

Record of Discussion

Mid-Term Review of Conference on Union Territories

26th October 2023 | 11:30 AM | Room No. 119, North Block, New Delhi

A Mid Term Review of the Conference on Union Territories (UTs) was held under the chairpersonship of the Union Home Secretary, to evaluate the progress made by the UTs on the decisions/directions given by the Hon'ble Union Home Minister (HM) during the said Conference held on 29.12.2022, and to discuss the Vision 2047 of the UTs. The list of participants may be seen in *Annexure I*.

2. At the outset, the Joint Secretary [JS(UT)] welcomed the participants. He briefly outlined the directions given by Hon'ble HM to the UTs during the Conference on UTs held in December 2022. He elucidated upon the importance of the Mid-Term Review as a platform for knowledge sharing and cross-learning. After setting the context, he invited the Union Home Secretary (HS) to share his valuable inputs and guidance with the participants.

3. The Union Home Secretary (HS) welcomed the participants and highlighted the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of making Union Territories models of good governance and development for the rest of the country; and aligning the UTs with the National Vision 2047. He underlined the importance of ensuring the highest quality of living, prompt citizen services and developed infrastructure for the residents of UTs.

4. Thereafter, the Chief Secretaries/Advisors to the Administrator/Lieutenant Governor of all UTs proceeded to make detailed presentations, briefly providing the status of compliance with Hon'ble HM's directions and a broad overview of the annual and 5-year action plans to achieve their Vision 2047. Copies of the presentations made by the UTs (in alphabetical order) may be seen at *Annexure II*.

5. The UT-wise key points of discussion that emerged from the deliberations during the presentations are as below:

- a) **Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI):** The UT has identified 4 key sectors for development, namely, tourism, fishing, shipping and agriculture. As regards tourism, Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Eco-Tourism Projects in 4 islands will be floated by 2024. Master plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Holistic Development of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (NSCB) Island will be prepared in the next 6 months. Various policies such as camper van policy, bird watching policy, beach shack policy, houseboat and luxury tent policies will also be notified shortly to promote unique forms of tourism in the islands. As regards shipping, progress has been made for the holistic development of the Great Nicobar Island (GNI). 5 verticals (viz. infrastructure and logistics, deep sea fishing, aquaculture, capacity building and fisheries management) have been identified to promote fisheries. As regards agriculture, copra, virgin coconut oil and spices are being promoted.

- b) **Chandigarh:** The focus areas of the UT include transformation into a green, clean and smart city; preserving and protecting its heritage; making Chandigarh a regional hub of education, health, commerce, IT and sports; and achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. Additionally, the UT is also working on 5 themes, viz. Transport & Mobility; Environment, Climate Action and Eco-Tourism; Education, Skill Development (Including Sports), Employment, Economic Ability; Health, Nutrition and Well-being; and Social Protection & Safety. The state-of-the-art Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) has been set up, and no physical challans are issued anymore in the UT. This has been a landmark project for the UT, which has led to a reduction in accident rates as well. The provision of faceless services has also been smoothly implemented.
- c) **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (DNH&DD):** As part of its Vision 2047, the UT aims to increase industrial development 10 fold; emerge as a regional education hub in the field of medical, technical, fashion, IT and legal education; and set up world-class MICE infrastructure as well as public utility infrastructure like schools, colleges, hospitals, sports complexes, nursing schools, flyovers, bridges, roads and airports. The action plan also focuses on Tourism, Health, Forest, Transport, Fisheries and Power. Other innovative initiatives include seafront development, tent cities (which are expected to be completed by 2024). The UT has also taken steps to end malnourishment among tribal children. It also aims to increase its forest cover to 40% by 2047. A Transport Nagar is being developed in the UT. Diu currently runs on 100% Renewable Energy during day time. The UT also plans to further enhance its solar capacity.
- d) **Delhi:** The annual plans are yet to be finalised. Delhi shall lay emphasis on four sectors for driving growth, viz. investment in infrastructure; focus on integrity; inclusive development and international outlook, which would be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of UN. Electric buses have been rolled out and more buses will be added soon. An ecosystem for charging Electric Vehicles (EVs) is also being put in place. EV 2.0 Policy is in the pipeline. Faceless service delivery to the public is one of the key achievements of the UT.
- e) **Jammu & Kashmir:** The UT is focusing on agriculture (with special emphasis on floriculture), infrastructure, tourism, health and social development. The UT will focus on transforming into a “future-ready J&K”, with a focus on developing the power sector, as well as enhancing the GSDP of the UT. The UT also aims to eliminate poverty by 2047. Sufi circuits have been created, and home stays are being promoted. All Departments have been given clear deliverables for the year, which has led to better administrative efficiency.
- f) **Ladakh:** The UT has a very low population density, which makes doorstep delivery of services a challenge. Lack of connectivity is also a major challenge faced by the UT, which is impeding the pace of progress of the UT in various flagship schemes. Hydrogen buses are expected to become operational in the next 5 months, which is a unique and eco-friendly initiative of the UT. The UT is home to 477 +/- 51 snow leopards, which can be a potential tourist attraction. The guiding principles for the UT include Sustainable Development through, ‘Carbon Neutrality’, ‘Self-Sustainability’, ‘Integrated Development’ and ‘SMART Infrastructure’, following a 3-C approach i.e., ‘Community’,

'Connectivity' and 'Clusters' to foster a sense of collectiveness and integration to develop a strong socio-economic and community culture development in Ladakh.

g) **Lakshadweep:** The primary vision of the UT is to make Lakshadweep a potential Blue Economy for a sustainable and resilient future, a hub for infrastructure development, skill and human resource development, livelihood and employment generation with a focus on pivotal areas such as Tourism (Turquoise & clean water), Fisheries (Seaweed and Tuna) and Agriculture (Coconut). The lagoon area and the EEZ are areas with immense potential yet to be untapped. The UT has awarded India's first Eco Lagoon Villa project through PPP mode in two islands. The UT is also trying to promote cooperatives in the coconut and fisheries sectors.

h) **Puducherry:** The UT aims to exponentially raise its GDP tenfold through a comprehensive approach of industrial development, infrastructure augmentation, business reforms, inclusive human development, increased women participation in work, future proofing of human resources, climate change resilience & leveraging technology. The GDP growth is to be driven primarily by the Tertiary Sector, with the development & promotion of experiential tourism, ITES, industrial sector, agro-economy and blue economy sectors; creation of Digital and Smart Villages; increase in the share of renewable energy to 70%; to co-locate all Anganwadis with Primary Schools, skill 50000 youth and make 100% schools adaptive with small classrooms; improve health indicators and ensure near-zero carbon emission in UT by 2047. Funds are a constraint for the UT as only 6% of the total budget remains for capital expenditure, and a substantial portion of the funds go towards salaries and power requirements.

6. Chief Secretary, Delhi made the following suggestions, which were agreed upon by the Union HS:

- i. UTs are aiming to minimize their carbon footprint and become carbon neutral by 2047; to assist the UTs in this endeavour, a Global Consultant may be hired to provide guidance and assistance, with Delhi taking the lead in it.
- ii. All UTs are striving toward 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governances,' and thus digitalizing government services is being done; in this regard, a standard package of online services that all UTs can adopt may be created. In order to achieve this, a team of officers may be formed, with J&K taking the lead.
- iii. To ensure cost-effective domestic air travel in and around the UTs, use of Indian-made Dornier 19-seater aircraft may be explored. MHA may take the lead in this area.
- iv. To promote and assist the Cooperative Movement in the UTs, it is recommended that outlets be provided to cooperatives of the UTs at various locations in Delhi to market their products; this may be a Government-to-Government initiative. In this context, the MHA may convene a meeting with UTs, Delhi Metro, Rapid Rail Transit System, MCD, and NDMC to further explore the concept.
- v. The UT of DNH&DD, Ladakh and J&K may develop a smaller version of facilities such as Bharat Mandapam (Exhibition-cum-Convention Center) & Yashobhoomi (Convention Center).
- vi. All UTs should aim to reduce poverty to zero or near-zero levels by 2047.

7. Based on the deliberations, the following directions/observations were given by the Chair:

- A. UT of A&NI should expedite works towards the holistic development of the NSCB island. UT should also ensure that the new names of the renamed islands are updated in all Government records including Survey of India Maps. UT may also take steps towards developing the renamed islands, as per the potential of each of the islands, in order to promote tourism. UT may also focus on securing exclusive rights for processing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as a measure to promote the fisheries sector in the UT. The Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Home Affairs and the UT Administration should hold a meeting to decide upon a policy framework for the same. UT should also take steps towards promoting cooperatives in the agricultural sector, particularly in copra processing etc. NAFED or other such entities can also be involved in promoting agriculture in the UT.
- B. UT of Chandigarh should consider working jointly with GNCTD and exchange best practices and technical know-how in fully and effectively implementing faceless delivery of services in the UTs, and in ensuring smooth roll-out of 5G.
- C. UT of Ladakh should get a third-party assessment of home stays done to check their efficacy. The UT's official website should also provide links for booking home stays, as a measure for providing information about home stays to tourists. The Chadar Trek is one of the key attractions of Ladakh, but the UT should also consider expanding similar types of treks to some other rivers in Ladakh. The UT should also ensure the accessibility of government officers/representatives to the general public. UT should expedite the construction of the Central University. The UT should also focus on the marketing of sea buckthorn, which is a speciality of the UT. The UT should lay emphasis on ensuring economic prosperity for the general public through employment generation and other policy measures.
- D. UT of Lakshadweep should expedite and promote the Smart City project.
- E. UT of Puducherry should ensure the timely release of UT-share in schemes for their effective and timely implementation. MHA will again take up the issue of financial assistance to UTs with legislature with the Ministry of Finance.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

- In Chair**
1. Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary
 2. Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri, Joint Secretary (UT), MHA
 3. Shri Prashant Lokhande, Joint Secretary (JKL), MHA
 4. Shri Harjot Singh Sandhu, Deputy Secretary (ANL& IDA), MHA
 5. Shri Ravi Ranjan, Second-in- Command (UT), MHA
 6. Shri Kanishk Chaudhry, Deputy Commandant (UT), MHA

UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

7. Shri Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary
8. Shri Arjun Sharma, Secretary (Planning)
9. Shri A. Selvam, SI, In-charge CS Monitoring Cell

UT of Chandigarh

10. Shri Dharam Pal, Advisor to the Administrator
11. Dr. Vijay Namdeorao Zade, Finance Secretary
12. Ms. Purva Garg, Education Secretary

UT of DNH&DD

13. Shri Amit Singla, Advisor to the Administrator
14. Shri S. Asker Ali, Secretary (PWD)
15. Shri Shivam Teotia, Director-cum-DS (Higher & Technical Education)

GNCTD

16. Shri Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary
17. Shri Ashish Chandra Verma, Principal Secretary (Finance/Planning)
18. Shri A. Anbarasu, Principal Secretary (PWD)
19. Shri Ashish Kundra, Pr. Secy-cum-Commissioner (Transport)
20. Ms. Niharika Rai, Secretary(Finance/ Planning/ Tourism)
21. Shri Ravi Dhawan, Special Secretary

UT of Jammu & Kashmir

22. Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary
23. Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary (Planning Development & Monitoring Department)

UT of Ladakh

24. Shri Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to LG
25. Shri Ravinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary
26. Shri Tsering Angdus, Deputy Director, Planning Development & Monitoring
27. Shri Kacho Mohd. Hussain, Deputy Director, Planning Development & Monitoring

UT of Lakshadweep

28. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Advisor to the Administrator
29. Shri Sandeep Mishra, Special Secretary
30. Shri Rakesh Dhahiya, Director

Government of Puducherry

31. Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary
32. Dr A. Muthamma, Secretary (Planning)
33. Shri Yashwant Meena, Assistant Collector
34. Shri P.T. Rudra Goud, Director (Industries)
35. Shri K. Muralidharan, Director (Tourism)
