Vision India@2047

Methodology:- Free wheel discussions were held with Secretaries to Government of Puducherry to elicit their vision. The participants were specifically briefed to be imaginative, futuristic and to think big. Their personal learnings as an official of the Government (with years of accumulated experience in the service) as well as a citizen helped to generate certain critical ideas for India@2047. The vision so generated were circulated among the departments/directorates under their charge to bring out more ideas or to put the draft vision to test. Based on the inputs received, it was crystallised further and six vision/theme based on the guidance note circulated by NITI-Aayog were expressed as an one pager (per vision). Based on the acceptance of specific vision/theme, it will be elaborated using a log-frame approach for implementing the same. Notwithstanding the concurrence of these themes at the national level, the exercise of discussing India@2047 amongst the departments in Puducherry acted as a catalyst and guiding spirit for the UT of Puducherry in refocusing it's developmental efforts in years to come.

Vision-1

Green Energy Hub

- Puducherry as a small UT will achieve 100% green energy status (and a lighter carbon footprint) in important spheres of public activity like (i) Public and Private Transport & (ii) Transportation Systems in Government Offices by shifting to a fuel economy based on Green Hydrogen & Solar Energy based Electrical Vehicles (reducing fossil fuels, minimizing private transport encouraging cycling).

- The Electric Vehicle usage in the above sectors will be 100%. The EVs will be recharged through green energy generated by Solar Energy Systems.

- All government buildings that will be newly built will function using 100% solar energy systems

Vision:2

Water Secure State

- Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) Sector will be given prominence due to the imminent challenges posed by climate change and resultant occurrence of of extreme weather events at frequent intervals.

- Every drop of water that falls in the land area of the state will be conserved through enforcement of rain water harvesting, ground water recharging and as surface water in the rejuvenated water bodies across the state.

- Climate Proofing of water systems in each region through engineering and conventional means like interlinking of water bodies will be done to maintain optimum water levels for enhanced water security and to prevent flooding in the possible future scenario of frequent heavy rainy spells due to climate change inducted extreme weather events.

- (Circular Water Economy) 100% reuse of waste water for appropriate purpose by adopting waste water treatment systems

Vision:3

Predictive Governance by optimizing human interventions in delivery of public service

- Promising technologies like Blockchain Technology (BT), Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) and Data Analytics will be adopted for enhanced public service delivery.

- Life Cycle Approach will be adopted for public service delivery or welfare benefits i.e from birth till death and beyond by leveraging BT, AI, ML and Data Analytics.

Vision:4

Universal Basic Income

- Rise in inequality is emerging as an important issue to grapple with for the state governments and central government. Faster adaptation of automation in the manufacturing sector, AI/ML in the software industries and new frontier technologies will lead to displacement of the labour force that is trained to do repetitive tasks and resultant unemployment.

- If unattended, this issue will endanger the very social and economic fabric of the country and push a vast majority of the people on a downward economic spiral.

- The State Govt and Central Govt have to step in to plug the gap between the earning of the people and the desired level of income in the form of an Universal Basic Income to replaces the current beneficiary oriented systems of cash transfer.

- Current DBT transfers to the BPL families and low income groups will have to be bunched into an Universal Basic Income (UBI). The UBI transfers will be precisely targeted on those beneficiaries who are validated by the Universal Data Hub of Beneficiaries that is currently being developed. (Gender justice / equality to be ensured by making women heads of households and recipients of all DBT and other benefits)

- UBI based Conditional Cash Transfers will tap on the advances in behavioural sciences like nudges and benign paternalism as strategies to achieve not only social development objectives like female literacy, promotion of saving habits and self-help, but also climate adaptation objectives like reducing carbon footprint, water conservation, greening around living places, etc.

- The critical challenge of fixing an appropriate amount of fund as UBI that would guarantee a decent standard of living have to addressed through collective measures by the centre and state through progressive taxation options linked to carbon consumption by individuals.

Vision:5

One Nation One Property System to Unlock the Dead Capital

- The highly varied property systems across the states in the country is not ideal to confer upon the holder of a property an absolute title over it.

- The prevalence of presumptive property titling systems is a strong hurdle for the progress of the country as most of the landed property help by persons are not leveraged towards creating capital.

- Land registration and land titling law based on uniformly distributed database and trusted transactions using blockchain technology need to be put in place through a concerted efforts by all states in the spirit of cooperative federalism. The common laws on land registration and land titling can leverage the robustness of Blockchain Technology to ensure data security and seamless flow of information on any transactions over land.

Vision:6

Ease of Industrial Development

- To take Ease of Business Development to the next phase through complete automation of government approvals

- Puducherry being a small UT with limited land for industrial development, Knowledge Bases Industries would be encouraged to set up units in the Industrial Estates that would have a plug and play state of readiness to host them. Ability to instantaneously establish such units in these Knowledge Hubs is a key goal.
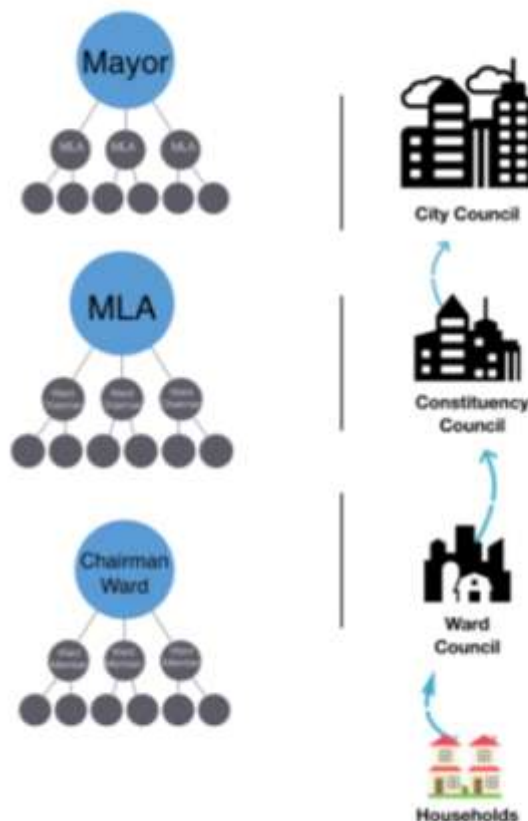
Vision:7

Direct Democracy in Urban Governance

- Puducherry UT is urbanising fast and by mid 2030s the entire territory will reach 100% levels of urbanisation.

Urban Governance Structure of Puducherry Reimagined

- This requires a different system of urban governance suiting the unique local needs and situation. A new urban governance structure was re-imagined based on the local situation and the need for a direct democracy to enhance the proximity between the government and the governed.

- As Blockchain Technology becomes more and more accessible to the common people, the governments can start a two way channel through a platform based on the blockchain technology to seek dynamic inputs from the public in the critical decisions, formulation of programmes, policies and legislations.

- Big data to be tapped to engage with citizens and the response they elicit through will provide be used to conceive location specific projects, address community specific grievances, conduct social audits, to frame specific policies with direct inputs from the citizens or civil society organisation, etc.

- Digital identity of citizens/entities and assets owned by them including trusted transactions of those assets can be captured using blockchain technology. (?)

- A case in point is the use of Blockchain Technology for voting in certain states in the USA.

Vision:8

Climate Adaptive City

- One definite feature of the future cities will be frequent occurrence of heatwaves, persistent heat islands and prevalence of high temperature compared to rural areas. As Puducherry is going to be 100% Urban by the end of this decade, Climate Change Adaptability and Building Capacity for Resilience should be the focal area for the survival of the city and to maintain its status as a popular tourism destination.

- Capacity of the four urban enclaves of the UT namely., Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam will be augmented to undertake locally relevant mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change.

- All the projects and programmes in the UT will be climate proofed by progressive mainstreaming of the mitigation and adaptation measures in the developmental agenda of the UT.

- Climate change financing through innovative means of taxation would be put in place. This would finance the projects aimed at building mitigation and adaptive capacity for the city. (Enhancing coastal resilience through shoreline management and Marine Spatial Planning.)