

Record of Discussion

Conference on Union Territories

29th December, 2022 | 11:20 AM | 35, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi

A Conference on Union Territories was held under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Home & Cooperation Minister, in pursuit of Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to make Union Territories (UTs) models of good governance and development for the rest of the country; and to align the UTs with the National Vision 2047. The list of participants may be seen at *Annexure I*.

2. At the outset, Union Home Secretary (HS) welcomed the dignitaries and participants. He underlined the importance of developing UTs as a model of good governance for ensuring the highest quality of living, prompt citizen services and developed infrastructure for the residents. He encouraged all the participants to enthusiastically participate in the conference, as it is a platform for the UTs to not only voice their aspirations, achievements, concerns, priorities and unique challenges but also for cross learning and knowledge sharing among the UTs. The HS briefly explained the steps taken as a run up to the Conference, outlined the three verticals: Economic Growth; Tourism; and Flagship Schemes & UT Specific Presentations and the subthemes under each vertical. After setting the context for each vertical, he requested the Convenor UTs to make their presentations, each of which were followed by a 30-minute discussion. Thereafter, he invited the Hon'ble Union Home & Cooperation Minister to give his valuable inputs and guidance.

3. The Hon'ble Union Home & Cooperation Minister welcomed the participants, and highlighted that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has termed the next 25 years as the "Amrit Kaal". The overall goal for India by the year 2047 is to become a global leader and UTs have a very significant role in achieving this goal. Owing to their relatively smaller size, limited population and a simpler administrative structure, they are best placed to become incubators of best practices, which can be replicated in other States and regions of India.

4. Chief Secretary (CS), Delhi made a detailed presentation on the first vertical (Economic Growth) of the conference, broadly covering the current economic status of the UTs, their potentials, strengths and challenges. It also highlighted the priority economic sectors for accelerated economic growth of the UTs and their aspirations.

5. Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) made a presentation on the Tourism vertical and gave an overview of the tourism potential in the UTs. He highlighted the success stories, best practices, strengths, challenges, way forward and the aspirational big-ticket tourism projects for each UT.

6. Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) made a presentation on the third vertical i.e. Flagship Schemes and UTs as models of development. He highlighted the progress made by UTs in saturating the Flagship schemes, the best practices followed, the challenges and issues faced by them and ended by putting out a goal/vision of each UT. Copies of the three presentations may be seen at *Annexure II*.

7. **Observations made by Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary:**

FLAGSHIP
IMPLEMENTING
DEPTS.

i. UTs have generally outperformed the national average in terms of their performance under flagship schemes, which is a remarkable achievement. However, UTs should set their goals higher and aim to become the top performers in every sector.

ECONOMICS &
STATISTICS

ii. Accelerating economic growth and creating employment has traditionally been seen to fall under the Central Government's domain. There is a need to change this mindset now. UTs, in addition to providing social services and security to the people, should also strive to become key players in driving the nation's growth, by focusing on increasing their GDP and employment opportunities in the UTs.

VISION
DOCUMENT
SUBMITTED

iii. UTs should focus on preparing a vision document for the coming years that promotes holistic development of the UTs, with realistic targets and timelines, which should be strictly monitored. Each UT should undertake background research on its present economic status, and set realistic aims for the future. The incremental progress of UTs should be measured based on clearly identified indicators. NITI Aayog can provide research and other support to the UTs to put in place such a system.

INDUSTRIES

iv. A concrete and effective roadmap should also be drawn up to promote start-ups and MSMEs in the UTs.

INDUSTRIES,
ICP, PWD &
TOURISM

v. Availability of land should be ensured, and project clearance procedures must be revisited and revised to respond to the contemporary needs and to expedite project completion. PM Gati Shakti may be leveraged effectively for holistic planning of projects, and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) models should be effectively utilised.

FINANCE

vi. UTs should identify ways to increase revenue generation and resource mobilisation.

No. of
Implementing
Depts.

vii. Hon'ble Prime Minister has time and again laid emphasis on the "Whole of Government Approach", which is yet to be fully realised. Various Departments should work synergistically to ensure timely completion of projects.

viii. Each UT is uniquely placed with its own strengths, priorities and concerns. Therefore, a straightjacket approach cannot be followed for all UTs. Instead, a granular approach is required to bring out the best possible potential of the UT.

FLAGSHIP
IMPLEMENTING
DEPTS.

ix. UTs should focus on saturating the implementation of flagship schemes by 31.03.2023. While UTs have achieved saturation in some flagship schemes in terms of numerical targets, the focus should now shift toward ensuring that the quality of services being offered as part of these flagship schemes is adequate.

HOME &
POLICE

x. UTs should develop strategic thinking and they shall incorporate national security and geopolitical concerns while planning their projects.

8. Based on the deliberations, Hon'ble Union Home & Cooperation Minister made the following directions/observations:

VISION @
2047

A. In the Amrit Kaal, the vision is to transform India into "sarvashreshtha bhara" by the year 2047. Within 15 days all UTs should prepare and share with the Ministry a UT's Vision for 2047, a roadmap for the next 5 years, and a detailed year-wise action plan to achieve the goals set in the Vision document of the UT. The implementation and progress of these action plans must be regularly and rigorously monitored and reviewed, to derive maximum benefits.

- INDUSTRIES** B. UTs should focus on scaling up their manufacturing/production sector to help them reduce their dependence on externally sourced resources, thereby reducing their loss of revenue and enabling them to become *AtmaNirbhar*. Also, to boost the local economy UTs must identify high end exclusive products for export. Thus, UTs should strive to become self-reliant, and take pride in their heritage.
- FISHERIES** C. UTs should lay emphasis on cooperatives for development and community participation (*jan bhagidari*), especially in sectors like fisheries.
- ECONOMICS & STATISTICS** D. The indicator for development is not just growing GDP figures. Instead, true development can only be measured by the positive impact it has on the farthest and the most disadvantaged in society. Development must reach the grassroots and a monitoring mechanism must be developed to ensure that the targets set are met substantially and in time.
- TOURISM** E. UTs should explore and develop their unique potential for experiential tourism, and focus on promotion and branding of tourism which will enable them to tap in their tourism potential. Lateral tourism products should also be explored and promoted.
- TOURISM** F. In order to attract more tourists and to bring down the cost of transportation etc., tourists circuits should be developed in the country.
- G. Sufism is the voice of peaceful co-existence and love. Efforts should be made to reinvigorate it in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, which would encourage cultural rejuvenation and help improve the peace and security situation in the region.
- TOURISM** H. As a pragmatic solution for the steady growth of home stays in the UTs, financial support can be given to the local community for setting up of luxury tents as part of the home stays. This would benefit both, the tourist and the local service provider.
- FLAGSHIP IMPLEMENTING DEPTS.** I. UTs should become incubators of novel ideas and practices. UTs are smaller and have a relatively simpler administrative structure, UTs are ideal units for experimenting and evolving best practices for implementing the pilot programmes/flagship schemes. Good models developed by the UTs can be replicated in bigger regions/States of the country.
- J. UTs to focus on saturating the flagship schemes both quantitatively as well as qualitatively.
- SCHOOL EDUCATION** K. Hon'ble Prime Minister had laid down the Panch Prans of Amrit Kaal. Each of the UT Administrations must imbibe the spirit of these Prans in the performance of their duties. Most importantly, students at the primary education level must be helped to imbibe the spirit of these *Prans* so that the future generations are rooted with these noble ideas.
- AUROBINDO SOCIETY & ART & CULTURE** L. Shri Aurobindo's inspiring life contains a lot of lessons and meaning for the administration. The UT of Puducherry should take a lead in making his life lessons reach the masses and similarly other great saints can be identified in other UTs to start to initiate a cultural & moral rejuvenation.
- FLAGSHIP IMPLEMENTING DEPTS.** M. Going forward, the UTs should work with these five principles in mind: building safe and secure UTs; achieving saturation in flagship schemes; minimum government, maximum governance; zero tolerance to corruption; and developing and exchange best practices for the holistic development of UTs.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair by the Joint Secretary (UT&JKL).

List of Participants

1. Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home & Cooperation Minister **In Chair**
2. Shri Rajeev Gauba, Cabinet Secretary
3. Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary
4. Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri, Joint Secretary (UT& JKL), MHA
5. Shri Saket Kumar, PS to Hon'ble HM
6. Shri Vijay Kumar Upadhyay, OSD to HM
7. Shri Shivnath Mishra, PA to Hon'ble HM
8. Shri Shiv Kumar, PS to Hon'ble MoS(N)
9. Shri Parveen Kumar Rai, Director(UT), MHA
10. Shri B.G. Krishnan, Director(Services), MHA
11. Shri. Rakesh Kumar Pandey, Director (Security and C&S), MHA
12. Shri Harjot Singh Sandhu, Deputy Secretary (ANL& UTL), MHA
13. Shri. D. Prasanth Kumar Reddy, Deputy Secretary (J&K and Ladakh), MHA
14. Shri Ravi Ranjan, Second –in- Command (UT), MHA
15. Shri Kanishk Chaudhry, Deputy Commandant (UT), MHA
16. Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, Additional Secretary, DPIIT
17. Shri Antony Cyriac, Additional Secretary, DEA
18. Shri Ganji Kamala Vardhana Rao, Spl. Secretary & DG, M/o Tourism

UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

19. Shri Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary
20. Shri Arjun Sharma, Secretary
21. Shri Dilkhush Meena, SDM
22. Shri Rahul Dev Boora, Probationer

UT of Chandigarh

23. Sri Dharam Pal, Advisor to the Administrator
24. Ms. Hargunjit Kaur, Spl. Secretary Finance
25. Ms. Anisha Srivastava, Probationer

UT of DNH&DD

26. Shri Gaurav Singh Rajawat, Advisor to the Administrator (in-charge)/Secretary (Home/Finance)
27. Smt. Tapasya Raghav, Collector, Daman
28. Shri Saurabh Mishra, Secretary (PWD)
29. Smt. Bhanu Prabha, Collector
30. Shri Pranjal J. Hazarika, Director-cum-JS, (PWD)
31. Shri S. Krishna Chaitanya, Director-cum-DS (Ind, Trade & Comm.)
32. Shri Shivam Teotia, Director-cum-DS (Higher & Tech. Edu.)

GNCTD

33. Shri Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary
34. Shri Ashish Kundra, Pr. Secy-cum-Commr (Transport)
35. Dr. Dilraj Kaur, Secretary-cum-Commissioner (F&CS)
36. Shri Amit Singla, Secretary (H&FW)
37. Ms. Niharika Rai, Secretary(Finance/ Planning/ Tourism)
38. Ms. Pooja Jain, Member Finance, DJB
39. Ms. Sonalika Jiwani, Spl. Secretary (UD)

UT of Jammu & Kashmir

40. Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary
41. Shri Prashant Goyal, Pr. Secretary, Industries & Commerce
42. Dr. Raghav Langar, Secretary, Planning Dev & Monitoring
43. Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary (Tourism)

UT of Ladakh

44. Shri UmangNarula, Advisor to LG
45. Shri Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary
46. Shri Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Commissioner Secretary
47. Shri Mehboob Ali Khan, Commissioner Secretary
48. Shri Lakshay Singhal, Executive Director

UT of Lakshadweep

49. Shri Anbarasu A., Advisor to the Administrator
50. Shri Arjun Mohan, ADM
51. Shri Vishal Sah, Director Tourism
52. Shri Shailendra Singh Parihar, Special Secretary

UT of Puducherry

53. Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary
54. Shri P. Jawahar, Secretary (Education/Industries & Commerce)
55. Dr. A. Muthamma, Secretary (Transport /Labour)
56. Ms. Rishita Gupta, Director, DRDA
57. Shri Romil Singh Donk, Assistant Collector
58. Smt. P. Priyatarshny, Director, Tourism
