to children in Grades 1 to 8 are being organized involving self-defense training and teaching "Good Touch Bad Touch".

In the way forward, he stressed that PM SHRI schools are emerging as the centers of "Activity Based Learning" & "Smart tech-based Pedagogy". These model schools will continue to impart message of "Quality and Inclusive Learning" to the community & parents. This will continue to spread as PM SHRI staff provides inputs on Personal safety, Life skills, Self-defense, etc. to nearby schools.

Presentation 3: Promote Ease of Schooling: Convergence & Community Participation

6. **Shri Vijay Kiran Anand, DG, SED & SPD, Samagra Shiksha, Uttar Pradesh** made a presentation on Promoting Ease of Schooling: Convergence & Community Participation. He highlighted how Operation Kayakalp has improved school infrastructure through fund convergence of Rs. 11,500 Cr from various sources including Finance Commission grants, Samagra Shiksha, Jal Jeevan Mission, CSR and from ULBs, DMF, MP/MLAs Fund. He drew attention on the initiative's effectiveness in building quality infrastructure through training of 58,000 Gram Pradhan, 15,000 Panchayat Secretaries, 6+ lakh Teachers and 1 lakh masons. It has led to saturation to the level of around 94% in various school infrastructural facilities. He added that the usage of Manav Sampada Portal had allowed for transparency in teacher

recruitment and deployment leading to appointment of 1.64 lakh teachers and rational deployment through transfer of 66,000+ teachers. He further underlined that the success of capacity building of Teachers in blended mode through teacher training, mentoring and appointment of Shikshak Sankuls is marked by 1.75 Lakh visits by 5,000 mentors per month and 9,000 cluster level monthly meetings. As a result, between year 2018 and 2023, the education indicators such as student enrollment in government schools has increased from 44% to 59% and student attendance has increased from 54% to 65% including others.

Open House Discussion

7. **Shri. Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat** moderated the open house discussion.
8. **Additional Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh** shared MP's experience of rationalization and consolidation of schools resulting in ease of schooling by sharing implementation experience of Project SATH-E initiated by NITI Aayog. It resulted in overall better learning outcomes for student, teachers and schools.
9. **Chief Secretary, Kerela** shared Kerela's experience of community participation contributing to the improvement of school infrastructure and learning outcomes of the children. He highlighted that the budget for education is largely managed by local self-governments therefore the community has a critical role to play in maintenance of schools, midday meals and overall basic infrastructure of schools. In addition, the system of parent teacher meeting has encouraged transparency and helped to improve learning outcomes.
10. **Secretary, School Education, Gujarat** shared Gujarat's experience of implementing Gujarat Vidya Sameeksha Kendra and its four-pillar approach. He highlighted how it had helped to improve schooling eco-system with outcomes such as increase in attendance, improvement in learning outcomes, and accreditation of schools.
11. **Chief Secretary, Odisha** highlighted Odisha's experience in capacity building of teachers. He highlighted that extensive gap analysis had been carried out to provide teachers appropriate training. Teachers are taught to enjoy self-assessment and reflection. Over 30-hour trainings of 50,000+ teachers have been completed. Further, motivating the teachers through awarding best performing teachers.

Summing Up

12. **Shri. Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat** presented the Way Forward. He highlighted that Actionable Areas were:
 - 100% students achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by 2026
 - To achieve 100% GER (Preschool to Secondary and above) by 2030
 - Focusing on Retention and Quality for both secondary and elementary level and enrollment also for secondary level.For collective way forward, he stressed achievement in following areas:
 - Optimizing Basic School Infrastructure- To saturate basic Infrastructure like Electricity, Water and Sanitation by March 2025

- Crafting Aspirational Schooling Systems- Using PM Shri School as role model, developing School Complexes & Clusters including additional Classrooms, Computer Labs, STEM Labs etc. by March 2030.
- Education with Digital and AI-Driven Ecosystems- Leverage usage of VSK-based NDEAR platform, student wise tracking through APAAR-ID using Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), Digi Locker and other AI initiatives to strengthen service delivery through technology by March 2025.
- Nurturing Teachers for Transformative Education, ensuring availability as well as Capacity Building of Teachers- Portal-based transparent recruitment, deployment and accountability of teachers, AI based attendance system and enhance self-paced learning and promote use of PM eVIDYA and DIKSHA by March 2025.
- A stress-free haven for students in schools- Transformation of school into a joyful experience for Students through Social-Emotional learning, strengthening vocational Education and peer to peer learning by March 2025.
- Future Ready Students- Develop every child as a responsible Global Citizen rooted in Indian Culture and Knowledge System through Vocational Education in secondary schools and above, experiential learning to foster innovation among students and nurture global awareness and multicultural understanding to promote empathy and social responsibility by March 2027.

13. Lastly, he emphasized that as parents and community are key enablers, parents' continuous involvement can be improved through systematic counselling and Community involvement in school affairs through Tithi Bhojan, celebrating Shaala Sthapana Din, Independence Day, Republic Day etc.

14. Remarks by Hon'ble Prime Minister

- i. The Hon'ble Prime Minister spoke about Gujarat's Vidya Samiksha Kendra which is a Command and Control Centre for Schools. The World Bank has supported the Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiative in Gujarat. He said that World Bank's Chairman met him and offered to support a similar initiative in other States. However, the Prime Minister underscored that there should be a similar system across India to build on synergies.
- ii. The Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that school consolidation should be done gradually, building trust within the community.. . He suggested that this could be done by gradually familiarising students in the catchment area with the consolidated school, beginning with once a week and then gradually expanding. Gradually, the students and the community will realise the academic advantages of having a large consolidated school.
- iii. Regarding the dearth of benches in some schools, the Hon'ble Prime Minister opined that the practice of sitting down is good for health and is an asset. All students should have the experience of attending the classes while sitting on the floor. However, the school may explore the possibility that all the students can sit on furniture on a rotation basis for a few hours every week. Innovative solution should be thought of furnishing schools with furniture and for that purpose the repair of old furniture lying in schools can be done by jail inmates. This will also become a productive activity for jail inmates. On similar lines, midday meal requirements can be met through Jan Bhagidari, and Smriti Bhojans can be organized frequently with community participation during lunch breaks.

- iv. The Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that NITI Aayog could help the School Education department create a dashboard for education similar to the one created for ADP and ABP in which parameters could be identified for school education improvement. Under this, every district could select 100 schools for monitoring them on several parameters – 50 best and 50 upcoming. This would lead to competition among schools.
- v. A 3-4 day conference can be organized on the theme of school education in which there could be discussion on best practices. This conference may involve teachers, students, parents and all other stakeholders.
- vi. The Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted that significant progress has been made in imparting virtual education during Covid 19. Schools can have virtual classes on rotation basis, 1 period using the virtual mode. This will reduce the pressure on resources in the school and the State. The best teacher in the District should be given the responsibility of delivering virtual learning. This will also lead to competition among teachers to improve their skills in online teaching.
- vii. Schools can try merging festivals with learning and promotion of scientific concepts. For example, sun is venerated during the Makar Sankranti festival. Therefore, during the entire week leading to the festival, students should be exposed to the concept and usage of solar energy so that they can encourage their parents to adopt solar energy solutions such as solar rooftop panels.
- viii. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also suggested that all should introspect on whether our education curriculum is linked to Government's development goals. Domestic tourism is growing strongly. There should be a special chapter on local tourism and domestic tourist circuits in the respective State/UT. Students should study and learn beforehand about the tourist place they would be visiting as part of any school trip. This could be done through essays, and other curricular activities. Thus, tourism culture can be ingrained in schools. This would also open new career avenues for them.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister concluded his comments by suggesting that schools and students should be connected with the idea of Aspirational and Viksit Bharat.

Special Session 4: AI in Governance: Challenges & Opportunities

The session delved into India's potential in artificial intelligence, discussing the hurdles and opportunities it presents in the field of governance.

1. **Secretary, MeITY** commenced the session by introducing the concepts of AI, the need for AI to be a priority for India, India's readiness, potential and opportunities for assuming global leadership in AI. The salient points of his presentation were:
 - a. **State of AI development and India's readiness:** Generative AI dominates the contemporary discourse, with significant non-linear advancements being observed globally in the field AI from machine-learning and deep learning to neuro-symbolic AI. India ranks **first in AI skill penetration**, second in Machine learning and related skills, and boasts the **largest digitally connected democracy**. As the **incoming chair of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) 2024**, and given its endowments India can position itself in a global leadership role.

- b. **Challenges and Way Forward:** The technology still in a black-box era is beset with several challenges. For India to assume a leadership role would require addressing infrastructural and resource requirements. In addition, a detailed plan to deal with ethical considerations of AI development would be of paramount importance. Thus addressing **biases**, enhancing **hyper-scale computational capacities**, and implementing ethical governance guardrails for **inclusive AI applications**, would be required.
 - c. **Four major areas for India to harness AI's potential in governance:** Public service delivery, evidence-based decision-making, inclusive development, and empowering citizens through applications like Digilocker and virtual assistants.
- 2. **Additional Secretary, MeITY**, outlined **diverse applications of AI** in the field of governance.
 - a. Ongoing pilots of AI in fields of healthcare, agriculture and accessibility were presented. The **UMANG** app that incorporates **Indian Sign Language** recognition for accessing 25 services was explained to show how AI can be leveraged to promote inclusive development by providing ease of access to Divyangjan to government services.
 - b. Use cases in **mobility, law enforcement, infrastructure surveys and crowd management** in events like Kumbh Mela were shown to explain how AI can be leveraged with **enhanced citizen participation**.
 - c. The DigiYatra initiative, RFID deployment for Amarnath Yatra, and GenAI applications like AskDISHA and WhatsApp interfaces for schemes were demonstrated for their significant impact on 'ease of living' by leveraging AI.
- 3. **CEO, MyGov**, underscored the importance of **breaking language barriers for inclusive development** and the role played by **Bhashini**, a Digital Public Infrastructure.
 - a. Bhashini integrates 78 speech recognition, 42 transliteration models and various AI models, including Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Text-to-Speech (TTS), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and Machine Translation.
 - b. Its **applications** range from a multilingual agri-Chatbot to addressing KYC and PM KISAN credit-related queries, CPGRAMs for grievance redressal, and real-time speech-to-speech translation, demonstrated during events like Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- 4. **Principal Secretary, IT, Government of Telangana**, highlighted the state's four-year journey in AI with a **6-point framework** for government, partners, and the private sector.
 - a. Impetus given to the development and adoption of AI by declaring the year of 2020 as the AI year which saw concerted steps being taken under Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) working in collaboration with CDAC on **27 AI algorithm-based pilots**.
 - b. Notable successes include real-time monitoring of tiger reserves using 45 lakh trained images, a road safety solution (iRASTE) reducing accidents by 50%, and Project RTDAI simplifying pensioner verification through AI algorithms.
- 5. **Chief Secretary, Assam** explained the impactful SHIKSHA SETU initiative, employing **AI for real-time attendance** across 42,000 schools. By sharing facts it was demonstrated how the system efficiently addressed various challenges, like revealing ghost students, correcting ratios, proxy teachers, facilitating strategic decisions, and registering significant savings.

6. **Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh** highlighted the impact witnessed in the adoption of AI applications in different sectors in the state, including the **NIPUN LAKSHA** app for foundational literacy skills, the success of **Agro Stack**, and health sector initiatives including **geofencing Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** for attendance and use of **Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)**.

i. **Action points** emerging from the deliberations are (as per the rapporteur team):

a. Short Term (1 year):

i. *Centre:*

- Establish an institutional **framework for setting of standards, certification and knowledge sharing** for diverse AI models being developed by states.
- Early **deployment of AI systems** in **events, urban areas**, and high-frequency accident zones like Telangana for **infrastructure** monitoring and enhancing **fire safety response**. Implement AI across all **health infrastructure**.

ii. *States:*

- Collaborate with the centre on **AI-related problem statements**, involving academia, industry and citizens in a bottom-up approach. Explore the potential of **crowdsourcing data** from various sources.
- Adopt Bhashini and other AI solutions for both adoption and contributing data.

b. Medium Term (1-3 years):

i. *Centre:* Assume **global leadership** towards a **Framework for Ethical AI with guardrails** of inclusiveness, non-biasedness, leveraging position as the lead chair of **Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) 2024**.

ii. *States:* In domains of Ayurveda, medicine, and agricultural studies, **AI is to be incorporated into the curriculum**.

c. Long Term (3-5 years):

i. Strengthen **hyper-scale computation capacities** to align with global standards.

ii. Establish task forces for metadata creation, recognition of AI problem statements and deployment of missions.

The action points focus on short-term AI deployment, medium-term global leadership, and long-term capacity building and taskforces for metadata, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

7. **Remarks by Hon'ble Prime Minister**

- i. There must be a common repository of AI related innovations made by various States and Central Ministries. A common platform may be developed/devised wherein states can test their applications/IT initiatives before launching.
- ii. He suggested that the healthcare/ medical/ Ayush systems have great potential for AI and there is a wealth of data being collected here which can be a base. All medical colleges and hospitals could be on this AI platform.

- iii. He mentioned that AI also has potential for monitoring many aspects of service delivery in the healthcare and education fields and should be quickly explored. AI based tools could be deployed to monitor, melas, events, protests, prisons and check traffic accidents.
- iv. The data sets used for training AI tools should be based on simple spoken language and not literary or legal jargons. Bhashini can be trained using datasets gathered from prisons.
- v. The Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that in order to increase the use of AI, MeITY and NITI should create Task Forces so that other parts of government are educated in AI and its usage expands systematically.
- vi. He concluded stating the Digital India (AI) is one of the key drivers for achieving Viksit Bharat@2047 and hence, has to be given top priority and attention.

Land & Property: Accessibility, Digitization, Registration & Mutation

1. A presentation on the subject was made by **Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MOHUA)** emphasizing the importance of land and property in ease of living. It was stated that the presentation was prepared after extensive consultations with all States/UTs. Mentioning that land and property are the biggest assets owned by citizens of the country, he highlighted that the process undertaken in acquiring a land or a property by citizens is cumbersome and stressed on the need for having a proper land record management system in place to achieve clear titles, seamless property transactions and reduce litigation.
2. Shri Joshi brought out the economic impact of land and property acquisition. Referring to a Mckinsey report, he pointed out that distortion in land market reduces GDP growth by 1.3%. He also mentioned that lack of authentic digital land records impedes end-to-end digitization process or approvals. In terms of subject matter of civil cases, 66% of all civil cases relate to land and property.
3. Shri Joshi through his presentation very clearly brought out the distinction between rural and urban land record management systems. He mentioned that while land records of rural areas are more streamlined, there are significant challenges when it relates to urban land records.
 - a) In rural area, for instance when a farmer intends to buy a land parcel, the process starts with title verification. Most of the states have put in place online verification of the title. This is followed by registration and payment of stamp duty. Again, most states have online registration facility for purchase of land. In states where online registration facility is unavailable, offline registration is being done in Sub-registrar's office. Once this is complete, mutation is auto-triggered in many states, in which, registrar system sends the information to Tahsildar. The purchaser has to apply offline if online facility is not available in such cases.
 - b) On the other hand, in urban areas, land record is almost negligible which makes the very first step of property identification/ title verification, a complex matter. Also, even if land record is available, due to rapid urbanization, updation of the same is not being undertaken, creating asymmetry in information. In some urban areas, law firms

are being hired just for title verification. Once title verification is done, registration is carried out. However, mutation again becomes a challenge as auto-trigger is absent in urban areas. Another problematic area is land use conversion, where agricultural land in urban or peri-urban areas is to be converted to residential plots.

4. While talking of ease of living, he mentioned that there are several agencies/departments/ministries which citizens have to visit in order to purchase a land or a property. Multiple departments work in silos thus creating uneasiness for the buyer/seller. He emphasized on simple process for land and property acquisition which would eventually lead to ease of living of citizens and reduce land related litigation along with reduced cost of transaction. He also highlighted the importance of integrating textual RoR with geo-referenced cadastral maps and further linking them to BhU-Aadhar/ULPIN for all land. Auto-trigger to mutation is another important step for improving ease of living.
5. In his presentation, performance of some of the recent Government initiatives such as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) and Online Building Permission System (OBPS) were also highlighted. He mentioned that while much has been achieved in terms of computerization, information sharing, interpretation, there is still scope for improvement particularly, for urban and Peri-urban areas.
6. **Ms. V. Rashmi Mahesh, Principal Secretary, Disaster Management & Land Registration, Government of Karnataka**, made a presentation on best practices undertaken by Government of Karnataka on rural land records management. She mentioned that Government of Karnataka has integrated land record management system through BHOOMI, MOJINI and KAVERI initiatives.
7. BHOOMI is an online mutation management software for updation, maintenance and dissemination of Records of Rights (RoRs) in Karnataka. MOJINI is an application developed by the Revenue Department of Government of Karnataka for Land survey and maps, which also simplifies and speeds up the issuance of pre-mutation sketches. KAVERI is another application to cater to the needs of registration department. It is used for efficient property registration and enhance transparency, thereby reducing manual processes and chances of fraud.
- ii. She further mentioned that since 2000, 1.8 crore land records have been digitized by State Government through BHOOMI and presently there are 3.7 crore owners in the BHOOMI database. The BHOOMI software has made the land record management system, transparent, accountable, and accessible to citizens. Ms. V. Rashmi Mahesh also added that through MOJINI, 100% digitization of cadastral maps have been completed. She also emphasized the importance of KAVERI software in digitizing registrations and auto triggering the notice for mutations. She stated that more than 1.5 lakh mutations are being completed in a month through this network.
9. Ms. Mahesh further mentioned that BHOOMI has also been integrated with Revenue Court Case Monitoring System Module (RCCMS) enabling the review of disputed cases at various

levels. BHOOMI is also integrated with other systems such as farmers' database and digital crop survey databases. Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) have been created and around 68 lakhs farmers are on board in FRUITS availing benefits of various welfare schemes including DBT.

10. This was followed by a short film on Madhya Pradesh Cyber Tahsil (Rural).
11. **Shri N.K. Sudhanshu, Settlement Commissioner & Director, Land Records, Government of Maharashtra** showed a short film on City Survey in Maharashtra which was followed by a presentation on best practices undertaken by Government of Maharashtra on urban land records management. He mentioned that old maps and records have been discontinued in the State, with the introduction of new maps and property cards. Property cards are record of ownership based on the fresh survey.
12. He further illustrated the characteristics of e-property card which contains information such as QR/Unique ID number for each house, City Survey Number and other details in a prescribed format. Mortgage or Loan information are also available in property cards. Shri N.K. Sudhanshu further mentioned that 2021 onwards, the property cards have been linked with other systems such as state planning body for facilitating building plan approval, registration office for property related transactions (sale/purchase), with commercial banks for easy availability of loans, with Maharashtra RERA and also with Civil Courts to address civil disputes. He stated that process of linking building plan with property card is ongoing, once, this gets completed, there will be no requirement of visiting land record department by the citizens.
13. He mentioned that administratively, to facilitate citizens, 20 special enquiry offices for city survey in new cities and 30 city survey offices have been set up. He underscored that city survey has been a major player in facilitating ease of living with key features such as citizen monitored mutation process, geo-referenced maps and transactions of apartments based on Property Card data.
14. Presentation of Government of Maharashtra was followed by a short film on Tamil Nadu Urban Land Record Management.
15. **Ms. R.J. Vidyullatha, Director, Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Government of Andhra Pradesh** made a presentation on automated building permissions and introduction of Online Building Permission System (OBPS). She added that Andhra Pradesh Development Permission Management System (APDPMS) has been put in place for instantaneous approval without waiting for inspection. She mentioned that prior to 2016, getting building permits would take 60 days and applicants had to visit 7 different departments and 60 desks to get the same. She further mentioned that post 2016, 99% of building permits are given clearance within 1 hour through Single Window clearance.
16. She elaborated that the transition has been possible through three major steps that were undertaken. Firstly, master data was created with geo-referencing, land survey details, revenue records and approved layouts. Secondly, Government of Andhra Pradesh integrated State Government departments such as Revenue, Fire, Industries, Environment and AP-RERA with a common portal for scrutiny and verification of property tax assessments. Finally, single

window has been put in place to provide instant approval without waiting for inspection. Field inspection is carried out post approval. She stressed that the ease of living has been enhanced through the three-tier mechanism and there has been time saving in obtaining the approval. This has resulted in nearly 2.73 lakh building permits since 2016 and misrepresentation has drastically reduced to less than 1%.

17. This was followed by open house discussion.

18. **Shri Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana** mentioned that there existed no pucca record on Abadi. He mentioned that in March, 2019, MoU was signed with Survey of India to provide technical expertise, drawing of land maps, while Government of Haryana will provide ground level assistance. Sirsi village in Karnal district is the 1st village in India in which all the village land/abadi were mapped. He mentioned that Haryana became the first state to complete mapping of all land under SVAMITVA scheme. He also mentioned that 4.5 lac property card holders have been registered and to address grievances of the citizens, the state has also undertaken separate grievance redressal mechanism. He further mentioned that by March 2024, drone-based survey of the entire state will be completed.

19. **Shri Bhaskar Sawant, Principal Secretary (Energy), Government of Rajasthan** spoke about the success story of land for land policy of the Government of Rajasthan. He mentioned that this policy has major benefits as there is no upfront cash flow from the exchequer; there is right capture of the value of the land and there is no displacement of the land owner. This has enabled the State to acquire land for development related work in a seamless manner and created a win-win situation for the State as well as the landowners.

20. **Shri Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Delhi** mentioned that prior to 2019, obtaining building and construction permits were challenging, as 11 NoCs were needed to be taken from various departments under the Government of NCT of Delhi. Presently, all NoCs have been made online and have been integrated with maximum 15 days' provision for the departments to grant the NoC. He also added that for less than 500 sq.mtr of residential plots, architects have been empowered to sanction building plan. In such a way, 90% of building plans have been sanctioned by architects. He also added that process is ongoing to empower architects to sanction building plans for commercial area.

21. **Shri Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh** summed up the session highlighting the importance of land records management. He mentioned about the target dates for achieving certain milestones such as 100% digitization of land records, linking Record of Rights (RORs) with geo-referenced maps, registration to auto-mutation etc. for crafting a good Land Records System. The action points emerging from the deliberations for the States/UTs are:

- (i) To undertake 100% digitization of land records with search facility by December, 2025.
- (ii) To link RoRs with Geo-referenced maps by December, 2026.
- (iii) To assign Bhu-Aadhar/ULPIN to each geo-referenced land parcel by March, 2027
- (iv) To link land records with registration by June, 2026
- (v) To complete online mutation by December, 2025
- (vi) To complete registration to auto-trigger mutation by December, 2026

- (vii) To link land records with Revenue Courts and Civil Courts by June, 2026
 - (viii) To improve urban land records system, which would include: enabling legal framework through new enactment /amendment by June 2025, defining the process by December, 2025 and finally running the pilot in 10% urban areas by December 2026.
 - (ix) For Peri-urban areas, by December, 2025, the following needs to be completed-
 - (a) simplifying land use conversion and layout approval; (b) establishing planning authorities;
 - (c) master planning for areas surrounding Municipalities and (d) simplifying land acquisition for master planning roads.
 - (x) All 4,912 ULBs to be brought under OBPS by March, 2025. So far, 3,700 ULBs have been brought under OBPS.
22. Hon'ble Prime Minister did not make any remarks in this session.

Part C

Thematic Meal Discussions

**Third National Conference of Chief Secretaries
27- 29 December 2023, New Delhi
Thematic Meal Discussions**

Thematic Lunch: Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation

Table 1	
Table head: Hon'ble Prime Minister	
Sl. No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh
2	Dr. K.S. Jawahar Reddy, Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh
3	Dr. Vineet Joshi, Chief Secretary, Manipur
4	Shri Anurag Verma, Chief Secretary, Punjab
5	Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Advisor to the Administrator, Chandigarh (Rapporteur)
Total - 6 (5+1)	

1. **Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh** opened the discussion with a brief overview of the situation in the State on substance abuse and pointed out that the issue of Drugs is limited to use of cannabis and alcohol abuse. There were 2 drug de-addiction centres.
2. **Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh** continued with the intervention stating that the State of Andhra Pradesh had taken lot of efforts in destruction of cannabis and other such plants. The State has floated various schemes to move these farmers to alternate crops.
3. **Chief Secretary, Manipur** pointed out that the drug users face social taboo and find it difficult to assimilate back into society. They also suffer from drug abuse related issues like mental illness, vulnerability to HIV, H1B and other diseases which bring more taboo from society and family.
4. **Chief Secretary, Punjab** intervened by stating that Punjab has taken up sports activity in large scale, so that the youth is engaged in constructive activity. He also informed that Punjab is taking up regular recruitment for Government vacancies so that the youth has hope for employment. However, Hon'ble Prime Minister pointed out that the youth who have exhausted their options, would face bottleneck in this approach.
5. **HS-cum-Advisor, Chandigarh** pointed out that they have taken lot of steps on supply side but concentrating on demand reduction, they have focused on colleges and schools where VADA (Victory Against Drug Abuse) groups have been formed on the pattern of "Anti Ragging" campaign, the colleges & schools would be encouraged to declare themselves as "Drug free" institute. Also, a new challenge is being faced wherein women and children are exposed to drug abuse.

6. It was suggested by **HS-cum-Advisor, Chandigarh** that parents would be counseled to identify symptoms of drug use so that there is early detection and corrective action can be taken up. Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that mothers should be brought in the loop as the child can connect with mother and can get help in rehabilitation. Traditional family values like eating together should be revived, so that the parents can come to know the mental state of their children, Hon'ble Prime Minister also mentioned that sports is a critical way of engaging the youth bringing a sense of pride and purpose in life. He also stressed that police should organize community engaging activity so that there is better intelligence and counter measure for drug abuse.

Table 2	
Table head: Principal Secretary to Hon'ble PM	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Sh. Dharmendra, IAS, Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh
2	Sh. Manoj Saunik, IAS, Chief Secretary, Maharashtra
3	Sh. Sukhdev Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Jharkhand
4	Sh. H K Dwivedi, IAS, Chief Secretary, West Bengal
5	Sh. Pradeep Jena, Chief Secretary, Odisha
6	Sh. Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel, IAS, Chief Secretary, Goa (Rapporteur)
Total - 7(6 +1)	

7. Initiating the discussion **Chief Secretary, Odisha** explained that drug menace is a cross-country problem adversely affecting different sections of society across all States. While efforts on enforcement, post addiction treatment towards de-addiction and rehabilitation are being undertaken by all States, the problem still persists and challenges remain.
8. **Principal Secretary to Hon'ble PM**, on key note, highlighted that the drugs are coming from the Golden Triangle, and Golden Crescent. He suggested that all States should improve inter-State coordination, information sharing and take concerted joint effort along with Central Government organizations to curb inflow of drugs into the country.
9. **Chief Secretary, Maharashtra** stated that looking at the current situation, they had adopted a 'Whole of Government' approach, where they were roping in all stakeholders to fight the menace of drugs. Maharashtra Police have been directed to declare 'War against Drugs' and they had adopted a "Zero-Tolerance" policy against Psychoactive Substance abuse.
10. **Chief Secretary, West Bengal** stated that, because of geographical location, his State is used as a transit for drug smuggling to Myanmar through North Eastern States. It is located on the axis of drug smuggling route. Seizures in the past by state and central authorities show that most of the contraband drugs are meant for smuggling to North Eastern and South East Asian countries. Due to prohibition in adjoining country of Bangladesh which shares a long border with West Bengal and other North Eastern States, there is large scale smuggling of cough syrups like Phensedryl. Substance abuse is through consumption of cough syrups etc.

Substance abuse has increased among youth especially students and also people living in urban slums.

11. He further suggested that only regulatory framework will not be able to put control on this menace. What is required is awareness about ill effects of substance abuse and educating our young population. Social stigma associated with rehabilitation and de-addiction has to be removed so that families can take recourse to weaning their children away from substance abuse.
12. **Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh** stated that in his State, key factors that contribute to substance use disorders, include alcohol not being a taboo in society, lifestyle choices leading to glamorization of substance abuse, lack of jobs, education and awareness and social and legal fear preventing addicts to come forward and seek treatment. From a policing perspective, the State faces challenges in the form of indigenous and traditional cultivation of cannabis and poppy. More importantly, the influx of synthetic drugs, coming from cross-border havens is turning out to be the bigger challenge. The State Government has adopted the Arunachal Pradesh Psychoactive Substances Policy 2021 and constituted the Arunachal Pradesh Psychoactive Substance Control Authority (APPSCA) which is chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, and comprises of the entire Council of Ministers, Chief Secretary and Principal Secretaries, PCCF, DGP and Commissioners/Secretaries/HoDs of the key Departments.
13. **Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh** further said that Drug Trafficking and substance abuse present a complex set of challenges not only for law enforcement agencies, but for the whole society. It has been seen globally that prevention in this case is definitely better than cure since treatment and rehabilitation efforts do not give us the desired results. Enforcement, while altering market dynamics in terms of availability, price and quality, has not been able to eradicate the problem in even the most developed and resource-rich countries.
14. **Chief Secretary, Jharkhand** discussed the issues regarding Drug de-addiction in Jharkhand. The problem is mainly associated with the age group 18-45 years of persons, and students of class 10-12. The middle & low income groups are mostly affected. Drugs are mostly ganja, dendrite, and cough syrup. State has identified counseling centers to deal with the problem besides the activities of law enforcement agencies.
15. He also shared his experiences about the State of Mizoram being his home state. The Church and the popular NGO- Young Mizo Association (YMA) play an important role in supporting the Government in creating awareness of the ill effects of drugs/substance abuse. They are actively involved in the implementation of Demand Reduction and Supply Reduction, particularly among youths.
16. **Chief Secretary, Goa** informed that in Goa, Nigerians comprise the highest number among foreign nationals arrested for drug peddling. The drug proliferation problem is more in Goa due to demand created by tourists. To tackle this issue, Goa government notified a special foreigner's detention centre for deporting foreigners without valid visa. This action has resulted in considerable reduction of Nigerians in Goa. The State has also collaborated with NGO to run a de-addiction centre.

17. Goa Government has sensitized all PHCs/CHCs and other health verticals to keep a tap on drug addiction cases and notify it to the remedial centres for long term solutions including treatment and rehabilitation.
18. He also shared his experience of Municipal Schools where students from poor strata of society start their addiction from taking Boot Polish, eating tooth pastes, etc. The organized drug cartels target these students and get them addicted to high level drugs/substances.
19. After threadbare discussion, it was suggested as follows:
- i. The supply side challenges must be addressed by a reduction in the area of illegal cultivation of Ganja and Opium through enforcement and awareness among the farmers. Besides, equally remunerative livelihood opportunities can wean away farmers from cultivation of ganja and opium, etc. Further, enforcement must be increased to reduce cultivation, logistics, trading, peddling and consumption. Small drug peddlers and consumers may be tracked, treated and rehabilitated economically through self / wage employment basis.
 - ii. Demand side reduction can be achieved through adequate awareness activities including IEC and including substance & drug abuse effects in curriculums at different levels. Social media campaigns should also be taken up. Highly respectable organizations, religious preachers, civil society partners, WSHG should be involved.
 - iii. Pledge by students not to touch drugs and not to resort to substance abuse should be made compulsory for all High School and College students. Educational institutions should have institutional arrangements to curb drug abuse like anti-ragging action. Harsher actions including rustication may be considered for engineering and professional college students.
 - iv. It was suggested that a proper AI based monitoring system may be put in place to detect behavioral changes among students at the school level itself.
 - v. It was also observed that due to fear of punishment the friends and associates of drug addicts don't take them to Hospitals/Rehabilitation Centres. It was suggested that this specific role / action may be decriminalized.

Table 3	
Table head: Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power
2	Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy
3	Shri Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat
4	Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chief Secretary, Assam
5	Shri Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Rapporteur)
Total - 6 (5+1)	

20. **Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog** initiated the discussion and set forth the two-pronged agenda of introducing all members sitting on the table and discussing the subject matter.
21. **Chief Secretary, A&NI** shared his experience of the Island related to the subject. He stated that A&NI is gradually emerging as a major tourist destination, therefore the supply & availability of drugs and psychotropic substances have also increased. However, being the archipelago, the saving grace is that there are limited points of ingress into the islands. Airport and sea-ports are very closely monitored. All comers are scanned and a keen watch is kept on parcels having cryptic address. At all important tourist destinations, a dedicated team to intercept supply of drug is kept. As a result, the use of drugs is limited in the UT. However, every now and then cannabis and ganja are caught at these locations.
22. He also informed that use of synthetic drug is very limited in the Island. However, few years back, thousands of packets of methamphetamine flowed into the Southern group of islands. Some residents had collected these packets and had hidden it in the jungles. Every now & then they release these packets in market, which invariably gets transported to the mainland. Recently, there had been some raids in these areas and most of the methamphetamine cache have been apprehended.
23. **Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog** informed that Hon'ble Prime Minister has selected the topic because his apprehension is that being a young nation, drug addiction cannot be ignored. It should be a prominent issue which needs to be discussed.
24. **Chief Secretary, Assam** informed that few years back Assam was only on the transit route for drugs starting from Manipur. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been tremendous growth in the local consumption of drugs due to which the challenge before government has increased manifold.
25. He also informed that new modus operandi is being adopted by the drug peddlers. Innovative compartments are made the train toilets. Drugs are hidden in these compartments. He said that the units in-charge of shipping drug proliferation have to be at the forefront in staying ahead of these peddlers.
26. He further stated that the major problem in drug addiction is social stigma. Family members do not apprise the problem considering it a major social stigma. As a result, these addicts do not get cured at the right time and the problem aggravates at every level.
27. **Chief Secretary, Assam** informed that he has made several initiatives in engaging the youth. Several tournaments have been started. In order to engage the youth creatively, some cultural competitions are also being organized. All these efforts have brought about salutary results.
28. **Chief Secretary, Gujarat** informed that Gujarat faced a major challenge as it is the main route for synthetic drugs such as heroine, methamphetamine etc. emanating from Afghanistan & Pakistan. He said that land route does not pose a threat similar to one which is posed by sea-route. To check such a huge coastline is very difficult as the fishing community is deeply involved in the drug transportation. He said that almost every time raids against drug yield

rich haul of drugs in large quantities. Most of the synthetic drug is transported to other parts of the country.

29. He also agreed with the observation of **Chief Secretary, Assam**, that drug addiction has become a stigma, due to which goes unreported most of the times.
30. **Secretary Education, GoI** informed that menace of drug is being introduced in the school curriculum also. He informed that a MoU is being made with NADA to disseminate information against performance enhancement drugs. He said this effort has shown significant result.
31. He said that drug use is closely linked with tobacco use. He said that wherever, the sale of tobacco near education institution is banned, there the drug use is also limited.
32. He expressed the desire to put a ban on surrogate advertisement on use of tobacco, especially shown on TV.
33. **Secretary, Power** shared his experience when he served in Madhya Pradesh. He informed that the drug menace is quite large among the affluent farmers located in Bhopal to Jabalpur areas. He said that Hoshangabad district is quite affected with this menace. He said that as drug controller, he realized use of cough syrup in some parts of the State.
34. He said that though institutional mechanism is not available for de-addictions, but Health Department takes efforts in dissemination of information.
35. The discussion later shifted to climate change, priority areas for administration, and food variety available in various parts of the country.

Table 4	
Table head: Sh. Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Sh. Sudhansh Pant, Secretary, MoHFW
2	Sh. Amir Subhani, Chief Secretary, Bihar
3	Sh. Prabodh Savena, Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh
4	Sh. Sandeep Kumar, Advisor to Administrator, Lakshadweep (Rapporteur)
Total – 5(4 +1)	

36. **Cabinet Secretary** inquired about the extent of drugs problem in Himachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep. It was informed that while the problem is almost non-existent in Lakshadweep, it was severe in Himachal Pradesh, primarily because of its geography, i.e., bordering Punjab and the international borders. The recent trend of consuming heroin (locally known as Chitta) is a serious development in Himachal Pradesh. To ensure regular supply, youths are turning to mini-peddling. It was emphasized by Chief Secretary Himachal Pradesh that focus must be on demand reduction through large-scale awareness and counseling, rather than only on enforcement.

37. It was also suggested by **Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh** that treatment and post-treatment rehabilitation should be part of National Action Plan of NHM, and should not be left to NGOs and private sector.
38. It was further suggested by **Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh** that the NDPS Act must distinguish between victims and hard core peddlers. Victims must be treated as witnesses and sent to treatment regime rather than jail.
39. **Chief Secretary, Bihar** emphasized about the need for training Doctors treating drug addicts.

Table 5	
Table head: Sh. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Ms. S. Radha Chauhan, Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training, Govt. of India
2	Dr. Renu Sharma, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram
3	Sh. J. Alam, Chief Secretary, Nagaland
4	Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to HLG, UT of Ladakh (Rapporteur)
Total - 5(4 +1)	

40. The issue of Drug Deaddiction and Rehabilitation was discussed. All participants agreed that Drugs and Substance abuse was becoming a big social and health issue and needed to be addressed on priority and that the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2025) needed to be implemented in right earnest.
41. The **CEO, NITI Aayog** asked the Advisor to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh to share his experiences regarding Drug De-addiction & Rehabilitation in the Union territory of Ladakh.
42. The latter expressed that the UT of Ladakh too was facing the menace of Drug De-addiction and it was apprehended that it would become more vulnerable in future with increase in the number of domestic and foreign tourists coming into Ladakh.
43. Moreover, as the vigilance on the normal route of smuggling the drugs from Punjab to J&K becomes strict and rigorous, the drug operators could move psychotropic substances from Manali - Leh Highway to the Kahmir Valley and even to Jammu. He further said that there have been increasing cases of psychotropic substance use among the youth based on data available with Police and the SNM District Hospital Leh.
44. However, a professional study is required to be done to fathom the magnitude of the psychotropic drug use in Ladakh and that the Administration is planning to assign it to

the University of Ladakh.

45. He also informed that Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India under the National Action Plan of Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) has sanctioned funds for setting up District Deaddiction Centre (DDAC) both at Leh and Kargil and that the Administration of the UT of Ladakh has initiated steps to set up these DDACs and to engage Specialists, Counsellors and Staff for the said purpose.
46. However, the Administration of UT Ladakh has set up Yato Clubs in Government Schools in Leh in order to sensitise students about the malaise and to start awareness campaign against substance abuse and that the Ladakh Police has launched a portal (<https://drugsfreeleh.com/>) aimed at breaking barriers about passing information related to the Drug abuse and illicit trade of liquor in Leh district.
47. The **Chief Secretary, Mizoram** also said that the State of Mizoram was also facing similar problem and steps should be taken to control the menace of Drug abuse. Besides, rehabilitation for the Drug addicts in collaboration with the NGOs working in the field is being done.

Table 6	
Table head: Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture
2	Shri Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary, Haryana
3	Shri Amit Singla, Advisor to the Administrator, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Rapporteur)
Total - 4 (3+1)	

48. **Sh. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog** expressed that Drug addiction is a major problem across India & across various age groups and the reasons are also different. He pointed that whereas in the young children in the cities it is peer- pressure, in rural areas, it is depression due to unemployment, etc. Further, there is a mafia which runs it as a business. Many addicts also later join as drug peddlers to finance their drug consumption. There is an international angle in the form of Pakistan etc. which is pushing drugs in various states of India.
49. He further suggested that Drug de-addiction requires holistic response, not a mere medical response through drug de-addiction centres, rehab centres, SHGs, social/religious organization like AOL, Sadhguru, etc.
50. **Sh. Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary, Haryana** informed that Haryana has formed a nodal body to co-ordinate all Drug-de-addiction & rehabilitation activities. Rahagiris, regular NCORD meetings, monitoring of chemists, and monitoring of e-way bills of relevant chemical trade are some of the steps taken. Further, Oaths are administered to

people to say no to drugs. Drug de-addiction centres have been opened in prisons as a best practice.

51. **Sh. Govind Mohan, Secretary, Culture** suggested that the problem of drug de-addiction can be handled by Indian system of yoga, meditation, etc. as we have to treat the mind.
52. **Sh Amit Singla, Advisor, UT DNH & DD** suggested that for Drug De-addiction, counselling is very important. To have a wider spread of counselling services, the Health & Wellness Centres (Ayushman Mandir) staff should be trained for counselling for drug de-addiction & should counsel addicts in their area. This way we can better use existing infrastructure & resources.
53. He also informed that the success rate of treatment at drug de-addiction centres is low & people take on addiction again. We have seen cannabis being legalized for medical recreational uses. We can try to use cannabis for treatment in a regulated manner at Drug De-addiction centres as a treatment option to see if it offers higher success for treating patients using injectables, which also runs the risk of HIV due to needle sharing. A digital platform on the lines of COWIN can be devised to ensure its regulation & audit.
54. He also pointed out that in the case of T.B. patients, community involvement has been increased through adoption by community as Nikshay Mitras. On the same lines, adoption of drug addicts by community through a Nikshay Portal type digital platform can be made.
55. He further suggested that On the lines of 'Eat right campus' we should have a certification scheme for "Drug-Free Campus" to certify any educational campus. Quality Council of India (QCI) can devise such a certification scheme, for colleges & schools. Further, regular distribution of sports kits should be made in rural areas to channelize energies of youth in right direction.

Table 8	
Table head: Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA
2	Smt. Santhi Kumari, Chief Secretary, Telangana
3	Shri J.K. Sinha, Chief Secretary, Tripura (Rapporteur)
Total - 4 (3+1)	

56. As per the National Survey on Extent And Pattern Of Substance Use in India conducted by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in 2018-19, drug menace in all parts of the country is alarming. In Tripura also, it has assumed serious proportions.
57. The State Government has been giving priority attention to drug demand reduction through multi-pronged approach of awareness generation, source curbing and intensified enforcement activities. Frameworks of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan and

National action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction have been supporting the state's efforts in this direction. A unique initiative "*Nasha Mukh Bharat ke Liye Khelo Tripura*" has been launched as part of State Action Plan. Under this, volleyball tournaments are being organized at the block, district and State level involving youth in large number.

58. The State Government has also initiated the mass reach programme through social media and influencers. Social media handles of Tripura Police, Social Welfare & Social Education Dept, Health dept etc. regularly share educative and informative posts regarding importance of refraining from drug use, anti-drug campaigns being conducted, support systems available for treatment and rehabilitation etc.

59. **Chief Secretary, Telangana** informed that menace of drug addiction is rampant in the urban areas also. Situation in State like Punjab was also discussed in detail. Chief Secretary, Nagaland and Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India also actively participated in the discussion.

60. After detailed discussion, the following action points emerged: -

- i. There should be intensified intervention for drug demand reduction by involving Panchayat Raj Institutes, Women Self Help Groups and youth for building community led sustainable resistance against substance abuse.
- ii. The number and capacity of Addiction Treatment Facilities should be expanded
- iii. There should be focus on building up professional manpower resource for scientific preventive IEC campaigns and engagement of vulnerable groups.
- iv. Comprehensive approach should be adopted for referral, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users.

Table 9	
Table head: Shri Amit Khare, Adviser to Hon'ble PM	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT
2	Smt. Usha Sharma, Chief Secretary, Rajasthan
3	Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir
4	Shri V.B. Pathak, Chief Secretary, Sikkim (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

61. **Shri Amit Khare, Advisor to Prime Minister** initiated the discussion on National Action Plan on reduction in demand for Drugs. He reiterated what Hon'ble Prime Minister had mentioned in his Mann Ki Baat on July 30, 2023 that the drug menace brings about three Ds, the Darkness, Destruction and Devastation and that the Government since 2014 has been taking concerted efforts to counter this threat and to achieve the goal of a society free of drug abuse. The

awareness campaign against drugs must use all innovative efforts including Musical Night, Bike Rallies, Sports events, Social media campaign, and interviews with celebrities and others.

62. After the launch of the Drug Free India Campaign on 15 August 2020, more than 1 crore people have been connected with this campaign. He also mentioned that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as the nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction has introduced measures for the curtailment of substance abuse in the country. It formulated and enacted National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) (2018- 2025) to focus on preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation, training and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non- Governmental Organizations.
63. Besides sensitizing 1+ crore people including 3+ Crore Youth and 2+ Crore Women, over 3 lakh educational institutions have ensured that the message reaches children and youth of the country. A digital push has been given to many activities to maximise its reach.
64. The Government has not only ensured onboarding different Ministries/Departments but the Spiritual Organizations, Sports events and other functions organised at different levels. A Toll-free Helpline for de-addiction, 146 is being maintained by the nodal Ministry for providing primary counseling and immediate referral services to the persons seeking help through this helpline.
65. To ensure that children in this vulnerable state are sensitized and educated against substance use, MoSJE has developed 'Navchetna Modules' to provide support for children in drug use. Further screening, counselling support and treatment and e support to families/teachers on early signs of drug use among children and information on support are available.
66. Regular research studies are taken up among vulnerable groups to remain prepared.
67. The Chief Secretaries on the table were fully supportive of the need and the actions that have been taken by the Centre. A proposal was taken up on reviewing the actions undertaken and setting up Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Gap Districts which do not have any central government supported de- addiction facility and ensure seamless flow of funds. They concurred with the need for harmonizing of the state-run De-Addiction Centers with those under NMBA and sharing information of private run de-addiction centers in the State.
68. The Group reached a consensus on involving District Administrations as the ground level bodies to constitute and conduct regular meetings of the District Level NMBA Committee- the core implementation body of NMBA. Further, the consensus was to formulate a District Action Plan for NMBA together with ensuring that a minimum of 50 Master Volunteers are identified and trained in each District.

Tables Awaited: 7 & 10

Thematic Dinner: Amrit Sarovar

Table 1	
Table head: Hon'ble Prime Minister	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh
2	Shri Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary, Haryana
3	Shri Lalbiaktluanga Khiangte, Chief Secretary, Jharkhand
4	Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sadhu, Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand
5	Smt. Santhi Kumari, Secretary, Telangana (Rapporteur)
Total - 6 (5 +1)	

1. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** suggested that the programme should continue, and focus should be more on creation of new Sarovars than merely restoring the old Sarovars and to find innovative ways to scale up the number of Sarovars as well as the capacity of existing Sarovars. Local Universities should be encouraged to undertake research and development for this purpose.
2. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** shared the experience of Gujarat, especially mentioning rejuvenation of Sabarmati through Narmada water. He also mentioned the role of IITs in evaluation of these projects and case studies. Further, he said that the GatiShakti portal should be utilized to pinpoint the potential snarls.
3. Mentioning the immense benefits of Amrit Sarovars, it was suggested that health and environment studies in the areas where Amrit Sarovars have been completed should be undertaken.
4. Emphasizing the role of Amrit Sarovars in water conservation and ground water recharge, it was also stressed upon the importance of check dams in the riverbed, revival of step wells and farm ponds. Also mentioning how water is lost in transit and distribution, Hon'ble Prime Minister urged upon the need to arrest waste of water by proper maintenance and supervision to improve the economy.

Table 2	
Table head: Dr. P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble PM	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Amir Subhani, Chief Secretary, Bihar
2	Shri Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat
3	Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chief Secretary, Assam
4	Dr. K.S. Jawahar Reddy, Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh
5	Shri J. Alam, Chief Secretary, Nagaland
6	Shri Anurag Verma, Chief Secretary, Punjab

7	Shri J.K. Sinha, Chief Secretary, Tripura (Rapporteur)
Total - 8 (7 +1)	

5. The Mission was launched on 24th April 2022 with target to construct at least 75 Amrit Sarovars (ponds) in every district of the country with pondage area of minimum of one acre (0.4 hectare) and water holding capacity of about 10,000 cubic meters.
6. In Tripura, a total of 953 Amrit Sarovars has been constructed utilizing different sources of funds such as 15th Finance Commission, CAMPA, MGNREGA etc. They are being utilized for irrigation and pisciculture purposes.
7. **Chief Secretary, Gujarat** informed that Amrit Sarovars have proved to very useful in catering to the need of drinking water in the dry areas of the State.
8. **Chief Secretary, Bihar** stated that the local people have been using Amrit Sarovars for economic activities like pisciculture and growing hyacinth for their livelihood.
9. **Chief Secretary, Nagaland** informed that Amrit Sarovars in interior parts of the State have been useful to the common people in agriculture and horticulture sector.
10. **Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister** stated the need for making the Amrit Sarovars sustainable in the long run by taking up economic activities like pisciculture, agriculture and allied activities in and around the areas of Amrit Sarovars. He also discussed about the on-going Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in different States.

Table 3	
Table head: Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, MoRD
2	Shri Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh
3	Dr. Venu V., Chief Secretary, Kerala
4	Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Advisor to the Administrator, Chandigarh (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4 +1)	

11. The initial discussion was on the various flagship schemes of rural development, especially with respect to water resources.
12. It was felt that convergence between various schemes and coordination between departments is critical as water resources and Amrit Sarovar mission in particular has various facets like promotion of community interaction, encouraging tourism, religious sentiments, climate change, agriculture, etc.

13. **Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh** pointed out that for hilly areas, norms of Amrit Sarovar were relaxed considering that size of ponds are small in hills but are critical in hilly terrain. It has led to promotion of homestays, fishing activity and local festivals around these sarovars.
14. The rejuvenation of ponds has led to afforestation efforts and helped mitigate the natural disaster impact like flash foods, cloud burst, etc.
15. **Chief Secretary, Kerala** pointed out that ponds are used more for religious reasons than irrigation.
16. **Advisor, Chandigarh** pointed out that preserving ponds would require various interventions, especially those ponds which are within the habitation areas of villages, as urbanization increases. The ponds are getting encroached due to improper land records and demarcation. They face pollution challenges- the sewer and animal waste flows into these ponds leading to their contamination. Hence, three pond system along with individual septic tanks were made. Community stakes in preserving the ponds is to be increased by organizing festivals, fairs, and other programmes around the pond. They would also become critical for their economic activities like animal welfare.

Table 4	
Table head: Shri. Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Ms. S. Radha Chauhan, Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training, Govt. of India
2	Dr. Renu Sharma, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram
3	Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the HLG, UT of Ladakh (Rapporteur)
Total - 4 (3+1)	

17. The **Cabinet Secretary** observed that the task of constructing/ rejuvenating Amrit Sarovars has been completed in the country and that more than 68,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/ rejuvenated against a target of 50,000. But he said that this work of creating Amrit Sarovars / Water Harvesting Tanks should be continued further.
18. The **Chief Secretary, Mizoram** said that in hilly states like Mizoram, Amrit Sarovars of 01 acre or more are rare. However, 1000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed / rejuvenated in the State of Mizoram.
19. She further said that the restored Amrit Sarovars have multiple uses and in some-cases, these rejuvenated Amrit Sarovars have turned into picnic / tourist spots.
20. The **Advisor, UT of Ladakh** said that UT of Ladakh has completed 152 Amrit Sarovars since April 2022 and that the Amrit Sarovars are very important for irrigation purposes in Ladakh. He said that all the streams and sources of surface water get frozen in Ladakh due to extremely low temperatures in winter and if the temperature does not pick up at the start of cropping season in the month of April, there is little or no snow-melt on the mountains and

consequently the streams don't have water flowing in them which adversely affects the transplantation of saplings and sowing of crops. It is at that critical time that the water stored in the Amrit Sarovars / Water Reservoirs could be utilized for irrigating the saplings or sowing the crops and thus save the people from a failed crop.

21. He said that the UT Administration is planning to construct more Amrit Sarovars at strategic locations upstream of the water streams/ rivulets to ensure irrigation and drinking water to the people.

Table 5	
Table head: Shri. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri. Sudhansh Pant, Secretary, MoHFW
2	Shri. D.P.Wahlang, Chief Secretary, Meghalaya
3	Shri. Sandeep Kumar, Advisor to the Administrator, Lakshadweep (Rapporteur)
Total - 4 (3+1)	

22. **CEO, NITI Aayog**, initiated the discussions by inquiring about the status of implementation of Amrit Sarovar scheme in Meghalaya and Lakshadweep. Chief Secretary Meghalaya informed that of the 1299 identified sites in Meghalaya, work was commenced at 773 sites out of which work has been completed at 685 sites. The challenges encountered during the execution of the projects were as follows:
23. Sarovars belonging to one District/Block were getting reflected under another District/Block.
24. In some cases, sites falling under the State of Assam were getting reflected under Meghalaya.
25. In most of the areas where connectivity is poor, geo-tagging of the assets through the Amrit Sarovar app was found to be double entry since it did not read the location properly.
26. In some Districts, the absence of motorable roads and network connectivity had been a hurdle for uploading of data on the portal. The inability to delete sites which are not feasible or double entry, either at the District or State level, has unnecessarily increased the percentage of incomplete projects.
27. As Meghalaya is a hilly State, a number of sarovars have to depend on underground springs as their source; and in many remote villages far from any rivers/streams, the sarovars depend solely on rainwater. Therefore, construction of an inlet in such cases is not feasible, thereby, making the sarovar not an ideal sarovar.
28. **Chief Secretary, Meghalaya** further informed that through this mission, more Natural Resource Management activities were focused on activities such as the creation of water bodies and plantation through “Meri Maati Mera Desh”, where maximum participation of the communities was initiated. This also created an awareness in the different communities for uplifting and preserving the natural resources present in the villages. The felicitation and celebration of freedom fighters along with flag hosting was inculcated in the people through the creation of these assets. Moreover, it has helped to generate income, regenerate water sources, and develop the economy of the villages through fishponds, nurseries, etc.
29. **Advisor to Administrator, Lakshadweep** informed that the UT Administration vide letter dated 09-11-2022 had informed Govt. of India that on site inspection and subsequent review meetings at the U.T. level, it was decided that Lakshadweep being a group of very small and scattered islands in the Arabian Sea, it is not possible to identify any suitable land sites for development of Amrit Sarovar as per the scheme guidelines. Lakshadweep islands are coral islands surrounded by lagoons having a thin layer of brackish ground water at an average depth of 1.5 to 2 meters. It was therefore informed vide this letter that it was not possible to develop ponds or fresh water bodies as envisaged under the Amrit Sarovar scheme.

30. The Group was of the view that the mission has served as an inspiration for other organizations, communities, and individuals to take proactive steps in safeguarding water resources. The impact of the Amrit Sarovar Mission's initiatives is tangible, with restored water bodies serving as living testaments to the success of their conservation strategies. These efforts not only contribute to the ecological balance but also have positive ripple effects on surrounding communities, improving water access and quality of life.

Table 6

Table head: Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog

31.

S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT
2	Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture
3	Shri Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh
4	Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir
5	Shri Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh (Rapporteur)
Total - 6 (5+1)	

on to set up Amrit Sarovar has been successful and should continue with the same zeal.

32. To take up more ponds and reservoirs under the programme, the funds required should be leveraged from MGNREGA, State/UT CAPEX budget and CAMPA (in case of reservoirs in forest areas). Only one time cost should be provided from these sources.

33. The management/O&M of these Amrit Sarovars should be with Panchayats and in case of forests with Joint Forest Management Committees.

34. The entire mission should become a people's movement involving people from all walks of life and all sections of the society. The movement should inculcate of feeling of respect and ownership among the community.

35. The topics of water conversation and efficient water management should be taught in the schools.

36. Each district should identify a small team of champions which could include scientists, government officials, local prominent citizens etc. They would serve as anchors to take the movement forward.

Table 10

Table head: Shri Tarun Kapoor, Adviser to Hon'ble Prime Minister

S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Manoj Saunik, Chief Secretary, Maharashtra

2	Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
3	Shri V.B. Pathak, Chief Secretary, Sikkim
4	Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary, Puducherry (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

37. Mission Amrit Sarovar has been a huge success and has resulted in significant improvements in environmental and social fabric of the rural areas.
38. Apart from the gains in terms of increasing the availability of water both on surface as well as ground, the social activities including celebration of Independence Day, Republic Day, religious festivals etc. have built a spirit of cohesion and unity among the communities. This needs to be not only continued but enhanced.
39. Apart from special occasions, Amrit Sarovars may be used regularly as wellness space for the community. Daily Exercise/Yoga sessions/Morning walks for the community may also be conducted to promote physical health of the community.
40. It is important to maintain the assets created. SOPs for regular and comprehensive inspections including inspections at senior levels may be formulated and meticulously followed.
41. Structured interactive session with user groups may be organized for experience sharing, documenting their success stories and positive impact on their lives. The learnings from such sessions will also enable both the used groups and implementing agencies to take actions for further improvements.
42. Considering the immense benefits of Amrit Sarovars, all such water bodies in the States and Union Territories may be covered following the same modalities to achieve saturation in this regard.

Tables Awaited: 7,8,9

Thematic Breakfast: Tourism Promotion, Branding and Role of States

Table 1	
Table head: Hon'ble Prime Minister	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat
2	Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir
3	Shri Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh
4	Dr. Venu V., Chief Secretary, Kerala
5	Shri Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

(Rapporteur)

Total - 6 (5+1)

1. The discussion was started by **Chief Secretary, Kashmir**. He informed that number of foreign tourists visiting the State has increased almost threefold. He requested that all our foreign missions should be involved to propagate Kashmir as tourist destination. He also informed that the old derelict temples are being renovated for religious tourism.
2. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** suggested that the state should also look at the sports tourism and conference tourism.
3. **Chief Secretary, Kerala** informed that they have worked meticulously on the tourist profile. A close analysis of the tourist footfall indicates as to which area is to be targeted. He informed that Kerala has consciously chosen wellness tourism as the niche area and has worked in a concerted manner. As a result, Kerala has emerged as the main destination for the tourists seeking wellness services.
4. **Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands** informed that they have launched bird policy for the archipelago. Andamans have 31 rare endemic species which are not found at other locations of the world. Accordingly, with the help of this policy, all bird guides are being trained and traits are earmarked in the UT. At the same time, birding policy and birding information is being uploaded on Indian birds WhatsApp group. It has generated substantial interest among the birding community in the country.
5. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** said that bird tourism is a good area where we need to focus. He stated that birding community is one dedicated tourist group which stays at one location till it can see all species of bird. This helps the local economy as they spend substantially during their stay. Hon'ble PM also suggested that multilingual websites (especially in the UN languages) should be created to attract international birding community. He instructed that help from Indian mission abroad may be taken to disseminate the information about the bird's species available in the island. He suggested that programmes such as quiz competitions can be held to ensure that information is propagated at international level.
6. **Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh** informed that Atal Tunnel has given rise to new tourist destinations. Hon'ble PM suggested that small interventions can develop tourism locally. He gave an example about Roerich's art gallery. He informed that during late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime he suggested him to visit Roerich's gallery. It immediately brought the gallery's information in public domain and the gallery gained tremendous popularity. Small ancillary activities increased manifold. He also suggested that near Manali, there is a garden where huge rocks are standing, and in that garden, all major sculptors can be invited to chisel the rocks. After all the rocks are chiseled, then the garden can be opened for the tourists on tracks. It will help the local economy and create a unique thing in the State.
7. **Chief Secretary, Gujarat** informed that the projects conceived by Hon'ble PM during his tenure as CM Gujarat is now up and functioning. Dhando has become a major tourist destination as almost 5000-6000 tourists visit the area on daily basis.

8. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** also informed that in a place like Nadabet, programme like सीमादर्शन has been started. Though it doesn't have a similar infrastructure as Wagah as Pakistan's presence is not there yet people visit the place to have a feel of the border line.
9. **Chief Secretary, Gujarat** suggested that at least 5 world class destinations should be developed to attract international tourists.
10. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** said that brand 'Gandhi' is the biggest brand available to the State. Areas such as Porbandar should be propagated properly. He further suggested that places like "Dandi" have tremendous potential to become world class tourist destinations.
11. He further suggested that emphasis should be on 'high value high volume' tourism rather than 'low value high volume' tourism.
12. He also suggested that at 100 important tourist destination of the country, souvenir shops of all other States should be established. This would not only help in the increased sale of handicraft items but also draw tourists' attraction towards other States. A tourist would tend to decide his next destination. This will give fillip to the domestic tourism.

Table 3	
Table head: Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT
1	Shri Amir Subhani, Chief Secretary, Bihar
3	Dr. Vineet Joshi, Chief Secretary, Manipur
4	Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary, Puducherry (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

13. G20 meetings across various cities have showcased the tourism potential, natural beauty, cultural heritage, arts and crafts of States and Union Territories and have opened multiple avenues for attracting international tourists. The States and Union Territories need to build on this elevated profile and work in a mission mode to tap the potential.
14. G20 Goa roadmap had identified five interconnected priorities for tourism-Green tourism, Digitization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs and Destination Management. Education and awareness campaigns to sensitize both the State and Private actors must be held so that all stakeholders incorporate the recommended actions of G20 roadmap in their operations and future plans.
15. Few transformative ideas can significantly uplift the destination. States and Union Territories should take advantage of the scheme of Ministry of Tourism to develop 50 destinations through challenge method for holistic development of the destination to enhance the quality of tourist experience across all tourist touch points and tourist value chain including marketing and promotion, institutional strengthening, capacity building etc.

16. The Sangai festival of Manipur has attracted a footfall of around 3.5 lakh tourists. Development of tourist attractions around Loktak lake which is the largest freshwater lake in South Asia and Shirui Lili festival in the blooming season of the flower have encouraged tourism in the State and have brought in a lot of economic opportunities.
17. Introduction of Inner line Permit in Manipur has not adversely affected tourism as the short-term permit for domestic tourists is easily available online as well as on the spot. Manipur's rich contribution in art and culture, handloom and handicrafts, music, adventure sports and its natural environment can be further leveraged to boost tourism.
18. Bihar has great potential of Buddhist tourism to attract both domestic and foreign tourists in significant numbers. Majority of tourists visiting Varanasi are also visiting Bodh Gaya. Adequate infrastructure in terms of connectivity across cities of other States on Buddhist Circuit may also be taken forward in consultation with all concerned for smooth travel of interested travellers.
19. The number of five star accommodation facilities/hotels in Bihar may also need to be enhanced to target higher end segment of tourists. Private investment may be encouraged to provide quality infrastructure. Quality infrastructure and world class services to tourists along with aggressive marketing and promotion efforts can yield significant outcome.
20. Kerala has a significantly high number (54) of Five Star Hotels. Five Star accommodation facilities are available in every district. Further, at the other end of spectrum, Kerala also has a successful home stays model which attract tourists with enhanced experience of local cuisine, local lifestyle and costumes, handicrafts, cultural exposure and comfortable stay etc. A separate Department of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs has successfully reached out to the diaspora of Kerala and has been able to tap their investment potential. With significant growth in tourism related economic opportunities, skilled migrant population from other States have also been employed. For example, skilled workers from North East are engaged in hospitality services due to the advantage of their fluency in English language. The aggressive marketing by Kerala of their natural treasures, rich culture and improvement in tourist infrastructure have enhanced not only the number of tourists but their period of stay. Other States and Union Territories may emulate Kerala's best practices as may be suitable to their context.
21. Puducherry is a popular tourist destination but the character is largely a weekend tourist destination with average stay of tourists being 1.5-2.0 days. Unique Franco-Tamil architecture, scenic beaches, backwaters and spiritual spaces constitute its inherent strength. While a multi-product tourism zone with MICE venues, high end hotel and wellness spaces along with caravan parks, camping areas has been planned, the airport expansion to enable operation of A320 type of aircraft can be a major catalyst in exploitation of the tourism potential.
22. The issue of funding for expansion of Puducherry Airport needs to be addressed. This airport is not yet identified for PPP mode and Puducherry is not able to tap the Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investments as the same is not extended to Union Territories. As Puducherry has a separate Public Account and has even been allowed market borrowings, there is a strong case for enabling Puducherry to get interest free loan under the Scheme.

Table 4	
Table head: Shri Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture
2	Shri Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary, Delhi
3	Shri Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh
4	Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary, Odisha (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

23. Tourism Sector can unleash the soft power of the country while creating adequate investment and employment opportunities in the States and in the Country.
24. The infrastructure leading to Tourism Development needs to be strengthened with both Government as well as PPP investment.
25. Facilities for better tourist experiences should be given adequate emphasis (such as Guides, signages, Translation/Transliteration facilities / assistance to the accessible and helping Tourist Guides and Tourist Police etc.
26. Heritage and religious tourism can attract lot of foreign tourists provided adequate publicity, branding and campaign are launched.
27. Beach tourism has a huge potential provided few regulatory issues like CRZ, Eco Sensitive Zones and forest clearance related issues are simplified.
28. Adventure/ sports tourism can also be promoted in certain regions like Himalayan States, Deep Forest and Sanctuary areas, Rivers, Gorges, Lakes and Seas. Wildlife and tribal areas can be considered for large scale eco-tourism infrastructure with the help of local communities providing home state and ecofriendly accommodations. Adequate emphasis on culture and local customs around heritage, art, craft, cuisine, culture and traditions need to be given.
29. States should be encouraged to have long term IEC and branding arrangements for presenting tourism potential of States in different national and international forums (like WTM).
30. The current level of investment needs to be augmented drastically.
31. Large scale skilling of young boys and girls in different aspect of tourism should be considered by the States.

Table 6	
Table head: Sh. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Sh. T.K. Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

2	Sh. Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chief Secretary, Assam
3	Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh (Rapporteur).
Total - 4 (3+1)	

32. **Sh. S.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog** asked the Chief Secretary about the potential of tourism in the State of Assam and how is being promoted. The latter said that they are focusing on promoting the Wildlife Tourism in their 'Protected Areas' and also the River Cruise Tourism in the State of Assam. The former said that 'green shipping' should be adopted in the transport and in the river cruises. The Secretary (Petroleum, Ports, Shipping & Waterways) that they are working in the direction of green shipping.

33. **Chief Secretary, Assam** said that that they are also promoting eco-friendly 'Homestays' in the State of Assam and planning to open up new trekking routes.

34. **Advisor to HLG, UT of Ladakh** while sharing his experiences / views about the tourism sector in Ladakh apprised the panel that various steps have been initiated by the Administration of UT of Ladakh to boost the tourism sector of the UT of Ladakh in a sustainable manner. He said that New 'Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023' have been notified, which is providing a better pool of fiscal & non-fiscal incentives to elevate the homestay ecosystem and experience. The policy provides fiscal support to eligible homestay units for the construction of winter friendly flush toilet of up to INR 1.25 Lakh, material benefit of up to INR 1.25 Lakh and fiscal incentive of INR 1.00 Lakh for furnishings. Besides, the UT of Ladakh has set up the first 'Dark Sky Reserve' of the Country at Hanle which is spread over an area 1073 sq. km area inside the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary comprising of a cluster of six hamlets of revenue village Hanle (Anlay) comprising Bhok, Shado, Punguk, Khuldo, Naga & Tibetan Refugee habitations which is located near the *Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)*. The Wildlife Department, UT Ladakh has trained the local youth with the help of IIA and provided telescopes to them to promote Astro-tourism. In addition, night stay for foreign tourists at Hanle has also been permitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI. With the result, a large number of domestic and foreign tourists have visited Hanle DSR the last summer and this DSR has the potential of becoming a great tourist destination.

35. He further said that Snow Leopard and Brown Bear Expeditions are being organized by the Wildlife Department and NGOs in a very controlled way so as to have minimal impact to the wildlife. Besides, spiritual tourism is being promoted by creating amenities for the tourists like approach roads, parking spaces, safe drinking water and public conveniences at the various old heritage monasteries of Ladakh. The Tourism Department, UT Ladakh has been at the forefront of organizing cultural events like the Hemis Festival, Sindhu Darshan Festival, Zaskar Festival, Nomadic Festival, Apricot Festival, & many more to promote the cultural, tribal and spiritual essence of Ladakh to tourists.

Table 7
Table head: Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog

S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA
2	Shri Manoj Saunik, Chief Secretary, Maharashtra
3	Shri J.K. Sinha, Chief Secretary, Tripura
4	Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Advisor to the Administrator, Chandigarh (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

36. The session was started by **Chief Secretary, Tripura**, who pointed out the steps taken by Tripura for developing religious tourism. Since there are a lot of Bengali tourists, the cricketer Sourav Ganguly has been made Brand Ambassador for Tripura Tourism. However, it was pointed out that many historical sites that have been taken up by ASI are not being maintained properly as ASI does not have enough capacity to keep up these sites.
37. **Chief Secretary, Maharashtra** carried forward the discussion by stating that since ASI does not have enough capacity, some of these sites can be given to private hospitality firms that can promote tourism while protecting the heritage value of the sites.
38. **Advisor, Chandigarh** pointed out that some sites may not be commercially exploitable like a Harappan site etc. But ASI can be made knowledge partner wherein it can give training to the States/UTs for preserving the heritage/historical artefacts and sites.
39. It was discussed that for branding, one must understand the USP (Unique Setting Point) of the States/UT. Chandigarh, for instance, places itself as a planned city, is locally known as “city beautiful” and promotes weekend tourism. Also, it attracts foreign tourists wanting to study Le Corbusier’s architecture and city planning. Transit tourists are encouraged who are travelling to hills stations from Punjab & NCR Areas.
40. Tripura also proposed that it can evolve as a medical tourism destination for Bangladesh and other countries, which will have multiplier effect on local economy and employment in the region.
41. Similarly, Maharashtra can use its beaches and Western Ghats for adventure tourism and leisure tourism, as an alternative to Goa and other over-explored places.
42. However, it is to be ensured that responsible tourism is promoted so that the negative externalities like environmental impact and increased spending by state for health facility etc. is lower compared to earnings by state through GST / Employment etc.

Table 9	
Table head: Shri. Amit Khare, Advisor to Hon’ble PM	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Ms. Radha Chauhan, Secretary, DoPT, GoI
2	Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary DoSEL, GoI

3	Smt. Shanti Kumari, Chief Secretary, Telangana
4	Shri. Sandeep Kumar, Advisor to the Administrator, Lakshadweep (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

43. The discussion was focused on the possibility of tourism development in Lakshadweep, particularly in the context of steps taken by Maldives for tourism promotion in their country.
44. Advisor to Administrator, Lakshadweep, informed that Lakshadweep Administration is operating small resorts in 3 islands and operating cruise packages in recent years, private cruise operators M/S Cordellia Cruise and M/S Costa Serena have also started calling on at Lakshadweep. However, challenges such as limited air connectivity (only one daily ATR flight from Kochi) accommodation and inadequate port infrastructure have inhibited the growth of tourism on the islands. The Administration has tried to address these challenges in recent years under the guidance of Govt. of India, and submitted proposals for airport expansion to enable landing of aircraft, developing a new airport in another island, strengthening of port infrastructure under Sagarmala scheme of Govt. of India, and developing resorts / tent city under PPP. In the end, it was emphasized that considering the fragile nature of the islands, only low volume high value tourism can be pursued on the islands.
45. The Group was of the opinion that the developments must be done ensuring ecological preservation. Complete bouquet of services should be offered, and all concerned stakeholders should be involved.

Tables Awaited: 2,5,8,10

Thematic Lunch: PM Vishwakarma Yojana and PM SVANidhi

Table 1	
Table head: Hon'ble Prime Minister	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri. Amir Subhani, Chief Secretary, Bihar
2	Shri. Manoj Saunik, Chief Secretary, Maharashtra

3	Dr. H.K. Dwivedi, Chief Secretary, West Bengal
4	Shri. Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chief Secretary, Assam
5	Shri. Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary, Puducherry (Rapporteur)
Total - 6 (5+1)	

1. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** stated that the need of safety net of PM SVANidhi Scheme is much more for the street vendors of small cities. Hon'ble Prime Minister impressed upon the Chief Secretaries that the strategy and focus should be to ensure coverage of street vendors of smaller cities and towns first.
2. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** emphasized that to give further impetus to digital transactions by street vendors, efforts must be made to ensure that the wholesalers selling various items to the street vendors are also digitally active and accept digital payments from the street vendors. Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned that digital onboarding of all the street vendors who go house to house to sell goods should also be achieved.
3. Stating that the collateral free working capital loan with interest subsidy is a big relief for street vendors who had to resort to borrowing from local money lenders at exorbitant rates, Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized for achieving saturation at the earliest and for ensuring that no categories of street vendors including the fish market vendors in West Bengal and such other categories are left out from saturation coverage.
4. It must be also ensured that minimum time is taken by banks in sanction and disbursement of working capital loans and there are no long delays, so that there are no chances that the street vendors who have small capital base, resort to high-cost informal borrowings from local lenders.
5. Citing the example of Kashi Street Vendors Sammelan, Hon'ble Prime Minister advised Chief Secretaries to have such experience sharing sessions with the street vendors to document their success stories, the positive impact of the scheme on their lives and the future vision and aspirations of street vendors. The learnings from such sessions will also enable implementation agencies to fine tune their strategies.
6. For future growth of street vendors, skill enhancement initiatives to improve their soft skills, financial literacy, personality development, etc may be undertaken.
7. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** emphasized that finance inclusion, easy and affordable institutional credit support to bring all these marginalized and dispersed actors in main economy and their socio-economic upliftment through convergence of welfare schemes will result in a big driving force of economy and Chief Secretaries must work for achieving saturation at the earliest.
8. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** also asked about the implementation and impact of Svamitva scheme. He stated that use of technology to create high resolution and geo-referenced digital maps and property records in both rural and urban areas will reduce the high number of land conflict cases and boost the economic growth of the country.

9. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** enquired about the roll out and response of PM Viswakarma Yojana and impressed upon the Chief Secretaries to ensure maximum mobilization of Viswakarmas for enrolment and to take proactive steps so that benefits of all the components of the scheme are provided at the earliest for integration of Viswakarmas into domestic and global value chains. The enrolment and verification at Gram Panchayat/ULB level may be undertaken in camp mode also.
10. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** cited the examples of the artisans of Dhordo village of Kutch, which has been crowned as the best tourism village of 2023 by the UNWTO. After devastating Bhuj earthquake, the village has made commendable progress to elevate itself to international recognition. Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that the introduction of new modern design and training of artisans has resulted in the products of the artisans of Dhordo gaining national and international acclaim.
11. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** emphasized on the need of using new designs and upgrading the skills of artisans to use modern tools including digital techniques so that both the productivity and quality of their products are enhanced significantly.
12. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** stated that under the scheme such trades have been covered which have so far not been provided any trade specific benefits under other schemes and proper implementation of the scheme can bring about transformative changes in the lives of these Vishwakarmas.
13. Citing that India's share in global jewellery market is only 3% although there is a huge demand of handmade jewellery, Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that enhanced skills using modern tools and techniques, deepening of entrepreneurial knowledge standardization, credit availability of affordable easy capital for business expansion and structured marketing support can make the Viswakarmas an asset for global branding of the country.
14. Apart from upgrading the skills of artisans, another major benefit under the scheme is affordable and easy credit support to the targeted beneficiaries for Enterprise Development. It should be ensured that there is maximum credit disbursement so that the beneficiaries are able to achieve substantial business growth.
15. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** asked the Chief Secretaries that a senior team under the Chief Secretaries should monitor the implementation of the scheme so that the intended benefits are delivered in a mission mode.

Table 3	
Table head: Shri Suman K. Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Ms. S. Radha Chauhan, Secretary, DoPT, Govt. of India
2	Sh. S.C.L. Das, Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India

3	Sri. K S Jawahar Reddy, Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh
4	Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to HLG, UT of Ladakh (Rapporteur)
	Total - 5 (4+1)

16. **Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog** asked the Secretary MSME about the implementation of the PM-Vishwakarma Yojana. The Secretary MSME briefed the former about the features of the Scheme and said that the Scheme has received tremendous response from the prospective beneficiaries and that about 46.00 lakh applications have been received so far. The Scheme has been framed to fulfill the Announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 01st February, 2023. The Scheme aims to provide end-to-end support to traditional artisans and craftspeople, commonly known as 'Vishwakarmas' which includes training and skill upgradation, toolkit and credit support at concessional rate.
17. **Advisor UT of Ladakh** informed that UT Level Monitoring Committee and District Implementation Committee have been constituted. Nodal Officer/s have been appointed for the implementation of the scheme and awareness programme have been conducted in various villages for identification of beneficiaries. 09 Trades out of 18 Trades covered under PM-Vishwakarma have been identified under the Scheme in the UT of Ladakh, namely, Carpentry (wood carver in all area of UT), Black Smith /Coppersmith in Chilling area, Sculptor in Turtuk area, Goldsmith (Leh town area), Potter (Likir), Cobbler (Kargil), Tailor (Leh and Kargil), Barber (Town area of both district), Basket maker (Kargil and Nubra).
18. He further said that till date 200 applications have been received out of which nearly 100 applications have been approved at the MSME level.
19. **Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog** observed that the big challenge was to provide proper training to improve the skills of the traditional artisans and to arrange to provide them the latest and best tools so that the products made by them could compete at national/ international level. Another big challenge was to provide them marketing and branding support so that they could sell their products to the buyers directly and the middlemen could be avoided. He made mention of Andhra's experience of 'Saree Cluster' in this regard.
20. **Secretary, MSME** said that a National Committee for Marketing would be formed under the Scheme to provide marketing and branding support for the products of the artisans and the craftspeople registered under the Scheme in the shape of quality certification, branding, advertising, publicity and other marketing activities to improve their linkage to value chain of MSMEs and established companies.
21. All the participants agreed that the PM SVANidhi has been successful in providing credit up to Rs.50,000/- at subsidized rate (7% Interest Subsidy) to the Street Vendors who form a very important constituent of the urban informal economy and who were reeling under the effects of the Covid Pandemic. It was observed that a study conducted by Indian School Business and State Bank of India found that nearly 76% of Scheme-enrolled respondents stated that the loans supported their businesses during Covid-19 period, and over 75% said the Scheme provided significant support during low business periods.

Table 4	
Table head: Shri Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power
2	Shri Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary, Haryana
3	Shri J. Alam, Chief Secretary, Nagaland
4	Shri J.K. Sinha, Chief Secretary, Tripura (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

22. In Tripura, there has been good response to SVANidhi Scheme. A total of 6684 street vendors have taken advantage of this scheme. The remarkable aspect of the scheme is that the street vendors have started digital transaction in a big way. Under Vishwakarma Scheme, a total number of 33,250 applications has been received out of which final approval to 1045 applicants has been given. They will get training for their chosen trade.
23. **Chief Secretary, Haryana** informed that the SVANidhi Scheme did not pick up much in his State as the quantum of credit was not adequate considering the requirement of the vendors. However, efforts are being made to encourage the small street vendors to take advantage of the Scheme. The Vishwakarma Scheme has started picking up with the active intervention of the state machinery.
24. **Chief Secretary, Nagaland** informed that the SVANidhi scheme was taken up mainly in Dimapur and Kohima. He also informed that there was a slow progress of implementation of Vishwakarma Scheme in Nagaland because of Christmas vacation in the State. Necessary steps have been taken for expediting its implementation.
25. **Secretary, Power, GoI** also enquired about the issues relating to power in different states. I raised the issue of availability and pricing of gas for power generation in Tripura. He assured to look into the issue favourably.
26. **Cabinet Secretary** directed that all possible steps should be taken to sincerely implement SVANidhi and Vishwakarma Schemes. Problem, if any, may be taken up with the Ministries concerned. He emphasized upon the need for saturation of all the beneficiary-oriented schemes in the entire country.

Table 7	
Table head: Dr. V.K.Paul, Member, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT, GoI
2	Shri. Punit Goel, Chief Secretary, Goa
3	Shri. D.P.Wahlang, Chief Secretary Meghalaya
4	Sh. Sandeep Kumar, Advisor to Administrator, Lakshadweep (Rapporteur)
Total - 5(4+1)	

PM SVANidhi

27. **Chief Secretary, Goa** informed the group that the number of applications uploaded and disbursement status in respect of first, second and third tranche of loans under PM SVANidhi in Goa is (1686, 1488), (963,7061) and (235,189) respectively. Technological glitches in the portal have inhibited rapid rollout.
28. **Chief Secretary, Meghalaya** informed about the lack of designated State Nodal Agency account in the scheme for the overall implementation of IEC activities and monitoring. Only ULBs that have crossed 100 applications are eligible to open a CNA account for getting funds for conducting camps and other IEC activities. If States were provided with an SNA account, some funds for IEC and payment of human resources for all could be arranged. He further informed that PM SVANidhi also faced some competitions with other credit linked schemes like MUDRA which offered higher loan amount.
29. **Advisor to Administrator, Lakshadweep** informed PM SVANidhi is not applicable to Lakshadweep as it is 100% rural area.
30. The Group after discussion was of the view that above issues may be looked into by MoHUA. The Group further opined that the scheme may be considered for extension in peri- urban areas to benefit the street vendors in these areas also.

PM Vishwa Karma

31. **Chief Secretary, Goa** informed that almost 24,000 applications have been submitted under the scheme. Chief Secretary Meghalaya informed that several awareness campaigns have been organized in the state with highly encouraging response. However, the portal / site is weak and not stable, Name of many district / block is not available due to which onboarding a Gram Panchayat becomes difficult. Advisor to Administrator, Lakshadweep informed that a total of 747 beneficiaries have been identified and applications will be uploaded once the access to the portal is allowed to UTs.
32. The Group was of the view that effective implementation of the scheme by focusing on skill development, market access and financial support will not only preserve the traditional craftsmanship but also ensure that artisans contribute effectively to the economic growth of the country. =

Table 8	
Table head: Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeITY
2	Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir
3	Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary, Odisha (Rapporteur)
Total - 4 (3+1)	

33. While everybody agreed that these two Schemes are very useful to support street vendors and artisans, adequate arrangement should be made to extend credit and marketing support for the beneficiaries.
34. Adequate skilling should be provided to the beneficiaries to enable them to graduate from Micro Enterprise to Small and Medium Enterprise through organized online and offline marketing and exhibition support. Digital transactions among street vendors are getting well accepted and should be further enhanced through better incentives.
35. PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a tribute to our artisans who will not only be recognized through the programme but would be assisted to grow their business further. While the process has been slowly progressing in the initial phase, all the members believed that the scheme will draw a lot of attention among all the stake holders. After the identification, such beneficiaries should be given high quality skilling support and exposure to automation tools so that their productivity will increase. Further, Enterprising Artisans should be provided adequate low interest credit to grow from Micro and Small Enterprise to Medium Enterprise. Kissan Credit Card type cards may be provided to facilitate credit access. Such promising artisans should be exposed to the national and international platforms for online and offline marketing.

Table 9	
Table head: Shri Amit Khare, Adviser to Hon'ble PM	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture
2	Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand
3	Shri Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh
4	Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav, Advisor to the Administrator, Chandigarh (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

36. The discussion was started with overview of SVANidhi scheme and its challenges. Chandigarh pointed out that the street vendors have taken up SVANidhi loan in big way after making special cells in both MC and Banks to assist in the documentation. The success in repayment has helped the beneficiaries to claim 2nd and 3rd tranche. This has boosted confidence among other beneficiaries to claim loans.
37. Digital payment trends were also discussed and it was felt that while half of the transactions were being done through UPI (Paytm, G pay) and other digital platforms, it was felt that this should be encouraged further. This would help the beneficiary to have better income proof and better CIBIL score.
38. It was felt that in places in interior towns like in Uttarakhand, the problem of illegal vendors should also be handled properly. The vendors who operate illegally have difficult time getting SVANidhi loan due to uncertainty in their operation & business.

39. Uttarakhand also explained that they have created a single brand under the name “House of Himalayas” for their artisans, SHGs which brings more value under the Vishwakarma Scheme. However, CS Uttarakhand stressed the need for simplifying the process of approvals required in the scheme. He informed that there is a lot of enthusiasm even in border villages for Vishwakarma Scheme.

Table 10	
Table head: Shri Tarun Kapoor, Adviser to Hon’ble PM	
S.No	Other Delegates
1	Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy
2	Dr. Renu Sharma, Chief Secretary, Mizoram
3	Shri Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Gujarat
4	Shri Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Rapporteur)
Total - 5 (4+1)	

40. **Chief Secretary, Mizoram** informed that her UT has been able to saturate PM SVANidhi Scheme. She further stated that PM Vishwakarma is the best possible scheme for her UT as the number of traditional artisans is quite large. She informed that for PM Vishwakarma, the ITI has been tied up with for the training. She stated that at present verification is going on.

41. **Chief Secretary, Gujarat** informed that PM Vishwakarma is being taken up on a large scale. Almost five lakh registrations have been done. At present only one person from a family is allowed to enjoy the benefit. He further informed that this scheme is liked by the politicians. In Gujarat, village level verification is going on. In SVANidhi complete saturation has been achieved in Gujarat.

42. **Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands** informed that complete saturation in SVANidhi scheme has been achieved and it has exceeded the target given for the UT.

43. For PM Vishwakarma, the districts of Andaman have not been registered yet. It has been informed by the Ministry that 58 districts are yet to be registered on the portal. Once these districts are included on the portal, then all the potential beneficiaries will be registered.

44. He further informed that ITIs are being roped in for all craft enhancement activities.

Tables awaited:2,5,6

Third National Conference of Chief Secretaries – December 27-29, 2023

S.No	Name of State/UT	Name of Participant	Designation
001	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Shri Keshav Chandra	Chief Secretary
002	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Shri Arjun Sharma	Secretary, Planning
003	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Shri Dilkhush Meena	Additional District Magistrate, South Andaman
004	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Shri A. Selvam	Senior Investigator, Planning
005	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. K.S. Jawahar Reddy	Chief Secretary
006	Andhra Pradesh	Shri S. Suresh Kumar	Commissioner of School Education & Principal Secretary to Skill Development
007	Andhra Pradesh	Shri Praveen Prakash	Principal Secretary, School Education
008	Andhra Pradesh	Shri KVN. Chakradhar Babu	Managing Director, APGENCO
009	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Dharmendra	Chief Secretary
010	Arunachal Pradesh	Dr. Sharat Chauhan	Principal Secretary
011	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Ankur Garg	Commissioner
012	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Amjad Tak	Commissioner
013	Assam	Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur	Chief Secretary
014	Assam	Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani	Additional Chief Secretary, T&D and Agriculture
015	Assam	Shri Samir Kumar Sinha	Additional Chief Secretary, Finance & CMO
016	Assam	Dr. Om Prakash	Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Assam
017	Bihar	Shri Amir Subhani	Chief Secretary
018	Bihar	Shri Suharsha Bhagat	Additional Executive Director, State Health Society
019	Bihar	Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary	Principal Secretary, Planning & Development
020	Bihar	Shri Sanjeev Hans	Principal Secretary, Energy & PHE

021	Chandigarh	Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav	Home Secretary cum Adviser to the Administrator
022	Chandigarh	Ms. Anindita Mitra	Commissioner, Municipal Corporation
023	Chandigarh	Shri Ajay Chagti	Secretary, Health
024	Chandigarh	Ms. Purva Garg	Secretary, Education
025	Chhattisgarh	Shri Amitabh Jain	Chief Secretary
026	Chhattisgarh	Shri Ankit Anand	Secretary, Energy
027	Chhattisgarh	Dr. S. Bharathi Dasan	Secretary, Education
028	Chhattisgarh	Shri Ayyaj Phakirbhai Tamboli	Special Secretary, Urban Development
029	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Shri Amit Singla	Advisor to the Administrator
030	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Shri Nikhil Desai	Secretary, Transport
031	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Shri Jatin Goyal	Deputy Secretary, Finance
032	Delhi	Shri Naresh Kumar	Chief Secretary
033	Delhi	Shri Manish Gupta	Additional Chief Secretary, Industries
034	Delhi	Shri Shurbir Singh	Secretary, Power
035	Delhi	Shri Ashok Kumar	Secretary, Education
036	Goa	Shri Puneet Kumar Goel	Chief Secretary
037	Goa	Shri Arun Kumar Mishra	Secretary, Health
038	Goa	Shri Ajit Roy	Secretary, Power
039	Gujarat	Shri Raj Kumar	Chief Secretary
040	Gujarat	Ms. Shahmeena Husain	Principal Secretary, Water Supply
041	Gujarat	Shri Jai Prakash Shivahare	Managing Director - GUVNL
042	Gujarat	Shri Vinod Rao	Secretary, Primary & Secondary Education
043	Haryana	Shri Sanjeev Kaushal	Chief Secretary
044	Haryana	Dr. G. Anupama	Additional Chief Secretary, Health
045	Haryana	Shri Apoorva Kumar Singh	Additional Chief Secretary, Energy
046	Haryana	Shri Vikas Gupta	Commissioner & Secretary, Urban Local Bodies
047	Himachal Pradesh	Shri Prabodh Saxena	Chief Secretary
048	Himachal Pradesh	Shri Onkar Chand Sharma	Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti
049	Himachal Pradesh	Ms. M. Sudha Devi	Secretary, Health/ Social Justice & Empowerment

050	Himachal Pradesh	Shri Rakesh Kanwar	Secretary, Education
051	Jammu & Kashmir	Shri Atal Dulloo	Chief Secretary
052	Jammu & Kashmir	Shri Shaleen Kabra	Additional Secretary/ Commissioner, Jal Shakti
053	Jammu & Kashmir	Shri H. Rajesh Prasad	Principal Secretary, Power Development
054	Jammu & Kashmir	Dr. Piyush Singla	Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring
055	Jharkhand	Shri Lalbiaktluanga Khiantge	Chief Secretary
056	Jharkhand	Dr. Manish Ranjan	Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
057	Jharkhand	Shri Prashant Kumar	Secretary, Department of Planning and Development
058	Jharkhand	Smt. Kiran Kumari Pasi	State Project Director
059	Karnataka	Dr. Shalini Rajneesh	Additional Chief Secretary
060	Karnataka	Dr. M.N. Ajay Nagabhushan	Secretary, Urban Development
061	Karnataka	Shri Ritesh Kumar Singh	Principal Secretary, School Education & Literacy
062	Karnataka	Ms. V. Rashmi Mahesh	Principal Secretary, Revenue Department (Disaster Management, Bhoomi & UPOR)
063	Kerala	Dr. Venu V	Chief Secretary
064	Kerala	Shri Puneet Kumar	Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs & Programme, Implementation Evaluation
065	Kerala	Ms. Sharmila Mary Joseph	Principal Secretary, Local Self Government
066	Kerala	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	Secretary, Water Resources Department & Coastal Shipping & Inland Navigation Department
067	Ladakh	Dr. Pawan Kotwal	Adviser to Hon'ble Lt. Governor and Chief Secretary
068	Ladakh	Dr. Vasantha Kumar	Commissioner/ Secretary, Health & Education
069	Ladakh	Shri Ravinder Kumar	Administrative Secretary to HLG
070	Lakshadweep	Shri Sandeep Kumar	Advisor to the Administrator
071	Lakshadweep	Shri. Vikranth Raja	Secretary, Planning & Finance
072	Lakshadweep	Shri. Arjun Mohan	Secretary, Health

073	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Rajesh Rajora	Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department
074	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Sanjay Dubey	Principal Secretary, Energy
075	Madhya Pradesh	Ms. Priyanka Das	Director, National Health Mission
076	Maharashtra	Shri Manoj Saunik	Chief Secretary
077	Maharashtra	Shri Saurabh Vijay	Principal Secretary, Planning
078	Maharashtra	Shri Ranjit Singh Deol	Principal Secretary, School Education and Sports
079	Maharashtra	Shri Niranjan Kumar Sudhansu	Settlement Commissioner & Director of Land Records
080	Manipur	Dr. Vineet Joshi	Chief Secretary
081	Manipur	Shri Pradeep Kumar Jha	Commissioner, Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Industries
082	Manipur	Shri N. Kheda Varta Singh	Secretary, Revenue/PHED
083	Manipur	Shri Shailesh Kumar Chourasia	Secretary, Power/Sericulture
084	Meghalaya	Shri Donald Phillips Wahlang	Chief Secretary
085	Meghalaya	Shri Sampath Kumar	Development Commissioner
086	Meghalaya	Dr. Joram Beda	Commissioner & Secretary, Planning, Health & Family Welfare
087	Meghalaya	Shri Swapnil Tembe	Joint Secretary, Education
088	Mizoram	Dr. Renu Sharma	Chief Secretary
089	Mizoram	Shri Vinay Kumar	Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department
090	Mizoram	Shri Amol Srivastava	Registrar, Cooperative Societies
091	Nagaland	Shri J Alam	Chief Secretary
092	Nagaland	Shri R. Ramakrishnan	Principal Secretary & Development Commissioner
093	Nagaland	Shri E. Mhonbemo Patton	Principal Secretary, PHED
094	Nagaland	Shri Thavaseelan K	Principal Director, School Education
095	Odisha	Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena	Chief Secretary
096	Odisha	Shri G. Mathi Vathanan	Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development
097	Odisha	Shri Sushil Kumar Lohani	Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water
098	Odisha	Shri Vishal Kumar Dev	Principal Secretary, Energy
099	Puducherry	Shri Rajeev Verma	Chief Secretary
100	Puducherry	Shri Soma Sekhar Apparao Kotaru	Sub Collector
101	Puducherry	Dr. D. Manikandan	Secretary, Public Works
102	Puducherry	Shri Pankaj Kumar Jha	Secretary, Health
103	Punjab	Shri Anurag Verma	Chief Secretary

104	Punjab	Shri Ajoy Sharma	Secretary, Health & Family Welfare and Local Government
105	Punjab	Shri Gurkirat Kripal Singh	Secretary, Water Supply & Sanitation
106	Punjab	Shri Amit Dhaka	Secretary, Planning
107	Rajasthan	Ms. Usha Sharma	Chief Secretary
108	Rajasthan	Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni	MD, NHM & Special Secretary, Medical & Health
109	Rajasthan	Shri Bhaskar Atmaram Sawant	Principal Secretary, Energy
110	Rajasthan	Shri Naveen Jain	Secretary, School Education
111	Sikkim	Shri V. B. Pathak	Chief Secretary
112	Sikkim	Shri R. Telang	Additional Chief Secretary, Home & Education
113	Sikkim	Shri Raghul K	Secretary, Labour
114	Sikkim	Shri A. B. Karki	Secretary, Health
115	Tamil Nadu	Shri Kumar Jayant	Additional Chief Secretary
116	Tamil Nadu	Dr. P. Senthil Kumar	Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
117	Tamil Nadu	Shri S. Nagarajan	Secretary/ Commissioner, Land Administration
118	Tamil Nadu	Shri J. Kumaragurubaran	Secretary, School Education
119	Telangana	Ms. A. Santhi Kumari	Chief Secretary
120	Telangana	Shri. K. Rama Krishna	Special Chief Secretary, Finance & Planning
121	Telangana	Shri M. Dana Kishore	Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development
122	Telangana	Shri. S.A.M. Rizvi	Secretary, Energy Department and Chairman & Managing Director, TRANSCO & GENCO
123	Tripura	Shri J.K. Sinha	Chief Secretary
124	Tripura	Shri Puneet Agarwal	Principal Secretary, Revenue & IT
125	Tripura	Shri Gitte Kirankumar Dinkarrao	Secretary, I&C and Planning
126	Tripura	Shri Abhishek Singh	Secretary, PWD & Power
127	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Durga Shanker Mishra	Chief Secretary
128	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Deepak kumar	Additional Chief Secretary, Finance & Secondary Education
129	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Parthsarathi Sen Sharma	Principal Secretary, Medical Health
130	Uttar Pradesh	Shri P Guruprasad	Managing Director, UPPCL
131	Uttarakhand	Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Chief Secretary
132	Uttarakhand	Shri Anand Bardhan	Additional Chief Secretary, Finance

133	Uttarakhand	Shri Ravinath Raman	Secretary, School Education
134	Uttarakhand	Dr. R. Rajesh Kumar	Secretary, Medical Health
135	West Bengal	Dr. H. K. Dwivedi	Chief Secretary
136	West Bengal	Shri Manish Jain	Principal Secretary, School & Higher Education
137	West Bengal	Shri Surendra Gupta	Principal Secretary, Public Health Engineering
Prime Minister's Office			
138	PMO	Dr. P. K. Mishra	Principal Secretary to PM
139	PMO	Shri Amit Khare	Advisor to PM
140	PMO	Shri Tarun Kapoor	Advisor to PM
141	PMO	Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava	Additional Secretary
142	PMO	Shri Atish Chandra	Additional Secretary
143	PMO	Shri Hari Ranjan Rao	Additional Secretary
144	PMO	Shri C. Sridhar	Joint Secretary to PM
145	PMO	Shri Arvind Shrivastava	Additional Secretary
146	PMO	Shri Deepak Mittal	Joint Secretary to PM
147	PMO	Shri Rohit Yadav	Joint Secretary to PM
148	PMO	Shri Hrisheekesh A. Modak	Director
149	PMO	Shri Saurabh Shukla	Director
150	PMO	Ms. Aishvarya Singh	Director
151	PMO	Shri Naval Kishore Ram	Director
152	PMO	Ms. Shweta Singh	Director
153	PMO	Ms. V. Lalithalakshmi	Director
154	PMO	Ms. Shobana Pramod	Director
155	PMO	Shri Rajesh Kumar Sahu	Deputy Secretary
156	PMO	Shri Pathiban P	Deputy Secretary
157	PMO	Ms. Reshma Rahunathan Nair	Deputy Secretary
158	PMO	Shri Mangesh Ghildiyal	Deputy Secretary
159	PMO	Shri Vipin Kumar	Deputy Secretary
160	PMO	Ms. Nidhi Tiwari	Deputy Secretary
161	PMO	Ms. Manmeet Kaur	Deputy Secretary
Cabinet Secretariat			
162	Cabinet Secretariat	Shri Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary
163	Cabinet Secretariat	Shri Ashutosh Jindal	Additional Secretary
164	Cabinet Secretariat	Shri Puneet Kansal	Additional Secretary
165	Cabinet Secretariat	Shri Satendra Singh	Additional Secretary

166	Cabinet Secretariat	Shri Manmeet Kaur Nanda	Joint Secretary
167	Cabinet Secretariat	Shri Uma Maheshwaran	PPS to Cabinet Secretary

Central Ministries

Ease of Living Sessions

168	Government of India	Shri Manoj Joshi	Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
169	Government of India	Ms. Vini Mahajan	Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
170	Government of India	Shri Pankaj Agarwal	Secretary, Ministry of Power
171	Government of India	Shri Sanjay Kumar	Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy
172	Government of India	Shri Sudhansh Pant	Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
173	Government of India	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Organising Committee

174	Government of India	Ms. S. Radha Chauhan	Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training
175	Government of India	Shri Govind Mohan	Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Special Session/Others

176	Government of India	Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Union Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
177	Government of India	Dr. T.V. Somanathan	Finance Secretary & Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance
178	Government of India	Shri Ajay Seth	Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
179	Government of India	Shri Ajay Tirkey	Secretary, Department of Land Resources
180	Government of India	Shri S. Krishnan	Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
181	Government of India	Shri Sanjay Murthi	Secretary, Department of Higher Education
182	Government of India	Shri Manoj Ahuja	Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
183	Government of India	Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari	Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
184	Government of India	Shri Bhupinder Singh Bhalla	Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
185	Government of India	Ms. Sivagami Sundari Nanda	Special Secretary, Internal Security, Ministry of Home Affairs

186	Government of India	Shri Amit Agrawal	DG, National Informatics Centre (NIC)
187	Government of India	Lt. Gen M.U. Nair	National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC)
188	Government of India	Shri Navin Kumar Singh	DG, NCIIPC
189	Government of India	Dr. Sanjay Bahl	DG CERT-in
190	Government of India	Shri Akash Tripathi	CEO, MyGov
191	Government of India	Shri Abhishek Singh	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
192	Government of India	Shri Ashish Kumar	Joint Secretary, CIS, Ministry of Home Affairs
193	University of South Carolina	Prof. Amit P. Sheth	Professor & NCR Chair, Computer Science & Engineering, University of South Carolina (UoSC)
194	Andhra Pradesh	Shri Kona Sasidhar	Secretary Information, Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C),
195	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. G. Srijana	District Collector, Kurnool
196	Andhra Pradesh	Ms. R.J. Vidyullatha	Director, Directorate of Town & Country Planning
197	Assam	Shri Syedain Abbasi	Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology
198	Assam	Shri Rakesh Kumar	MD, APDCL
199	Chhattisgarh	Shri Siddharth Komal Pardeshi	Secretary to CM
200	Chhattisgarh	Shri Neelam Namdev Ekka	Secretary
201	Gujarat	Ms. Mona Kandhar	Principal Secretary
202	Gujarat	Dr. Harshit Gosavi	District Collector, Dahod
203	Haryana	Shri Sudhir Rajpal	Additional Chief Secretary
204	Jharkhand	Shri Karn Satyarthi	Deputy Commissioner, Gumla
205	Maharashtra	Shri N.K. Sudhanshu	Settlement Commissioner & Director, Land Records
206	Maharashtra	Shri V. K. Singhal	GM, BEST,
207	Maharashtra	Ms. Vasumana Pant	CEO, Zila Parishad, Washim

208	Tamil Nadu	Ms. Shilpa	MD-NHM
209	Tamil Nadu	Dr. S Uma	District Collector, Namakkal
210	Tamil Nadu	Shri T. Udhayachandran	Principal Secretary, Finance
211	Telangana	Shri Jayesh Ranjan	Principal Secretary
212	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Vijay Kiran Anand	DG, SED & SPD, Samagra Shiksha
213	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Ankit Agarwal	District Magistrate, Bijnor
Thematic Meal			
214	Government of India	Shri Saurabh Garg	Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
215	Government of India	Shri T K Ramachandran	Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
216	Government of India	Shri Manoj Joshi	Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
217	Government of India	Shri S. C. L Das	Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
218	Government of India	Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh	Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
District Collectors			
219	Chhattisgarh	Dr. Priyanka Shukla	District Collector, Kanker
220	Rajasthan	Ms. Anjali Rajoria	District Collector, Gangapur City
221	Jharkhand	Shri Ananya Mittal	District Collector, West Singhbhum
222	Assam	Shri Aayush Garg	District Collector, Barpeta
223	Bihar	Ms Inayat Khan	District Collector, Araria
NITI Aayog			
224	Government of India	Shri Suman K. Bery	Vice Chairman
225	Government of India	Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat	Member
226	Government of India	Prof. Ramesh Chand	Member
227	Government of India	Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul	Member
228	Government of India	Dr. Arvind Virmani	Member
229	Government of India	Shri BVR Subrahmanyam	CEO
230	Government of India	Ms. V. Radha	Additional Secretary
231	Government of India	Ms. Gitanjali Gupta	Additional Secretary