YOJANA

MASK-UP INDIA

Federal Structure

Development

Partnership

Cooperative

Competitive

Interaction

Synergy

States-first Approach

Decentralisation

Record GST Revenue Collection

"Chanakya's words summarise the whole GST process – 'even if something is very difficult to be achieved, one can obtain it with penance and hard work'. If we take into consideration the 29 states, the 7 Union Territories, the 7 taxes of the Centre and the 8 taxes of the states, and several different taxes for different commodities, the number of taxes sum up to a figure of 500! Today all those taxes will be shred off to have ONE NATION, ONE TAX right from Ganganagar to Itanagar and from Leh to Lakshadweep."

- Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of India,
Dedicating GST to the Nation - July 01, 2017; Central Hall, Parliament of India
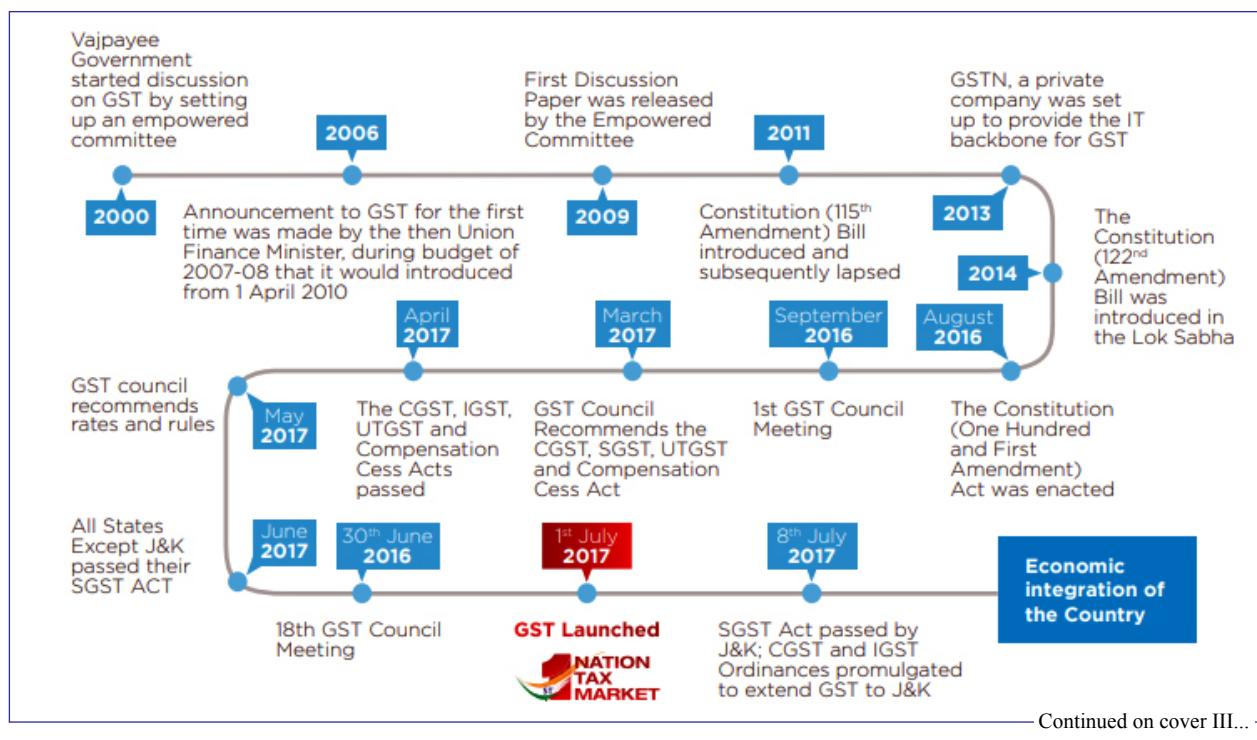
The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a consumption tax based on the credit invoice method where only the value addition at each stage is taxed, with a seamless flow of credit along the supply chain. It subsumed in its ambit a large number of consumption taxes that previously existed in India, administered separately by the Centre and the States, resulting in a greatly rationalised taxation structure.

The umbrella system of GST inter alia integrated the tax administrations of the Federal and State Governments, making it a single interface for the taxpayers, creating an IT backbone that would match the details of inward & outward supplies at the level of line items, eliminating the cascading effect of taxes thereby making the country's exports more competitive in the global market and finally removing once and for all the age-old system of check posts for inter-State movement of goods. Besides altering the industrial landscape of the country, GST is also a never-heard-before experiment in fiscal federalism.

The legislations that made up GST were put in the public domain for feedback multiple times at each stage, empowering all the stakeholders to deliberate on what kind of future they wanted to help design, in the truest spirit of democracy. Primarily, GST is a tax levied on the supply of goods and services. In the case of an inter-state supply, it is called integrated tax, levied by the Federal Government, administered jointly by the Centre and the States and later apportioned between them. In the case of an intra-state supply, it is levied in two components– the federal tax, levied by the Federal Government and the state tax/Union Territory tax, levied by the respective administrations.

Timeline of GST:

- **2000** — Vajpayee Government started discussion on GST by setting up an empowered committee
- **2006** — Announcement to GST for the first time was made by the then Union Finance Minister, during budget of 2007-08 that it would introduced from 1 April 2010
- **2009** — First Discussion Paper was released by the Empowered Committee
- **2011** — Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill introduced and subsequently lapsed
- **2013** — GSTN, a private company was set up to provide the IT backbone for GST
- **2014** — The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha
- **August 2016** — The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act was enacted
- **September 2016** — 1st GST Council Meeting
- **March 2017** — GST Council Recommends the CGST, SGST, UTGST and Compensation Cess Act
- **April 2017** — The CGST, IGST, UTGST and Compensation Cess Acts passed
- **May 2017** — GST council recommends rates and rules
- **June 2017** — All States Except J&K passed their SGST ACT
- **30th June 2016** — 18th GST Council Meeting
- **1st July 2017** — GST Launched — ONE NATION ONE TAX ONE MARKET
- **8th July 2017** — SGST Act passed by J&K; CGST and IGST Ordinances promulgated to extend GST to J&K
- **Economic integration of the Country**

Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides
Rig Veda

YOJANA, a development monthly published since 1957, is a theme-based journal providing in-depth analyses and views on socio-economic issues in the broader framework of government policies. Although published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, YOJANA is not restricted to expressing the official point of view.

IN THIS ISSUE

REGULARS

JUNE ISSUE - HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT
COMING SOON - NORTH EAST

Jal Jeevan Mission

It is commendable that Yojana devoted the April 2021 issue on water and related flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission by the Government of India. The issue contained quality information on water programme from tap water connection to Tashigang to India's commitment towards SDG 6:- Water and Sanitation to all by 2030. I appreciate team Yojana for their dedicated efforts on topics of national importance. Summer is on head and understanding Jal Jeevan is very important. I congratulate Team Yojana for coming up with such special editions and enriching the readers with fruitful quality content all the time. I request Team Yojana to publish a special edition on India's Post Covid-19 shift in diplomacy with key global partners, regional neighbors, and Indian Ocean littoral states.

– Kirti Wadhawan
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
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Sustained Quality

I am a keen reader of this journal since I was in Class 8th. Now I am pursuing Master's and still have the same spirit for this journal. I believe the author's views in the journal reflect the depths of understanding of India's continuing developmental journey since 1957. I truly appreciate each of the sections of this journal with greater confidence, competence, and commitment. The journal continuously enlightened me since I was a kid and, I believe it will continue. I request to you to add some columns which emphasise 'the development(s) in earth science sectors and its impact(s) in the nation's prosperity'.

– Arpit Kumar
Dhanbad, Jharkhand
arpitkumar.19mc0011@agl.iitism.ac.in

Insightful Issue on Water

The issue on Jal Jeevan Mission was very thought-provoking. Yojana has always been a scholarly journal. It has always been a knowledgeable and soaring experience to learn through such a fabulous journal. The article on Jal Jeevan Mission was highly insightful and helpful for those who are not wary about this wonderful gift of the almighty God. I would request Team Yojana to publish more on environmental issues and the government's steps to tackle the ecological menace.

– Dr Ashok
Patna, Bihar
ashokelection2015@gmail.com

Simple and Crisp Language

I have been reading Yojana since last year. It's been very handy for my UPSC preparation and there are many articles that I found helpful, especially the January edition "India@75", February edition "Indian Literature", and the March edition "Union Budget". The language is so crisp and easy to understand. I was a bit confused about understanding Union Budget but the Yojana March edition helped me make myself aware of it in a simple way. Thanks to Yojana Team.

– Gajavalli Kalyani
Hyderabad
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Indian Literature

I wish to congratulate you on the February 2021 issue of Yojana on "Indian Literature." I simply loved this issue on different kinds of literature in India. I even noted down the names of some books which were mentioned in the "References." It was a great read. Thanks.

– Sumbul
sumnas63@gmail.com

Insight into India's Journey

I have been reading Yojana since 2019. It is truly a window to our government policies. Yojana provides information to citizens about India's initiatives to make the country better and prosperous. I would recommend it to everyone irrespective of field and job sector. Yojana is an insight into India's journey to superpower. I am looking forward to more knowledge-pouring topics and hope

to enrich my ideas for India. So far, a great job by the Publications Division team. I thank and congratulate the entire team. Keep it up.

– Deepesh Sharma
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
deepeshsharma025@gmail.com

Promoting Good Governance

I have been reading Yojana Since 2019 and it's been an informative and enriching experience that I don't even have to make many efforts to remember the facts. The March 2021 Union Budget issue was really helpful for all irrespective of their areas of work. A citizen needs more awareness about the day-to-day functioning of the government, when he/she becomes aware, they become good citizens, and will automatically lead to good governance. Yojana plays an important role in making good citizens. It makes me a visionary citizen before I probably became a visionary bureaucrat.

– J. Jafeerkhan
jafeerkalam@gmail.com

Article on Social Sector

Every single civil service aspirant's preparation is incomplete without Yojana. "Enabling the social sector" special article addressed the areas of Health and Education in a significant way. Many thanks and immense regards.

– Medharametla Alekya
Andhra Pradesh
alekyamedharametla7@gmail.com

Helps in Nation-Building

I am a civil service aspirant and reading Yojana regularly since last year. I gain a lot from the articles of Yojana. It is not just a magazine but is something that can give you a holistic view of happennings around the globe. It provides a better understanding of the nation's current situation and where we are headed to. Yojana provides useful details of steps taken by the government which help us enrich our answers.

It can be incorporated in academic curricula to evolve a positive approach towards nation-building among students. Everyone should read it regularly to increase awareness of the issues confronting the nation. Heartily thankful to team Yojana.

– Mausam Kumar Agrahari
Prayagraj, UP

Comprehensive Magazine

Yojana covers all current and important issues in a very comprehensive and systematic way. This approach is very beneficial for 'civil services' main examination. It also carries various data collection, sector-specific schemes, and planning which are very beneficial for civil service aspirants. Yojana is important for not only the main examination but also for the preliminary examination.

– hsmmaurya1992@gmail.com

Informative Issues

Being a civil service aspirant I have started reading Yojana recently. I thank Yojana for being the best helper in my preparation. It is helping me a lot to remain determined, consistent, and inspired during the course. The cover on Union Budget was very appreciable and genuinely informative.

– Mohammad Hassanain
Ladakh
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Commendable Columns

I am a regular reader of this monthly journal. I am a huge fan of Yojana because it covers relevant topics and expresses them in easy language to make it comprehensive for all to read. All the columns of Yojana are commendable. Yojana has helped in securing success in many exams. I wish Yojana all the luck and better future ahead.

– Ujjwal Shukla
Prayagraj, UP
ujjwallshukla9@gmail.com

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

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YOJANA

United We Stand

> *"In a domestic Government, unity and co-operation are essential requisites."*
> *- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel*

A few decades ago, when we talked of Federal Structure, one generally drew a uni-dimensional picture, in mind, with Centre on the top of all the States. We rarely saw it as a synergy between the States, and a common strategy to develop and grow together. Though, this is the new-age approach of the Federal Structure based on cooperative and competitive federalism defined and re-emphasised with the formation of NITI Aayog. Essentially, federalism is an institutional mechanism to accommodate two sets of polities—one at the regional level and the other at the national level. Each government is autonomous in its sphere. The Indian Constitution provides for a federation with a strong centre. It does not use the word 'federation' and has described India as a "Union of States", which implies the 'cooperative' nature with certain unitary features. The Union, State, and Concurrent lists demarcate the responsibilities and functions of the two.

The States of Gujarat and Maharashtra are celebrating their Statehood day on May 1. Parliament passed 'The Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960', which provided that "as from the appointed day (May 1, 1960), there shall be formed a new State to be known as the State of Gujarat comprising the following territories from the State of Bombay, namely… and thereupon, the said territories shall cease to form part of the State of Bombay, and the residuary State of Bombay shall be known as the State of Maharashtra". Both the States would complete 61 years of their existence on May 1, 2021. In this issue, the articles on these States take the readers to their journey of growth and transformation during the last six decades.

Federalism has to continuously maintain a difficult balance between the Centre and the States with decentralisation of resources, strengthening them all by bringing the weaker leg forward, creating healthy competition among the States in the form of Health, Sanitation Rankings, etc. The idea is to develop a culture and a set of values and virtues like mutual trust, and a spirit of cooperation among the people and policies. It is about acknowledging and celebrating unity as well as diversity, respecting the boundaries as well as transcending the boundaries.

The most common analogy given for such a structure is 'the brain' and 'the body parts'. The way they work in tandem with perfect synchronization is the spirit, mind, and soul of federalism as well. Each organ is dependent on the other for smooth functioning and growth of the entire body.

National unity cannot be built by streamlining differences. Such forced unity only generates greater social strife and alienation and tends finally to destroy unity. A responsive polity sensitive to diversities and the demands for autonomy can alone be the basis of a cooperative federation.

The recent pandemic has taught us many lessons in this regard. All the boundaries and resources have culminated in a collective fight with the virus. The States as well as the Centre have to get through this crisis together, and stronger in seamless harmony, complementing and compensating each other with a constructive consensus.   ❑

NITI Aayog: Redefining Federalism

Rajiv Kumar
Urvashi Prasad
Devashish Dhar

NITI Aayog has endeavoured to pursue its twin mandate of promoting cooperative and competitive federalism through partnerships with States for designing and reviewing development plans. It has a key role in helping India undertake reforms and implement policy initiatives in a scalable and impactful manner through partnerships with States.

The enduring legacy of the State is defined by numerous factors including political capital and will, administration and policing as well as hard and soft power. Of these, the State defines its role through the most important tool at its disposal - formal institutions. They reflect the approach of the State towards understanding and solving the socio-economic development challenges of the time. One such institution which exemplified India's approach to development in the post-independence era was the Planning Commission. In 2015, this mantle was passed onto the NITI Aayog. However, the mandate and approach of the two institutions, with the same overarching goal of developing India, could not be more different.

This departure in approach is reflected in the Cabinet Resolution constituting NITI Aayog which includes a quote from Mahatma Gandhi - "Constant development is the law of life, and a man who always tries to maintain his dogmas in order to appear consistent drives himself into a false position." The Planning Commission operated through the lens of Five-Year Plans, using financial resources as the primary lever for guiding development. NITI Aayog, on the other hand, is driven primarily through intellectual firepower as well as the mandate and capability of forging meaningful partnerships with State Governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and innovators for accelerating the pace of India's development.
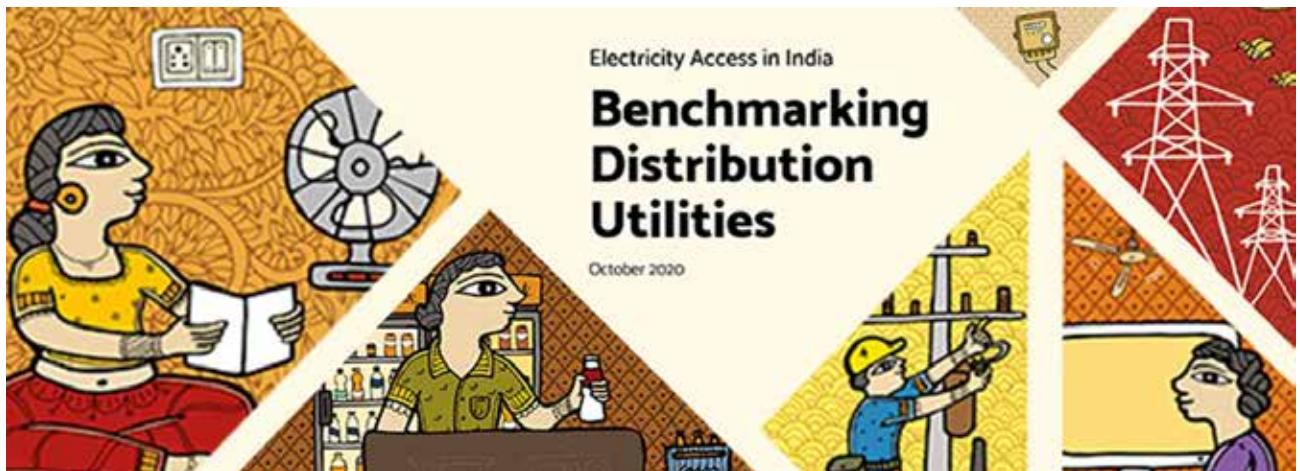
While the Planning Commission acted as a fund disburser, NITI Aayog works as a thought partner with all stakeholders, especially the States, which are the principal agents for fostering economic development in the country. While the Planning Commission impinged on the fiscal sovereignty of the States, they are now

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Urvashi Prasad and Devashish Dhar are public policy specialists at NITI Aayog.

Electricity Access in India
Benchmarking Distribution Utilities
October 2020

empowered to decide how best to use their funds, without being mandated to follow a top-down direction. The Niti Aayog has replaced the Central Government's practice of unilaterally designing the pan-Indian development strategy-while working with State Governments to jointly prepare development blueprints that are suited to and take into account the special circumstances of each State. It is likely to be a superior approach in as large and diversified a country like India with its continental dimensions.

Notably, the Planning Commission adopted a 'one-size-fits-all' approach towards the Indian States. NITI Aayog, on the other hand, is guided by a 'States-first' approach. Its founding principles include cooperative federalism (a collaboration between the Central and State Governments) and competitive federalism (spurring healthy competition among States). It is noteworthy that both pillars of the dual mandate are complementary and are being implemented in tandem for guiding the Centre and States towards shared objectives, albeit through customised approaches. Thus, instead of a straitjacket approach, NITI Aayog has adopted a decentralised and bottom-up strategy, to ensure that Central and State Governments work together as equal partners in Team India.
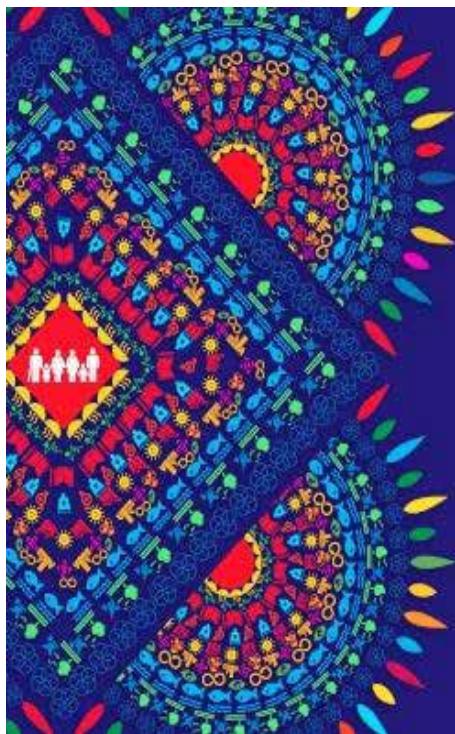
NITI Aayog has endeavoured to pursue its twin mandate of promoting cooperative and competitive federalism through partnerships with States for designing and reviewing development plans. NITI has also provided a platform for direct issue-based interaction between State Governments and Central Ministries thereby helping quick resolution of outstanding issues. The NITI Forum for North East has been constituted and tangible sectoral proposals are

> The Planning Commission operated through the lens of Five-Year Plans, using financial resources as the primary lever for guiding development. NITI Aayog, on the other hand, is driven primarily through intellectual firepower as well as the mandate and capability of forging meaningful partnerships with State Governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and innovators for accelerating the pace of India's development.

being implemented by the States in partnership with the North East council, within the overall framework, with its five pillars, provided by the NITI Forum. Further, NITI has designed some major initiatives for island development which are being implemented by relevant authorities under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

It is also envisaged that like the NITI Forum for the North East, other regional councils of contiguous States could be formed in the coming months. This will allow the inclusion of common regional issues and challenges in designing the development path for each of the constituting States. The first step has been taken by forming the Himalayan States Regional Council and forming a coalition of all thirteen central universities in these states. These universities are taking up research on issues common to all the thirteen Himalayan states.

NITI promotes competitive federalism principally through pushing its sectoral indices which are put out in the public domain. The indices on water, education, health, innovation, export preparedness, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have attracted significant positive attention. These indices are based on a detailed and rigorous analysis of technical parameters. The 'Performance in Health Outcomes' Index, for instance, captures the overall performance of States in health along with annual improvements in health outcomes, governance, and processes. Similarly, the Composite Water Management Index details how States have progressed on water-related issues over time, including recognising the high-performers as well as identifying areas for deeper engagement and investment by all

SDG INDIA

Index & Dashboard 2020-21

Partnerships in the Decade of Action

sector, the campaign against women, and child malnutrition are some examples of areas where NITI has made substantive policy inputs during its six-year existence.

NITI was involved with the drafting of the National Medical Commission Bill and the Bills for reforming the education system pertaining to Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy. Both Houses of Parliament have passed all three Bills. Paving the way for building a world-class medical education system in the country. NITI has also been closely involved with the design and monitoring of *Ayushman Bharat*, perhaps the largest universal health initiative in the world. NITI has played a similar key role in the *POSHAN Abhiyaan* which the Government launched to provide an appropriate governance structure reflecting the many overlapping factors like access to sanitation and health services that affect the nutritional status of an individual or household. NITI has also implemented the SATH – 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital' program in 3 States, the best practices from which are being replicated in other States as well. NITI shared a road Map for *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana* with all States and Union Territories.

States. The 'School Education Quality Index' aims to institutionalise a focus on improving education outcomes (learning, access, equity) in India. The Index comprises a set of indicators that critically influence the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the school education sector.

It has also introduced a competition element in our ambitious 'Aspirational Districts Program' which aims to raise the human development indicators in these districts to the national averages by focusing on governance improvement and achieving effective convergence among Government agencies and organisations on the ground. These districts have shown significant improvement in indicators pertaining to health and nutrition, education, agriculture, and water management, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure which NITI Aayog is monitoring on a real-time basis. Besides, several best practices in governance have emerged from these districts which are now being scaled up and replicated at the block level in some States.

NITI has made and is continuously engaged in providing fresh policy-related inputs for implementation by relevant Central Government Ministries in partnership with State Government agencies. Universal Health, agriculture sector modernisation, renewable energy, electric mobility, reforms of the mining

Several policy suggestions are contained in NITI's document '**Strategy for New India @ 75**'. The preparation of this seven-year strategy, encapsulated in this document required extensive consultations with subject experts, State and Central Government ministries/departments, industry representatives, and civil society organisations. Overall, around 1,400 stakeholders, within and outside the Government, were consulted and several iterations were undertaken to ensure that the document reflected the whole-of-the-government approach.

One of NITI's key tasks and important mandates is to develop an output–outcome monitoring framework and rigorously evaluate Central Government schemes and initiatives. The *Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office* (DMEO) undertakes this. It completed the evaluation of 125 Centrally Sponsored Schemes to determine their continuation from the 14th Finance Commission to the 15th Finance Commission period. DMEO also supports the Department of Expenditure for preparing the outcome budget for over 65 ministries/ departments. DMEO reviews the progress of infrastructure departments

> The Central Government's practice of unilaterally designing the pan-Indian development strategy has been replaced by the NITI Aayog working with State Governments to jointly prepare development blueprints that are suited to and take into account the special circumstances of each State.

of the Central Government for periodic review by the Prime Minister. It is further refining its methodology and strengthening its human resource base to improve the effectiveness of outcome-based performance evaluation.

To improve governance at all levels of government, DMEO is collaborating with State Governments for establishing similar capacity. Additionally, NITI has been closely monitoring the progress of SDGs across all States and engaging with them to set up real-time technology-based monitoring capacities which will help mainstream SDGs in the development process in every State.

NITI Aayog is also focused on nurturing an innovation ecosystem across the country. The *Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)* is a flagship initiative of NITI for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country, based on a detailed study and deliberations on the innovation and entrepreneurial needs of India in the years ahead. AIM has adopted a holistic approach towards establishing an integrated ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at school, university, industry levels, linking NGOs, venture capital, and private industries. AIM promotes an innovative mindset in school students through Atal

> *In the years to come, India needs to make persistent efforts wherein both the Central and State Governments come together to solve the country's most complex issues and unleash growth. To meet the rising aspirations of our young population, India needs to achieve and sustain a high rate of GDP growth for the next three decades. In pursuit of this goal, continued structural reforms are crucial for laying new foundations that can ensure sustained and inclusive growth.*
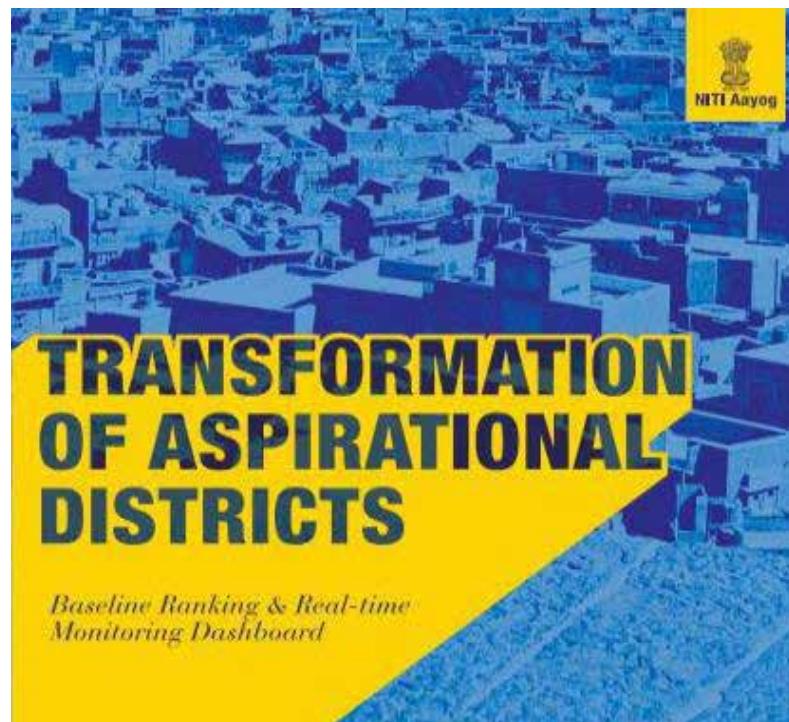
Tinkering Labs (ATLs) which feeds into start-ups fostered by the Atal Incubation Centres (AICs). Over 7,100 ATLs have been sanctioned thus far, covering 90% of districts in India, including 110 Aspirational Districts.

In the years to come, India needs to make similar persistent efforts wherein both the Central and State Governments work jointly to solve the country's most complex issues and unleash growth. To meet the rising aspirations of our young population, India needs to achieve and sustain a high rate of GDP growth for the next three decades. In pursuit of this goal, continued structural reforms are crucial for laying new foundations to ensure sustained and inclusive growth. NITI Aayog has a key role to play in helping India undertake these reforms and implement policy initiatives in a scalable and impactful manner through partnerships with States.

To achieve the goal of rapid, sustained, and clean growth that generates employment for all, investing in the right physical and social infrastructure, is a prerequisite. NITI Aayog, with its intellectual breadth and depth, is well placed to help India achieve these goals. Over the last six years the Central Government has undertaken many bold reforms. The Central Government. It is now for States to implement these reforms in letter and spirit and help the country reach the next frontier of growth.

For instance, the Central Government has passed important legislation in the agriculture sector. The onus is now on the States to implement this reform and pave the way for significantly enhancing productivity and doubling farmers' income. In this process, States can count on NITI Aayog as a partner for customising and implementing these pathbreaking reforms, including reducing compliance burden, weeding out archaic legislations, and unleashing the full potential of private sector participation. Ultimately, the onus of putting India on a high-growth trajectory and ensuring that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed rests with both the Centre and States. NITI Aayog will continue to work towards strengthening cooperative federalism in the country, thereby enabling the Centre and States to work in tandem as equal partners for ensuring India's success. ❑

TRANSFORMATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

Baseline Ranking & Real-time Monitoring Dashboard

Growth Story of Gujarat

Vijay Rupani

When Gujarat was separated from Bruhad Mumbai and came into existence as an individual State, many challenges confronted us. At that time, Gujarat did not have enough cultivable lands, animal husbandry schemes, and water or electricity facilities for irrigation. Many facilities were required to be developed, like a good road network, the necessary infrastructure for smooth administration, government offices, technology, industries, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities.

It has been over 60 years since the State of Gujarat was established on May 1, 1960. Gujarat has created its prominent identity by working effectively in good governance, people-oriented administration, holistic development, peace-security, and public welfare, which enhanced the pride of six and a half crore Gujaratis in India and the world. After promoting **'Ease of Doing Business**, Gujarat is now focusing on **'Ease of Living.'** The State has become the 'Role Model State' and 'Growth Engine' of India. 'ગુજરાત' (Gujarat) has become synonymous with development.

Gujarat's identity resides in its geography, art, cultural heritage, education, literature, politics, pilgrimages, saints-savants, great men, traditions, customs, food, festivals, hospitality, tourism, language-dialect, ancient and historical places, peace and security, social security, law and order, industries, employment, agriculture, animal husbandry, modern infrastructure, etc. Hardworking, visionary, and fearless leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, and Narendra Modi have become Gujarat's hallmarks.

Dr. Jivraj Mehta was the first Chief Minister of the State. After that, Balwantrai Mehta, Hitendrabhai Desai, Ghanshyambhai Oza, Chimanbhai Patel, Babubhai J. Patel, Madhavsinh Solanki, Amarsinh Chaudhary, Chhabildas Mehta, Sureshchandra Mehta, Shankarsing Vaghela, Dilipbhai Parikh, Keshubhai Patel, and Narendra Modi had worked to take the development journey of Gujarat ahead.

Gujarat's illustrious son Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi took oath as the youngest Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001 and served Gujarat as Chief Minister for 14 consecutive years.

The country-wide popularity of Shri Modi, his hard work, and recognition as Gujarat's 'Vikas Purush' gained a clear majority for National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Subsequently, he took charge as the Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014.

Shri Modi implemented various schemes in Gujarat. Prominent among these are the launch of the tallest statue, i.e. 'Statue of Unity at Kevadiya, Kranti Tirth Mandvi, Krushi Mahotsav, Garib Kalyan Mela, Chintan Shibir, Jyotigram Yojana, Charanka Solar Park, Mahatma Mandir – Gandhinagar, Kanya Kelavni – Shala Praveshotsav, Gunotsav, Uttarardh Mahotsav at Modhera Sun Temple, Vibrant Gujarat Investment Summit, Sabarmati Riverfront at Ahmedabad, Van Mahotsav – Creation of Cultural forests, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana for tribals, and Sagarkhedu Sarvangi Kalyan Yojana for Sailors.

Many universities were established during his tenure. These include Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gujarat National Law University, National Forensic Sciences University, Raksha Shakti University, Lakuliesh Yoga University, Gujarat Technological University, i-Create, Indian Institute

The author is the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Email: vijayrupanicm@gmail.com

of Teacher Education University, Children's University, Shri Govind Guru University, etc.

Smt. Anandiben Patel succeeded Shri Narendra Modi as the first female Chief Minister of Gujarat. She gave priority to women empowerment by providing a Gender Budget. Smt. Patel started various schemes to ensure that the children of Aanganwadis get adequate nutrition. A State-wide **'Maa Annapoorna Yojana'** was launched during her tenure.

On August 7, 2016, I took charge of the Chief Minister of Gujarat to serve the people. As the Chief Minister, I am committed to making Gujarat 'Uttam thi Sarvottam' (From Better to the Best) with the cooperation of six and a half crore Gujaratis. My government has served the people by taking over 1700 public welfare decisions in the last five years.

'Saat Pagala Khedut Kalyan na Yojana' aims to make **the farmers and cattle breeders of Gujarat self-reliant**. Other schemes include the purchase of farm produce from the farmers at the support price of over Rs. 17000- crores in the last four years, implementing India's first **Kisaan Suryoday Yojana** worth Rs. 4500 crores to provide electricity in the day time to the farmers for irrigation. It has benefitted farmers of 4000 villages in the first phase. Other schemes include Zero percent crop loan to more than 15 lakh farmers and financial assistance of Rs. 6000 to the farmer families under **Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana**.

In 2019, the government announced assistance of Rs. 3795 crore to the farmers for damaged crops due to unseasonal rain, and in 2020, a relief package of Rs. 3700 crore was announced which benefited 56 lakh farmers. Recently, **Sagarkhedu Sarvangi Kalyan Yojana-2** worth Rs. 50000 crores was announced for fishermen and sailors' welfare.

More than 400 mobile veterinary clinics and Toll-free number 1962 for 24x7 veterinary facilities have been made functional to help animals. Assistance of more than Rs. 246 crore to 514 Panjarapols and Gaushalas and assistance of more than Rs. 185 crore for 6 lakh animals in drought-stricken areas has been provided.

The State government strictly implemented Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) - PESA Act from the year 2017 for the upliftment of tribal people, and more than 90 lakh tribals obtained land and forest produce rights. Tribals received more than 13 lakh acres of forest land under **the Forest Rights Act**. In these areas, 41 **Eklavya Model Residential Schools** have been constructed to provide education to the tribal children. Accommodation, meals, and education have been made available to more than 1,35,000 students in around 765 Ashram Schools, Aadarsh Residential Schools, and Eklavya Schools. A **Tribal National Museum** highlighting the tribal culture will be set up soon on 70 acres of land at the cost of Rs.100 crore.

Food grain worth Rs. 2000 crore was distributed free of cost to 68.80 lakh **Ration Card Holders** under the National Food Security Act and 61 lakh **Card Holders** under Above Poverty Line-1 of the State in April and May 2020 during the Corona pandemic. In the last year, 7500 acres of land has been given to the deprived and low-income families in the **form of Santhni**. Besides, 27,330 hectares of surplus land have been allotted to 11,692 beneficiaries under **Farm Land Ceiling Act**.

As against a target to provide houses to 7,64,000 families in the urban area by 2022 under **Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana**, more than 5 lakh houses have been constructed.

Essential documents like Certificate of Income, Caste certificate, 7/12 and 8-A have been made available to the citizens at their doorstep through **Seva Setu Program**. Around 52 services and certificates have been made available online under **Digital Seva Setu**, which was launched with the mantra of Digital India-Gujarat and 'Jya Manvi tya Suvidha' (to provide facilities where there are people).

Mukhyamantri Apprenticeship Scheme has been launched with the innovative idea of Learning with Earning, under which students get a stipend from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4500 per month along with their study. In the last two years, more than 2,30,000 youth have benefited. More than 2 lakh young men and women have been appointed in Government services in Gujarat in the last four years. Assistance in the fees is also provided to the youth of Gujarat for training and preparation for competitive examinations like UPSC, GPSC, Gujarat Secondary Service Board, etc. Therefore, Gujarat has the lowest unemployment rate in India, i.e., 3.5%.

Gujarat became the first State to implement 10% reservation for the non-reserved population as per the Central Government guidelines. Loan facility up to Rs. 10 lakh at the interest rate of 4% was provided to the non-reserved students for their college studies and up to the year 2020. More than 70,000 families have benefited from this scheme. A loan up to Rs. 15 lakh at the interest rate of 4% is provided for studying abroad.

As a part of **Digital Gujarat**, modern facilities were provided in 16,000 classrooms through **Gyankunj Project**. 10,000 tablets at the token price of Rs. 1000 were distributed to the students. After passing the 12th Standard, more than 9.50 lakh students have been gifted **Modern Tablets** for higher technical education in the college. Under **SHODH Yojana**, an assistance of Rs. 15,000 per month for two years is provided to the students for research.

Kala Mahakumbh was initiated for the first time in the State to provide a stage to the artists and highlight art and culture. **State Yoga Board** and **Sanskrit Board** have been set up to promote Yoga and Sanskrit language. Gujarat is the first State to establish **the State Yoga Board**. From only nine universities in 2001, Gujarat boasts 83 universities in 2021.

Under **Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana**, a group of 1 lakh women will be formed, which combines 50,000 women from rural and urban areas each. 10 lakh women will benefit from an interest-free loan from the State Government. A provision of Rs. 1000 crore has been made for the loan purpose. Under **Vahali Dikari Yojana**, families with an annual income of Rs. 2 lakh will benefit from Rs. 4000 during admission in 1st standard and Rs. 6000 during admission in 9th standard for the first two daughters. At the age of 18, assistance of Rs. 1 lakh will be provided during the marriage. So far, more than 6000 families have benefited from the scheme. Under **Ganga Swarupa Arthik Sahay Yojana**, the monthly assistance provided to widows has been increased to Rs. 1250, benefitting more than 10 lakh women so far.

Under **Ma Amrutam-Ma Vatsalya Yojana** beneficiaries now receive a health shield of Rs. 5 lakh instead of Rs. 3 lakh. More than 3 crore 50 lakh beneficiaries belonging to 70 lakh families have been enrolled in the scheme. During the ongoing Covid pandemic, more than 1700 Dhanvantari Raths are in operation at more than 3300 places. More than 2 crore 50 lakh people have received OPD facility at their doorstep so far. The Government of India and the World Health Organization have appreciated the work done through Dhanvantari Rath. Prioritizing the health of the people, 2170 medical seats have been increased in the last five years. New medical colleges have been opened in the last five years. With advanced medical facilities, **All India Institute of Medical Sciences** at Rajkot is being developed on 201 acre land at the cost of Rs. 1195 crore with the facility of 750 beds.

A lifetime imprisonment provision has been made under **the Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime Act** from 2019 to curb terrorist activities. The State Government has enforced **Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act 2020** to curb land grabbing activities.

A **Cyber Ashwasta Project** has been started, and the first **Cyber Crime Prevention Unit** of India has been created in Gujarat. Under Project Vishwas, a CCTV network of 7000 cameras has been brought up in 41 cities. Citizens of 33 districts are getting various securities against cybercrime through **Netram Command Control Center**.

Gujarat is committed to providing water to every home with the given target under the Nal Se Jal program. In the last two years, water has been made available to 2 crore 31 lakh homes.

> The State government strictly implemented Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) - PESA Act from the year 2017 for the upliftment of tribal people, and more than 90 lakh tribals obtained land and forest produce rights. Tribals received more than 13 lakh acres of forest land under the Forest Rights Act.

In 2019-20, Gujarat was considered the **Best Destination for Foreign Direct Investment** in India. Foreign Direct Investment worth more than 43,000 crores has been received in Gujarat during the financial year 2019-20. It has increased 3.5 times in comparison with 2018-19.

With the **'Production first, Permission later'** policy in the State, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises industries have considerably benefitted. Industries are exempted from obtaining a No Objection Certificate and approvals for the first three years. A special commission rate has been created for more than 30 lakh MSME units, which has resulted in employment opportunities for more than 1 crore 25 lakh youth.

100% target has been achieved in five districts under Nal Se Jal. A water grid has been made in Gujarat's urban areas to make polluted water useful through **the Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy**. Gujarat is second after Tamil Nadu to set up **Desalination Plant** to make seawater potable.

SAUNI Yojana was made operational to make the Saurashtra region green and provide potable water of the Narmada River to 80 lakh people. With SAUNI Yojana, an irrigation facility has been provided to 1,66,000 hectare area covered under 22 reservoirs of Saurashtra in the first phase.

Under **Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan**, 41,488 works related to water conservation have been done, increasing 42064 lakh cubic feet water storage capacity. It has provided employment which amounts to a total of 130.47 lakh human days.

Under **Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana**, works of 10399 roads of 27064 km length have been completed at the cost of Rs. 6835 crore. 17843 villages and 16402 suburbs have been connected with concrete roads.

With dedicated policies, Gujarat has become a policy-driven state. New policies are introduced in sectors such as Ports, Tourism, Solar, Aerospace and Defence, Information Technology, Industry, Startup, Agriculture and Commerce, Garment and Apparel, Electronics, Heritage Tourism, Wind Energy, General Incentive, Production, Bio-Technology. It also includes New Solar and Hybrid Policy, Bagayat Mission (to provide land on lease for horticultural and medicinal plants).

Auction of mines and minerals is done online, and transparency has been brought up with **Trinetra Drone Surveillance Technology.** The State Government has made an income of more than Rs. 1633 lakh. 13 Industrial Parks and three logistics parks will be constructed on more than 70 hectares of land.

During the ongoing Covid pandemic, the Gujarat government released the **Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Package** worth Rs. 14000 crore. The package provides a loan of Rs. 1 lakh at the interest of 2% and a loan of more than 1 lakh (upto 2.5 lakh) at the interest of 4% to small vendors, shop owners, workers, etc.

The **first Ro Ro ferry service** began from Ghogha in Bhavnagar to Dahej in South Gujarat. It has reduced the road distance from 360 km to 31 km. To reduce pollution and conserve the environment, a subsidy of Rs. 48,000 has been provided to purchase e-rickshaw. The assistance of Rs. 12000 is offered to students from 9th Standard to colleges for buying battery-operated two-wheelers.

Gujarat is on the top of the list in the installation of Solar Rooftops. More than 1.27 lakh solar rooftops have been installed, which generate 886 megawatts of power. Under solar power policy, there has been an increase of 1925 megawatts capacity in the last four years. The installed capacity of the **Solar Rooftop Project** is 611.46 megawatts which is the highest in the country. Among the total installed capacity of Gujarat, 37% contribution comes from renewable energy. World's

> Gujarat became the first State to implement 10% reservation for the non-reserved population as per the Central Government guidelines. Loan facility up to Rs. 10 lakh at the interest rate of 4% was provided to the non-reserved students for their college studies and up to the year 2020. More than 70,000-families have benefited from this scheme. A loan up to Rs. 15 lakh at the interest rate of 4% is provided for studying abroad.

largest hybrid **Renewable Energy Park,** coming up at Kachchh, has 30,000 megawatts capacity.

Out of more than 2300 CNG stations in India, more than 926 are active in Gujarat. In the coming days, the Government of Gujarat has planned to set up more than 900 CNG stations. **The world's first CNG Terminal** is being set up at Bhavnagar in Gujarat, operating 6 million tonne cargo annually.

The authority to give Non-Agriculture (NA) approval was taken from the district panchayat and given to the collector. With maps and layout plans available online, the process has become more easy and fast. More than 35,000 applications have come through an online portal.

In the last three years, 311 town planning (TP) schemes and 40 development plans (DP) schemes have been approved for cities' holistic development. It has provided citizens with more facilities. For the first time in the State, Online Development Permission System (ODPS) has been introduced. Under 'Shravan Tirth Yojana,' elders with more than 60 years of age are taken to Yatradham Darshan in Gujarat.

Nadabet Seema Darshan in Banaskantha of Gujarat has proved to be the best destination for border tourism after the Wagah-Attari border in Punjab. More than 6 lakh tourists enjoyed Seema Darshan in 2020. Girnar Ropeway helps complete a climb of 6-7 hours within 6-7 minutes.

Apart from Gir and Devalia Safari Park, Ambardi Safari Park has been opened in Amreli, which hosts Asiatic Lions - India's pride. Located 12 km from Dwarka, Shivrajpur Beach is being developed as a world-class tourist destination. It is among eight beaches of India, which has been given a tag of Blue Flag Beach. The only **Dinosaur Fossil Park** of India has been constructed in Rayioli village of Balasinor. It is India's largest and the world's third-largest dinosaur fossil site.

To connect the locations related to Mahatma Gandhi's life, a **Gandhi Tourist Circuit** is being developed at the cost of Rs. 93 crore. It includes Dandi Kutir - Gandhinagar, Kirti Mandir - Porbandar, Mahatma Gandhi Museum (Alfred High School) - Rajkot and National Salt Satyagraha Memorial (Dandi Smarak) - Navsari.

The **first Sea Plane service** started between Sabarmati Riverfront Ahmedabad to 182-meter tall Statue of Unity at Kevadia. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the service. In 2020, more than 43 lakh tourists visited SoU and set up a new record. The number of visitors. at SoU is more than footfalls at the Statue of Liberty in the US, which is a matter of pride for all of us.

> The first Ro Ro ferry service began from Ghogha in Bhavnagar to Dahej in South Gujarat. It has reduced the road distance from 360 km to 31 km. To reduce pollution and conserve the environment, a subsidy of Rs. 48,000 has been provided to purchase e-rickshaw. The assistance of Rs. 12000 is offered to students from 9th Standard to colleges for buying battery-operated two-wheelers.

In-house CM DASHBOARD has been made operational in Gandhinagar to review administration works live. With more than 3000 performance indicators, the Chief Minister can observe district-level public interest activities through digital platforms. The Chief Minister interacts with people of deprived and minority communities at his residence in Gandhinagar in a program called 'Mukhyamantri Sathe Moklaa Manne.' After listening to their grievances, he takes decisions and actions to meet their needs and demands.

The first Budget of Gujarat for the years 1960-61 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 22/09/1960. The total budget amount was Rs. 114,92,86,000. The total budget amount of the 77th Budget of Gujarat in the current financial year 2021-22 is Rs. 2,27,029 Crore, which showcases the economic prosperity of Gujarat.

Due to the State government's tireless efforts, Gujarat, which contributes a significant eight per cent to the country's GDP, received a substantial amount of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) of Rs. 1,19,000 crore from April 2020 to September 2020. This amount of FDI is 53% of the total capital investments made in the country during this period. Gujarat accounts for more than 23% of the country's total exports, and the State ranked first in the 'Export Preparedness Index 2020' released by NITI Aayog. Gujarat has also been getting the first position in startup rankings and logistics rankings for two consecutive years.

The first bullet train service in the country between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will commence in the time to come. India's first smart city is being set up at Dholera. It has been included in the list of six smart cities by the Central Government. World-class Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave is being set up at Ahmedabad, which can host Asiad and Olympic. Recently, the world's largest cricket stadium 'Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium', has been inaugurated, which has a capacity of 1.25 lakh spectators. UNESCO has declared Champaner and Rani Ki Vav, Patan as heritage sites, and Ahmedabad has been included as the first heritage city. Gujarat's Surat, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara have been added to the world's 25 top developed cities.

According to the Forest Survey of India report of 2019, the tree cover area has increased by 10,000 hectares in the last two years, and the green area, apart from the forest, has seen an increase of 3,96,000 hectares in the last two years.

I can proudly say that many Gujaratis have contributed to the growth of the State from its foundation. We are reaping the benefits of their hard work. We have to take this development journey forward together, and we have to make Gujarat 'Uttam thi Sarvottam' for the upliftment and development of every citizen of Gujarat. ❑

Transformation of a State

M K Das

Gujarat is well known as the manufacturing powerhouse of the country. The State's transformational model today is one of the key contributors towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. With its robust infrastructure (power, road, gas, ports, railways), strategic location, and business-friendly policies, Gujarat is one of India's preferred States for all domestic and foreign direct investments.

The State of Gujarat received the highest FDI worth INR 1.58 lakh crore (USD 21.24 Bn) during Apr-Dec 2020 and during the first six months of 2020-21, it has registered a growth of 550% over the previous year. In FY 2019-20, Gujarat saw the highest national increment of 240% in FDI inflows from the previous year. It has constantly progressed into a developed economy by focusing on proactive governance, transparent and investor-friendly relations, robust infrastructure, and conducive policies. These factors have immensely supported the grounding of FDI in the state. The total FDI inflow in Gujarat from April 2000 to March 2011 has been worth USD 7.2 billion and the total FDI inflow in Gujarat from April 2011 to December 2020 has been worth USD 40.7 billion.

Even in terms of domestic investment, which is reflected by the number of Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandums (IEMs), the State stands first in terms of the number of IEMs filed and actual investment reported for 2019. The State accounted for 51% share (1st Rank) of IEMs filed in India in terms of value with a proposed investment of USD 49 Bn in 2019. Gujarat has received FDI in diversified sectors including telecommunications, power, metallurgical industries, petroleum & natural gas, services sector, automobile, cement & gypsum products amongst others. Close to 100 Fortune 500 companies,

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multinational corporations, large companies, and over 3.5 million MSMEs have a presence in Gujarat.

Gujarat is also poised to become the "Metal Capital of India". It offers industries to localise supply chains and de-risk their operations, and strengthen the local ecosystem that would help create cost-effective and sustainable solutions. Gujarat and its transformational model today is one of the key contributors towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Gujarat has been a front runner in implementing several reforms for improving and easing the environment for doing business. The State Government in coordination with the Union Government has made it possible to minimise the compliances burden on businesses. As a result, there has been a boost in the economic growth of the State. The State also witnessed a massive surge in investments due to the historic move by the Union Government to lower the corporate tax rate. In order to achieve self-reliance and boost manufacturing, the Union Government initiated various reforms such as Ease-of-doing-Business ranking of states and ease of compliances which has acted as a catalyst to the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

Gujarat is also poised to become the "Metal Capital of India". It offers industries to localise supply chains and de-risk their operations, and also strengthen the local ecosystem that would help create cost-effective and sustainable solutions. Gujarat and its transformational model today is one of the key contributors towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

The Government of Gujarat undertook bold initiatives during the Covid-19 pandemic to address economic challenges and there has been a strong recovery in businesses with an increased investor and consumer sentiment. The pandemic has accelerated the growth of both large and small businesses. Post lockdown, the power consumption and gas consumption have increased by 10% and 25% respectively over the previous year signaling a strong recovery in the businesses. Additionally, initiatives such as exemption from the labor laws have also contributed to restoring normalcy. Besides this, a special committee and a control room were set up by Gujarat Government to handhold and facilitate the industries during unprecedented times.

Infrastructure has always been one of Gujarat's strengths in terms of road connectivity, railway networks, ports, airports, power supply, utility grids, etc. To further augment the growth, the State has been successful in creating an enabling environment for investors. The State has Digitised Land Bank (33,000 hectares) to facilitate and let investors choose the best possible location for their investment in industrial areas of the State. Further, to achieve self-reliance and boost the manufacturing sector, the State

announced the Gujarat Solar Power Policy 2021, which aims to reduce the power costs of industrial units by around 50%.

The State is also finalising Gujarat's first Integrated Logistics Policy and Service Sector Policy to promote sectors such as IT, Banking and Financial Services, Tourism, etc. with the objective, to support the industrial ecosystem development and to enable integrated development of the businesses. With the recent budget announcement to set up a fintech hub at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat is set to attract global fintech firms and startups.

With geographically balanced development and futuristic projects like DFC, DMIC, Dholera SIR, Mandal Becharaji (MBSIR), PCPIR, etc. there are tremendous investment opportunities in Gujarat. Dholera will act as a catalyst in attracting investments in the state especially in the renewable and lithium-ion battery manufacturing sectors. Besides, several futuristic infrastructure development projects are already underway, such as:

1. Rail Corridors connecting major cities in Gujarat

2. Ahmedabad – Dholera Expressway

> **The State has Digitised Land Bank (33,000 hectares) to facilitate and let investors choose the best possible location for their investment in industrial areas of the State. Further, to achieve self-reliance and boost the manufacturing sector, the State announced the Gujarat Solar Power Policy 2021, which aims to reduce the power costs of industrial units by around 50%.**

3. Bhadbhut Barrage Project over Narmada River

4. Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) City at Surat

5. The world's largest Solar & Wind Hybrid Energy Park with a capacity of 30 GW is in Kutch

Gujarat being a policy-driven state has announced about 20 policies over the last five years focused predominantly on supporting a conducive industrial ecosystem and promoting green manufacturing, R&D, and innovation. The Government of Gujarat recently launched the Industrial Policy 2020 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, supported by export competitiveness (Vocal for Local to become Global). In line with the mission of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the State Government has identified 15 thrust sectors for industrial promotion, including nine core sectors and six sunrise sectors, which includes 100% export-oriented units, irrespective of the sector. Gujarat has also become the first state to delink the incentives for industries under the State Goods & Services Tax (SGST).

The Government of Gujarat also offers extensive support for developing micro, small and medium enterprises in the State. It is aligned with the vision of 'First Production,

Then Permission'. Accordingly, the State Government passed the Gujarat Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) MSME Act 2019. MSMEs, under the Act are exempted from obtaining prior approvals for three years and can put in necessary initial attempts to start the industry successfully. To date, over 900+ MSMEs have benefitted through this scheme. The State Government has also signed MoUs with banks for easy loan approval of MSMEs.

Gujarat witnessed a transformation with the advent of the Tata Motors plant in Sanand. It is because of this reason that the state has been successful in attracting investments in the automobile sector and emerged as an automobile manufacturing hub. Major multinational automobile companies like Suzuki Motor, Ford India, Honda, and Hero MotoCorp have established operations in Gujarat. With this Gujarat also witnessed a transformation in investment sectors and there has been a shift from traditional sectors like chemicals, metallurgical industries, transportation, etc. to sectors like telecommunication, automobile, renewable energy, technical textiles, etc.

The significant increase in investment has enabled the reduction of the unemployment rate. The state has the lowest urban unemployment rate (3.4%), followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra with 5.3% and 6.6% respectively as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2018-19. To promote skill enhancement and employment generation, an MoU has been signed for the development of Gujarat Special Education Region (G-SER) as an education hub in 5,000 acres at Dholera. Gujarat is also setting Anchor Institutes with a view of new emerging sectors to formulate an industry-responsive curriculum, need-based training, and relevant skill development for trainers.

Gujarat has established itself as a national leader in various industrial sectors viz. textiles, engineering, chemicals, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, dairy, cement & ceramics, and gems & jewllry and has become the most sought-after investment destination in the country. With further support from the Central Government and a new vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the State is geared to attract investments and fuel the industrial growth to soar to newer heights.   ❑

Maharashtra : A Journey of Over Sixty Years

Yojana Team

The modern state of Maharashtra is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the West, Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli to the North West, Madhya Pradesh to the North & North East, Chhattisgarh to the East, Karnataka to the South, Andhra Pradesh to the South East and Goa to the South West.

The antiquity of human habitation in the state goes back to the stone age period (1.27 million years ago). Numerous sites with the stone age tools have been reported on the bank of various rivers and river valleys. Many Chalcolithic sites have been located and some like Inamgaon (1300 BCE to 700 BCE) were extensively excavated.

Historical Perspective

During the historical period (after the 6th century BCE) the rule of the Mauryas (4th century BCE to 2nd century BCE) is seen in Maharashtra. Remains of the inscriptions of Ashoka have been found in the state. A long-lasting rule over the state was that of the Satavahanas (1st century BCE to 3rd century CE). It was a very flourishing period of the state. International trade with the western world was in full swing during this period. The ports in Maharashtra played a major role in this. The result can be seen in the excavation of many Buddhist rock-cut caves like Bhaja, Pitalkhore, Karla Nasik, etc. patronised mainly by the trading community. The Western Kshatrapas were ruling from Gujarat but they had conquered some of the Satavahana territories for some time. The Satavahanas defeated these rulers in 78 CE and regained their land. The Satavahana rule expanded not only in the whole of the modern state of Maharashtra but also in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.

After the decline of the Satvahana rule, many small kingdoms were established in different parts of Maharashtra like the Abhiras, Traikutakas, etc. But in the 4th century CE, the Vakataka rulers came to prominence. They had two branches both ruling in Vidarbha. Some of their rulers had patronized the cave excavation activities at Ajanta in the 5th century CE.

Maharashtra was ruled by a few rulers in the 6th -7th centuries CE like the Kalachuris (Madhya Pradesh) and Western Chalukyas (Karnataka). But a

stable rule started in the 8th century CE when the Rashtrakutas came to power. They were also involved in creating of the world-famous caves at Ellora. Their rule was extended not only in Maharashtra but also in Karnataka. At one point in time, they had conquered the entire region between the states of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
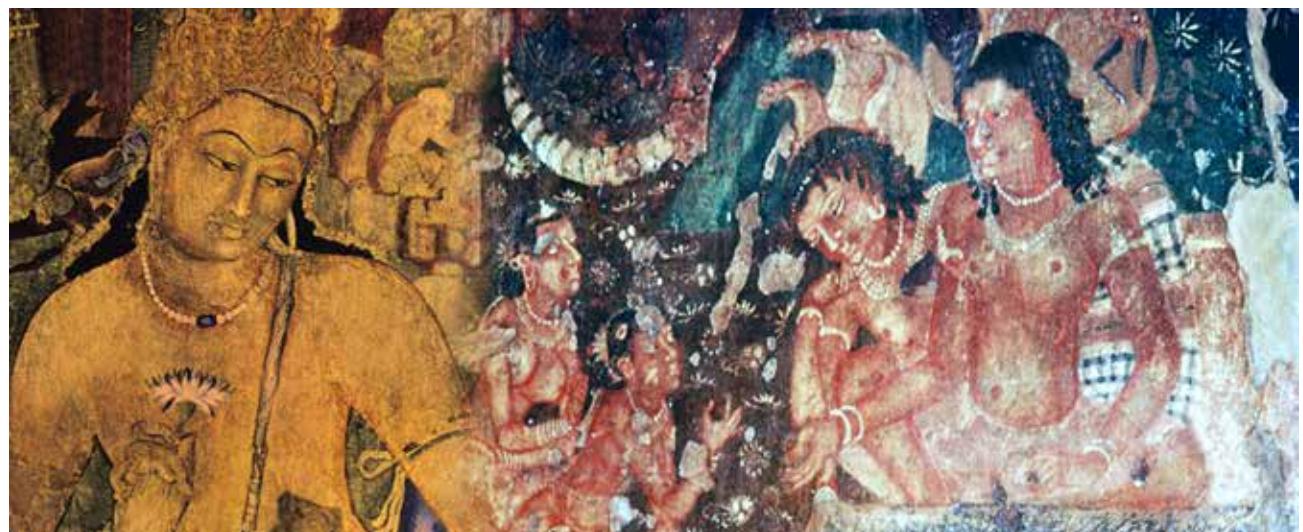
The Yadavas (10th century to 13th century CE) were the next rulers in the state. Their rule lasted for a long time over the parts of central and eastern Maharashtra. The Shilahara rulers were contemporary to them ruling in western and southern Maharashtra. This period marks the efflorescence of the temple building activity in Maharashtra. Impressive temples were constructed at many places like Hottal, Nilanga, Khidrapur, Gondeshwara, etc. Some forts like Devagiri, Panhala were also built during this period. Allauddin Khilji of the Delhi Sultanat defeated the Yadavas.

Muhammad bin Tughluq shifted his capital to Daulatabad (Devagiri) from Delhi for some time. After the decline of the Tughluqs, the Bahmani Sultanat started ruling over Maharashtra in the 14th century CE. The Faruqi ruled over the Khandesh region and the Gujrat Sultans ruled over Mumbai and surrounding regions in the 14th – 15th centuries CE. After the disintegration of the

Amongst several other things, Maharashtra is also the pioneer of women's rights and the Indian feminist movement. From the early 19th century onwards, the state saw a host of thinkers and reformers who campaigned against child marriage and Sati, while simultaneously upholding women's education and widow remarriage.

Bahamani Empire, the Nizamshahi and Adilshahi rule over different parts of the state. In the 17th century, CE Chhatrapati Shivaji established his independent rule in Maharashtra. He coronated himself as a sovereign ruler in 1674 CE. This local Maratha kingdom expanded into the Maratha Empire in the 18th and early 19th centuries CE until the Britishers took over it in 1819. Since then with the contribution of numerous freedom fighters, Maharashtra played a major role in the struggle for independence. On 1st May 1960, the separate Marathi-speaking state of Maharashtra was created on public demand. Since then the state has been leading on all fronts in the country.

Maharashtra comprises 35 districts, which are grouped into six divisions. The break-up of the six divisions are:

1. Amravati Division (Vidarbha) is sub divided into five districts. These are Amravati, Akola, Buldana, Yavatmal and Washim

2. Aurangabad Division (Marathwada) Aurangabad, Beed, Hingoli, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani

3. Konkan Division: Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, and Thane

4. Nashik Division: Ahmednagar, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, and Nashik

5. Nagpur Division: Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondiya, Nagpur and Wardha

6. Pune Division: Kolhapur, Pune, Sangli, Satara and Solapur.

The Western Ghats form the source of several major rivers of Maharashtra, notable among them being the Godavari and the Krishna. Along with their tributaries, the rivers flow eastwards into the Bay of Bengal, irrigating most of central and eastern Maharashtra. The Ghats are also the source of numerous small rivers, which flow westwards into the Arabian Sea.

The Sahyadri Range is the defining geographical feature of Maharashtra. Rising on an average to an elevation of 1000 m, it has Konkan on the west. Eastwards, the topography goes through a transitional area known as Malwa to the plateau level. The Konkan, lying between the Arabian Sea and the Sahyadri Range is narrow coastal lowland, barely 50 km wide. Though mostly below 200 m, it is far from being a plain country. Highly dissected and broken, the Konkan alternates between narrow valleys and low laterite plateaux.
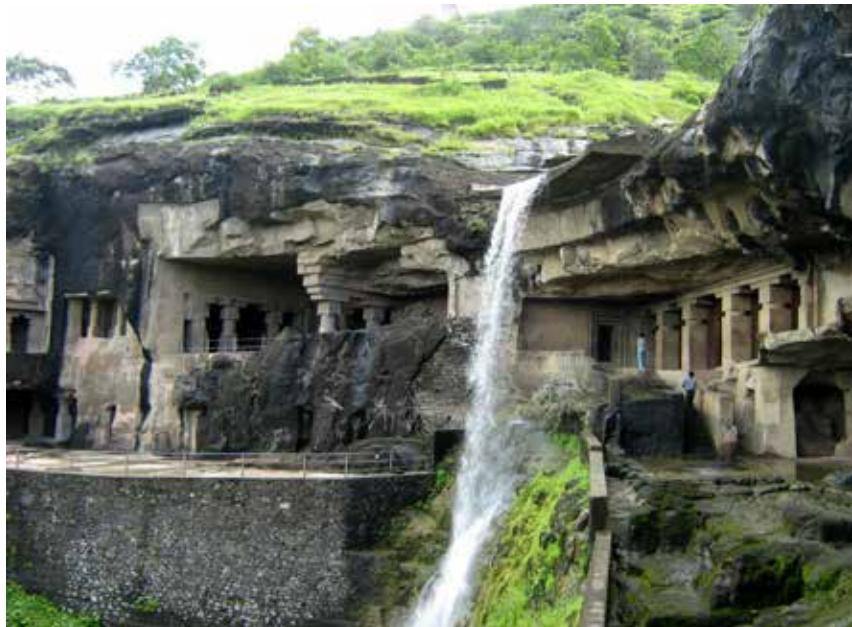
The Satpuras, hills along the northern border, and the Bhamragad-Chiroli-Gaikhuri Ranges on the eastern border form physical barriers preventing easy movement, and also act as natural limits to the state. This topography of the state is the outcome of its geological structure. The state area, barring the extreme eastern Vidarbha region, parts of Kolhapur and Sindhudurg, is practically coterminous with the Deccan Traps.

Natural Resources

Apart from mainly occurring rock Basalt; other rocks like- Laterites are found in the coastal humid and tropical region. Maharashtra is rich in ore deposits. Granite, Granite gneiss, Quartzite, Conglomerates are found in the basement regions of the Konkan rivers. Nanded is another region where pink Granites are found. Kamti of the Nagpur region is famous for coal. Water is the most unevenly distributed natural resource. Many villages lack drinking water, especially during the summer months, even in the wet Konkan. Barely 11% of the net sown area is irrigated. The granitic-gneissic terrain in the hilly eastern area of Vidarbha accounts for all tank irrigation. Tube-wells in the Tapi-Purna alluvium and shallow wells in the coastal sands are the other main sources of water. Special wells are being made by the Government for the villages lacking water. The Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Bhandara, and Nagpur Districts form the main mineral belt, with coal and manganese as the major minerals and iron ore and limestone as potential wealth.

The spirit of Maharashtra is cosmopolitan. While 80 percent of Maharashtrians follow Hinduism, the state has a treasure trove of heritage sites that bespeak its multi-hued heritage–including those from its Jain, Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian cultures. So be it the Ashtavinayak yatra in the Konkan belt–dedicated to eight beautiful facets of Lord Ganesha–or the Ajanta and Ellora caves near Aurangabad from the pre-Christian Buddhist Era, the Mother Mary Church at Mahim, or the Haji Ali mosque of Mumbai–there's enough to keep connoisseurs of temples, forts, old monuments, and art- gainfully preoccupied. Forts have played a vital role in the history of the state, given the rocky terrain of the Sahyadris and the need for strongholds against invading armies. Self-contained units with an economy and socio-political fabric all their own, the forts of Maharashtra were built mainly around the time of

Chhatrapati Shivaji. Each fort marks a military triumph, and each tells a story of strategy, warfare, intrigue, and planning—something of interest to all students of political science, defense strategies, and management. They all reconstruct the tale of an enterprising leader in the Deccan arena, who with fortitude, popular support, and vision went onto become one of the tallest kings of Indian history. Interwoven in folklore, along with the valour of Shivaji–the forts are a subject in themselves.

Over 70 percent of India's rock-cave art is in the state. Of all these, Ajanta and Ellora, in the vicinity of Aurangabad, are world-famous heritage sites and illustrate the degree of skill that Indian artisans had achieved several hundred years ago. Ajanta dates between the 2nd to first century BCE, while Ellora was excavated around 600 years later. All these have been carved out of solid rock with little more than a hammer and chisel and are an important repository of the essence of Buddhism. Meanwhile, The Elephanta Caves (of undated origin) are a network of sculpted caves on Elephanta Island, or Gharapuri in Mumbai Harbour, 10 kilometers to the east of Mumbai, and a tribute to the legend of Lord Shiva.

The Bhakti movement—a medieval movement spread all over the country between the 13th and 17th centuries- that emphasised the true nature of God–as a democratic and loving entity who valued simplicity and heart-felt devotion over ritual and superstition, found resonance in the soil of Maharashtra as well. The roll-call of honour includes saint poets like Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Tukaram, and Chokhamela, apart from several saints who have contributed richly to music, art, and literature. The Warkari movement that every year in June-July sees a plethora of farmers and myriad believers in Vitthoba (an avatar of Lord Vishnu) converge to Pandharpur in an annual pilgrimage,

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which begins with accompanying the palkhis of the late saints from their place of Samadhi/enlightenment. The Warkaris reach Pandharpur on the auspicious day of Ashadhi Ekadashi, chanting the name of God—and the saints. Propagating the values of non-violence, charity, austerity, and vegetarianism, the Warkaris is an enduring symbol of tolerance in a chaotic world—even today. Several tourists from the world over participate in the pilgrimage and come away, moved beyond words with the sheer force of conviction that unites men across all barriers.

The women of Maharashtra patronise the nine-yard saree as opposed to the six-yard version prevalent in the rest of the country. Musical forms like Powada, a song praising the valour of a great ruler, and graceful dance forms like Lavani are something to be experienced in the various theatres and cultural festivals of the state. The fisherman aka Koli dance form is a nod to the contribution of the fisher-folk of the state.

Amongst several other things, Maharashtra is also the pioneer of women's rights and the Indian feminist movement. From the early 19th century onwards, the state saw a host of thinkers and reformers who campaigned against child marriage and Sati, while simultaneously upholding women's education and widow remarriage. Prominent names include the late Justice MG Ranade, his wife Ramabai Ranade, Savitribai Phule, and Pandita Ramabai. As early as the 1930s cities like Pune (also known as a prominent educational hub and Oxford of the East) saw women cycling to school and college, apart from running errands. Cities like Pune and Mumbai are home to several active women's rights groups across party lines, advocating equal opportunity and fair treatment. It is little wonder that India's first female doctor aka the Late Anandi Bai Joshi comes from the state. Warrior queens like Ahilyabai Holkar and Rani Lakshmibai are a reminder of how much Maharashtra has done for the upliftment of women. The year 1885 saw the establishment of the Indian National Congress in Bombay under the general secretaryship of AO Hume, with delegates from across the country in attendance. It also saw the establishment of the first Indian newspaper Darpan. The values of free and fair journalism, apart from the tradition of value-based Diwali anks (publications that come out in the festival of Diwali) that take up several socially relevant topics, tell of the educated, thinking, and well-read middle class. Mumbai—the capital of Maharashtra, is seen as India's financial capital, but is literally the Gateway of India-secular, progressive yet rooted. It is also home to the largest film industry in the world, an industry whose turnover is more than that of the GDP of several small nations. An industry that sees thousands thronging to the city every year, hoping to make it big. ❑

Source: www.maharashtratourism.gov.in

One Nation-One Election

K F Wilfred

Simultaneous elections reduce labour, time, and expenditure in the conduct of elections and instances of pause in governance are addressed if elections are conducted in one go instead of staggered elections. Bringing the terms of all the Houses to sync with one another necessarily calls for either extending the terms of several of the Houses or curtailing of terms or a combination of both, that too by two to three years in some cases. For enabling such curtailing or extension of the term, the relevant Articles of the Constitution will have to be suitably amended.

Speaking in the Constituent Assembly on the proposed Articles on Elections and Election Commission in the Constitution of India in the making then, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar mentioned that the Drafting Committee had two alternatives before it on the constitution of Election Commission- whether it should be a permanent body or if it could be a temporary body to be set up before elections and wound upon completion of the process. Proposal on the possibility of part-time Election Commission was driven by the assumption that elections were expected only once in five years except for the odd bye-elections to fill casual vacancies that might arise once in a while, and leave a permanent Commission with no work in the intervening four years. But the Committee anticipated the possibility of mid-term dissolution of Legislative Assemblies. It recognised that it was necessary to be in a state of readiness to conduct fresh elections promptly in such situations for which a permanent Commission was necessary. Participating in the debate, Prof. Shibaan Lal Saksena observed that since no fixed term for the Houses of Legislature or fixed election cycle was proposed in the Constitution, concurrent elections could happen in the initial years. Still later on there would be elections regularly in some State or the other.

As predicted by Prof. Saksena, we had concurrent elections for the first two decades. We had the first general elections of free India conducted for about six months, starting from October 1951 held simultaneously to the

Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the States as constituted then. The next three cycles of elections also witnessed concurrent Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections barring a few stray cases like Kerala where a mid-term election was held in 1960 on the pre-mature dissolution of the Assembly, and in Nagaland and Pondicherry where the Legislative Assembly was created only after the 1962 general elections. The last occasion when we had near-simultaneous elections in the country was in 1967, all Legislative Assemblies except those of

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Nagaland and Pondicherry going to polls with the Lok Sabha. The fourth Lok Sabha constituted in 1967 was dissolved prematurely in 1971 ahead of its normal term resulting in a mid-term Lok Sabha election. This was the beginning of the end of simultaneous elections. Extension of the term of Lok Sabha during the National Emergency declared in 1975 and the dissolution of Assemblies of some States after the 1977 Lok Sabha election further disturbed the cycle of concurrent elections. After the two pre-mature dissolutions of the Lok Sabha in 1998 and 1999, only four State Assemblies have been going to polls along with the Lok Sabha elections in the last two decades. The other States have Assembly elections at different times, and we now have at least two rounds of Assembly general elections every year.

Elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are held together if the terms of the Houses are ending around the same time. Sections 14 and 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, empower the Election Commission to notify elections any time during the last six months of the term of the House and not earlier than that. A lead time of twenty-five days from the date of notification is a statutorily required minimum period before a poll can be taken. The election schedule is announced a few days before the election notification as an advance notice to the stakeholders. Therefore, if the terms of the Houses are expiring within a window of three to four months, it would be legally possible to hold elections simultaneously to constitute the new Houses. In other words, to contemplate simultaneous elections, we need, as a starting point, a situation where the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of all States and Union Territories have their terms ending together.

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Synchronising the Terms of the Houses

Both the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies (ordinarily) have a term of five years. Clause (2) of Article 83 of the Constitution provides that "*the House of the People, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as dissolution of the House.*" There are identical provisions in Article 172(1) regarding the term of the Legislative Assemblies. While these

Houses can be dissolved ahead of the scheduled expiry of the term of five years [Articles 85(2)(b) and 174(2)(b)], there is no provision for extension of the term unless a proclamation of Emergency is in operation.

Bringing the terms of all the Houses to sync with one another necessarily calls for either extending the terms of several of the Houses or curtailing of terms or a combination of both, that too by two to three years in some cases. For enabling such curtailing or extension of the term, the relevant Articles of the Constitution mentioned above will have to be suitably amended.

Even if the terms are synchronised as a one-time measure, we will still need an adequate legal safeguarding place to avoid mid-term dissolution and protect the simultaneous elections cycle. For maintaining the electoral cycle, some countries have legal provisions to the effect that for a 'no-confidence motion' to be brought up against the government in office, the proposed resolution should also contain a constructive 'vote of confidence' in an alternative government with a named leader to head it. In such cases, even if the sitting government is voted out in the House, there would be an acceptable alternative in place by virtue of the constructive vote of confidence. This helps to maintain the fixed term of the House and pre-empts stalemate situation thrusting fresh election as the only option.

Why Simultaneous Elections?

Two seemingly relevant factors in favour of simultaneous elections as opposed to separate elections are:

i.   Simultaneous elections reduce labour, time and expenditure in the conduct of elections; and

ii. Instances of pause in governance are addressed if elections are conducted in one go instead of staggered elections.

Expenditure Issue- Areas of Saving

Polling stations for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections are the same. So is the electoral roll. Electoral rolls of all Assembly constituencies within a Parliamentary Constituency become the roll for that Parliamentary Constituency. There is no duplication of work in preparing the electoral rolls for the two elections and hence no extra labour or expenditure is involved on this count.

However, in the conduct of elections, all logistic arrangements are replicated for the two elections when the same drill can cater to both the elections if held together. A polling team headed by a Presiding Officer is appointed for each polling station for taking the poll. These officials are primarily government/PSU officials and teachers. The same polling team with perhaps a couple of additional officials can handle the poll in a combined election to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly. This would mean saving on transport, accommodation, storage arrangements, training, remuneration, and so on. This will also mean saving in terms of human resources. Another area of saving in simultaneous elections would be in the deployment of the Central Police Force. Two separate elections would require movement and deployment of Forces on two occasions while one such exercise of almost the same scale can do the job in concurrent elections.

Additional Expenditure for Simultaneous Elections

One aspect that could offset the savings would be the doubling of expenses on electronic voting machines (EVMs). The EVM now has three unit-control units, a balloting unit, and the voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) printer. The recommended life of EVM is fifteen years. One set of EVMs is used in a polling station for one election. Since the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are not held together except in a few States, the same EVMs are utilised for both the elections. Using the same EVM repeatedly for different elections does not involve any extra expenditure or labour. For conducting the elections simultaneously, each polling station needs two EVMs- one for the Lok Sabha election and the other for the Assembly election. This would mean that for a

simultaneous nationwide election, the requirement of EVMs in terms of numbers would be double compared to separate elections.

At present we have well over one million polling stations in the country. This figure can go up with an increase in the number of electors. Every polling station is supplied with a control unit and VVPAT printer and one or more balloting units (depending on the number of candidates in the constituency since one unit can handle up to sixteen names only). The Election Commission, as a policy, keeps a certain percentage of these units as a reserve for replacement in the event of functional problems in any polling station. The tentative price fixed for one set of the control unit and balloting unit is Rs. 17,000 and VVPAT costs over Rs. 16,000. At the rate of one per polling station, the additional expenditure for procuring EVMs for the one million-plus polling stations along with the reserve EVMs would be well over Rs. 4,000 crores. Considering that the incidental recurring expense in the storage and security of these machines will also be a considerable amount, the overall expenditure in holding elections may not see any substantial dip on account of simultaneous elections.

However, simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections can bring considerable savings in their election propaganda campaign expenditure for the political parties. Political parties engage in extensive campaign activities, especially in general elections. They employ multiple methods to reach out to the electors, through public rallies, roadshows, smaller roadside meetings, advertisements on print and electronic media and other platforms, personal contact, and in several other ways. In a simultaneous election, such outreach programs will serve for both the elections. Public rallies involving top leaders and media advertisements are both expensive affairs. Simultaneous elections could, thus, bring down the campaign expense of political parties by a long way.

Model Code of Conduct- Impact on Governance

Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of behaviour guidelines for candidates and political parties that comes into operation from the date election is announced by Election Commission. A crucial part of the MCC is the restrictions on the party in power. MCC prohibits using official resources for electoral activities, announcing financial grants, new schemes, etc. that may influence the voters in favour of the ruling party. This is a check on the ruling party against using its position of power to woo the electors on the eve of elections and to provide a level

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playing turf to all stakeholders. The restriction is only in coming up with new schemes during the limited period when MCC is in force. The schemes, programs, and work already in progress are not affected. If all elections are held together, the restrictions under MCC will be through in one go.

In the Lok Sabha election, the MCC applies to both the Union and State Governments. In the Legislative Assembly election, the Code, logically, applies to the outgoing State Government. The restriction on the Union Government is only concerning new schemes specific to the State(s) going to polls. In bye-elections, the application of MCC is restricted to the District concerned. Thus, the impact on governance on account of the enforcement of MCC during elections is minimal.

Local Bodies' Elections

The local bodies' elections have not been considered for the analysis here. Those elections are conducted under the superintendence, direction, and control of a different constitutional authority, namely, the respective State Election Commission. Holding local bodies' elections along with the other elections will require the team of the same polling officials to report to and take instructions from two different authorities simultaneously, even on the same issue, and they may not necessarily get the same direction in all cases. There is a distinct set of polling stations too for local bodies' elections. Further, the judicial forum before which the local bodies' election can be challenged is the Court of District Judge and other lower Courts whereas an election petition challenging a Parliamentary or Assembly election is to be brought up before the High Court. Therefore, situations may arise where the same issue forms a ground to challenge the election may be raised in two different Courts-one for the Lok Sabha/Assembly election and the other for the local bodies' election.

A simultaneous nationwide election could push up the voter turnout since a once-in-five-year event is bound to attract more enthusiastic participation across all sections. Frequent elections can bring in the election-fatigue factor at least among some sections of electors. Simultaneous elections in a regular electoral cycle may help address the fatigue element and the usually observed urban apathy in voting. Better electors' participation will further add to the credibility of the elections. The idea of concurrent elections has been discussed in the past. The need/feasibility of the idea, the merits, and demerits associated with it are all likely to be a subject of further scrutiny and analysis at different levels in the future. ❑

Fiscal Federalism in Covid-19

Dr Sajjan S Yadav
Suraj K Pradhan

The world is fighting an unprecedented war. The war against a new and a deadly foe, a highly infectious virus named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). This pathogen which causes Covid-19 disease has created the biggest health crisis of this century, upended life globally, wreaked havoc on economies, devastated families, and caused death and debility. The Government of India responded in the true spirit of "Fiscal Federalism." Through a slew of measures, the Centre made sufficient resources available to the States to fight the contagion, spur economic activity and maintain the standards of public service delivery.

The catastrophe began in Wuhan, China in November 2019 and spread rapidly around the world. It was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The pathogen has caused casualties of unprecedented magnitude. By April 8, 2021, the global number of confirmed cases had gone up to 13,24,85,386 including 28,75,672 deaths.

The Government, led by the Prime Minister, has adopted the mantra of "Cooperative Federalism", and has fought an exemplary battle against Covid-19. The Centre and the States have acted in unison to limit the human and economic impact of the pandemic.

In the initial stages, the lockdown and social distancing measures to check the spread of the contagion had led to a near halt in economic activities. Revenues suffered massively while the expenditure obligations soared. The States needed fiscal support for their liquidity needs. The Government of India responded in the true spirit of "Fiscal Federalism." Through a slew of measures, the Centre made sufficient resources available to the States to fight the contagion, spur economic activity and maintain the standards of public service delivery:

Enhancement of Borrowing Limit of States

Borrowings constitute an important source of funding for the State Governments to meet their Fiscal Deficit. In India, borrowing by States is governed by the provisions of Article 293 of the Constitution of India.

To maintain fiscal prudence, the Union Government permitted the State Governments to borrow within the Net Borrowing Ceiling of 3% of their GSDP in a financial year.

However, to help ease stress in State finances on account of the plunge in their revenue receipts, avoid a severe cutback in capital expenditure, and prevent a contractionary fiscal impulse, the Government of India on May 17, 2020, enhanced the borrowing limit of States for fiscal 2020-21 by 2% of GSDP. This provided extra headroom of Rs. 4.28 lakh crore to States.

Half of the additional borrowing facility was unconditional while the remaining was linked to specified, measurable and feasible reform actions. Four citizen-centric areas- "One Nation One Ration Card", ease of doing business, power sector and urban local bodies were identified for reforms. Borrowing permission of 0.25% of GSDP was linked to the completion of reforms in each area.

Ways and Means Advances

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to the States banking with it to help them tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments. RBI has fixed the WMA limit of each State based on multiple factors including total expenditure, revenue deficit and fiscal position of the State. Interest on WMA is charged at the RBI's repo rate.

States are also allowed an overdraft facility, which is the amount drawn over the WMA limit. Overdraft attracts a higher rate of interest.

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Until March 31, 2020, the aggregate WMA limit of the States was Rs. 32,225 crore. On the request of the Centre and the States, RBI on April 7, 2020 increased the WMA limit of States by 60%. This made available an additional amount of Rs. 19,335 crore to the States. The enhanced limit was initially valid untill September 30, 2020 and was later extended till March 31, 2021. RBI also extended the period for which a State can be in overdraft from 14 to 21 consecutive working days, and from 36 to 50 working days during a quarter.

Increased WMA limit gave immediate liquidity to States to borrow short-term funds from RBI at a lower rate of interest. It provided them greater comfort to undertake Covid-19 containment and mitigation efforts. The policy intervention also enabled the States to space out their market borrowings.

Notified Disaster Declaration & Relaxation of SDRF Norms

The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. This is the primary fund available to State Governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for the general category, and 90% for the north-eastern and hill States.

In view of the spread of Covid-19, the Government of India treated Covid-19 as a notified disaster. State governments could spend SDRF on quarantine related measures, procurement of essential equipment, providing temporary accommodation, food, clothing and medical care for people affected and sheltered in quarantine camps, and for cluster containment operations. Initially, the expenditure on this account was limited to 25% of SDRF allocation for the year which was later enhanced to 50%.

Moreover, the first instalment of the central share of SDRF was released in advance for the year 2020-21 to all States. Under SDRF, States were provided with an amount of Rs. 11,092 crore in 2020-21.

Financial Assistance to States

To soften the blow to their balance sheets on account of the fiscal impacts of Covid-19, the States applied brakes on capital expenditure. However, capital expenditure has a higher multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher economic growth rate.

Therefore, despite the adverse financial position of the Central Government, the Finance Minister announced the Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure in October 2020 with an amount of Rs. 12,000 crore for the scheme. Part of the allocation was set aside for States who carry out reforms in at least three out of the four citizen-centric areas identified by the Ministry of Finance.

The Department of Expenditure approved capital expenditure proposals of Rs. 11,912 crore of 27 States under the scheme. An amount of Rs. 11,830 crore was transferred to the States. Eleven States also qualified for enhanced allocation under part-III of the scheme.

Special Window for Borrowings

The subsumption of local taxes in GST and the resultant fear of revenue loss led to the enactment of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017. It was agreed that revenue shortfalls arising because of GST implementation would be made good for an initial period of five years from the GST Compensation Fund. This corpus was to be generated through a levy of cess on selected items.

Due to the economic slowdown, a shortfall of Rs. 1.10 lakh crore was estimated in the GST Compensation fund in 2020-21. On request of the States, the Central Government decided to set up a special window to borrow the estimated amount of shortfall on behalf of the States and passed it to them as a back-to-back loan to be repaid from future accruals in the Compensation Fund.

Maintaining Tax Devolution to States

The Finance Commission constituted under article 280 of the Constitution of India recommends the percentage of the net proceeds of tax or duty to be distributed among States and how such tax or duty would be distributed. 14th Finance Commission had recommended the biggest ever increase in vertical tax devolution in the Central divisible pool from 32% to 42%. After considering Jammu and Kashmir's reorganisation into Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the 15th Finance Commission recommended 41% tax devolution.

The first quarter of 2020-21, witnessed a sharp decline in Union's gross tax revenue collection. However, during this period, despite the decline, the Union government continued to devolve taxes to the States on the basis of budget estimates for the year 2020-21. Moreover, when revenue buoyancy was observed in the last quarter of the

Table 1: Additional resources made available to States

(Rs. in Crore)

State	Additional borrowing (upto 2% of GSDP)		Additional Ways & Means Advance	GST compensation shortfall funds	Amount for Covid-19 related activities from SDRF	Scheme for Capital Expenditure	Total
	Untied (1%)	Reform linked (1%)					
Andhra Pradesh	10,102	9,090	906	2,311	560	688	23,657
Arunachal Pradesh	286	113	117	0	125	233	874
Assam	3,738	1,680	564	994	386	450	7,812
Bihar	6,462	1,292	852	3,905	708	843	14,062
Chhattisgarh	3,584	1,790	396	3,109	216	286	9,381
Goa	892	846	102	840	6	98	2,784
Gujarat	17,408	8,704	1,149	9,222	662	285	37,430
Haryana	8,586	4,292	549	4,352	246	91	18,116
Himachal Pradesh	1,754	1,138	330	1,717	205	533	5,677
Jharkhand	3,530	0	432	1,689	284	277	6,212
Karnataka	18,036	9,919	1,191	12,407	396	305	42,254
Kerala	9,044	9,043	729	5,766	157	82	24,821
Madhya Pradesh	9,492	8,542	960	4,542	910	1,320	25,766
Maharashtra	30,788	0	2,031	11,977	1,611	514	46,921
Manipur	302	195	117	0	21	317	952
Meghalaya	388	154	105	112	33	200	992
Mizoram	264	0	96	0	24	200	584
Nagaland	314	0	123	0	21	200	658
Odisha	5,716	4,000	591	3,822	802	472	15,403
Punjab	6,066	4,851	555	8,359	287	296	20,414
Rajasthan	10,924	10,377	978	4,604	741	1002	28,626
Sikkim	312	61	0	0	25	200	598
Tamil Nadu	19,254	9,626	1,485	6,241	510	0	37,116
Telangana	10,034	7,524	648	2,380	225	358	21,169
Tripura	594	533	153	226	34	300	1,840
Uttar Pradesh	19,406	9,702	2,130	6,007	967	976	39,188
Uttarakhand	2,810	2,807	303	2,316	469	675	9,380
West Bengal	13,574	0	1,137	4,431	506	630	20,278
Total	**213,660**	**106,279**	**18,729**	**101,329**	**11,137**	**11,831**	**4,62,965**

financial year, the Centre devolved an additional amount of Rs. 45,000 crore to the States in the true spirit of fiscal federalism.

Thus, during the financial year 2020-21, despite dwindling resources due to the pandemic, the Centre empowered the States fiscally to fight the pandemic and stimulate economic recovery. Details of additional resources provided by the Ministry of Finance to States in 2020-21 is given in Table-1.

With the Prime Minister leading from the front, India's epic fight against the Covid-19 pandemic has received immense appreciation globally. Besides taking care of our people, the country has provided critical medicines, vaccines, diagnostic kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment to over 150 countries.

The fight against the virus is being successfully carried out with the remarkably coordinated efforts of the Centre and the States. In this collective fight, the country has exhibited a new vigour in cooperative federalism and devolved governance.   ❑

Challenges of Skill Development

Juthika Patankar
Dr Maneesh Mishra

Skill development in India is still largely the preserve of the Central Government with states also increasing budgetary allocation for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) lately. In most skill development schemes, planning, and monitoring are handled by the Centre, and state governments and districts have virtually no role. This had to change if we were to ensure people's participation and empowerment to fulfill their aspirations for livelihoods and better economic opportunities.

Over 700 District Skill Committees (DSC) set up across most states over the last decade have a long way to go before they start effectively performing their role in planning, execution, and monitoring of skill training schemes. Capacity-building of DSC is imperative if we want true decentralisation and expect the DSC to control the management of skill development at the district level to ensure optimum resource utilisation, fulfillment of local aspirations, and inclusion of all marginalised sections of society.

To understand the capacity-building needs of the DSC let's begin by looking at the functions of DSC in the decentralised skill management regime. These include planning for skill training by looking at among other things demand and supply, the socio-economic profile, and availability of skill infrastructure at the district level. Further, DSC should make resources available for various activities such as identifying trainees, mobilisation, counseling, advocacy, etc. Monitoring and evaluating what's

going well and what's not to make course corrections is important to achieve outcomes.

DSC is composed of all the significant district development departmental officers. They have, by their departmental programmes, a thorough understanding of the economic profile and potential of the district, the nature of its labour force, and the administrative systems

in place that could bring about a fruitful arrangement of skill training across trades and communities and population to create employability. The DSC headed by the District Collector is theoretically the fittest entity to undertake comprehensive skill development through proper planning for the district. And to equip and empower the DSC to do so, we need to build up its capacity to understand, plan and deliver.

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Capacity-building architecture for the DSCs should focus upon i) creating and managing knowledge ii) customising and localising content iii) disseminating knowledge through training iv) providing opportunities for guided practice v) evaluation with actionable feedback.

The noticeable lack of adequate and intensive engagement of the State Skill Missions with short-term skill training or SANKALP and consequently, the need to buttress district skill planning has meant that the States/districts might not utilise optimally the presence of the Fellows in the DSC.

SANKALP's numerous inter-actions with the DSCs threw up the need for them to have a standard format for planning and monitoring skill training activities. This would aid DSC in preparing of evidence-based plans, with the flexibility to ensure that the plans are rooted in the reality of the individual districts. Accordingly, SANKALP prepared a DSC toolkit complete with templates for planning and monitoring of skill activities, a knowledge library with useful information for managing skill training. The flagship skill training scheme of the MSDE, PMKVY, has a prominent role in DSC. In proving effective in the implementing of PMKVY as in every other task, the Sub-Committees and the toolkit would both play a major role.

In addition to these steps, we need to institutionalise this process of knowledge creation and dissemination by the DSC to equip DSC members with the ability to use their experience and knowledge for impact-making skill management.

However, the success of the training would depend upon the full understanding and co-operation of state departments to permit their district officers not only to undergo the course but also actively encourage them to do so in the interest of better quality output for all. The task was not impossible but the difficulty arose because of the absence of adequate two-way communication and dialogue between all the official stakeholders.

A possible way out would be if the states and districts fully understand the purpose of such proposed capacity-building and actively seek to promote it. They could do so by

> The DSC headed by the District Collector is theoretically the fittest entity to undertake comprehensively the task of skill development through proper planning for the district. And to equip and empower the DSC to do so, we need to build up its capacity to understand, plan and deliver.

allowing DSC members to be deputed for training. The state could also consider providing incentives to the trained officers by allowing them next postings of their choice, by seconding or extending them in deputation posts in related departments of their choice, by sponsoring them for at least one higher training course in a nationally eminent institution or other similar ways.

The State Administrative Training Institutes (ATI) were approached for designing and delivering skill management and leadership training modules to DSC members. The advantages of roping in the ATIs were many: district officials could be deputed there for shorter-duration courses as this was fairly standard practice; it would solve the language issue as the ATIs catered to state officials in their language; the SANKALP objective of strengthening of institutions could be met because SANKALP financial resources could be correctly and usefully put into aiding content/manpower in ATIs and last but not least procurement would present no difficulty as ATIs are government institutions. Using the ATIs seemed like a win-win for all stakeholders.

Although deploying the ATIs is an attractive and commendable proposition but it does not however fully address the fundamental issue of how to secure the total and active engagement of the district-level and to some extent state-level officials in the exercise of capacity-building. We need to elicit from state to state, district to district what they feel are their areas of weakness, gaps in understanding and what exactly they need to metamorphose into dynamic empowered active DSCs. Capacity-building as an aid to meaningful decentralisation cannot be handed down prescriptively from the Ministry to the Skill Missions in States and DSCs. It has to evolve hand-in-hand with the process of decentralisation so that syllabus,

pedagogy, medium, methodology, practical learning can all take shape based on the inputs from all districts, stemming from needs identified by them. This should combine with the concepts evolved in the Ministry with the help of specialist institutions and trainers so that true empowerment and dissemination of ideas can happen. There is a scope of entities both private and public to play in this. There are many institutions in the country with expertise in capacity building and they can contribute. There is, for example, a role for institutions interested in public policy research, particularly about local-level planning that may take it up and generate scholarship in skill management. This knowledge then can be disseminated by institutions such as ATIs and guide practice. The documentation and study of practice shall generate a virtuous cycle. DSCs over time can develop capacities themselves to produce credible data around skill and skill management that institutions involved in skill training, Sector skill councils, and employers can use. Training strategies made with help of data generated grounds up may reduce the multiple layers of mismatch thus improving outcomes of skill training.

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Having established the need for capacity-building, a brief discussion on the content of capacity building is also needed. Consider the following examples which illustrate some facets of what could be the content in capacity-building.

Leveraging skill training to bring about socio-economic development sounds like a grand plan but it is perfectly comprehensible and achievable through decentralisation of skills management. Traditionally, skills in India, have been and continue to be, caste-specific. Skills that have been non-remunerative and not perceived as upmarket, are often unfortunately the exclusive preserve of the poorer sections and the deemed lower. The most obvious example is that of scavengers or 'Safai karmacharis' How can one break the stranglehold of the demeaning nature of these professions? How does one make scavenging, rag-picking, or waste disposal 'aspirational', monetarily rewarding, entrepreneurial, and imbued with career opportunities for growth? The answer lies in mechanisation of the work. We have to ensure the imparting of skill-training using machines for hazardous and socially demeaning work which would render the tasks safe, hygienic and endow them with a modicum of human dignity. Mechanisation would change the nature of work, it would change the scope and content of previously defined job roles. It would introduce different supervisory levels. The changed nature of the work and the opening up of career pathways would attract persons from other castes, raise the work profile of the existing castes and enable their migration into related or more diverse trades. This would strike a blow at the very root of the entrenched caste evil

in society and lead to the creation of a more equitable and just social system. But for all this to happen it is not merely skill training on machines but the whole planning and management of skill training over delineated geographical and administrative units viz. districts which would make sustained mechanisation a reality and allow for identification of persons, opportunities, and their access to different trades. Safai work is an obvious and universal example but there are several lesser non-remunerative and often stagnant trades in which skill training needs to be re-invented and planned. District-level skill planners must learn about the potential of leveraging skill development for social justice and economic growth.

Another important area in which capacity-building is needed is the ability and understanding of the planners to recognise the backward and forward linkages of district skill plans to integrate them with state-level and national-level planning and opportunities. Take the example of tourism - most districts jump to the conclusion that skill training in aspects of tourism at the district level would result in an inflow of tourists, revenues, and consequently jobs. Nothing could be further from the truth. Tourism and heritage conservation for public consumption are complex activities

that are far from remunerative or even complete if viewed from the narrow confines of the district alone. To provide opportunities in careers in tourism to aspiring local youth, the district planners would need to have the composite picture of national and state tourism maps/destinations/policy and derive from these the particular slot that their district could occupy in the larger picture. Local-level tourist attractions cannot by themselves be converted into money-making tourist destinations nor are the jobs available locally for transporters and guides if the training was confined to the potential of the district. To understand the extent and scope of trades and professions to dovetail neatly the district's place in the scheme of things, DSCs need training in skill management.

District skill planning also needs to have a thorough understanding of

To provide opportunities in careers in tourism to aspiring local youth, the district planners would need to have the composite picture of national and state tourism maps/ destinations/policy and derive from these the particular slot that their district could occupy in the larger picture.

the socio-economic profile of the district population, the skills history of local communities, and their changing or emerging aspirations. Decentralised district skill planning should be able to ensure that everyone's potential and aspirations are reflected and addressed through the micro-level study of district industry, economic activity, level of education, etc. General criticism of skill training administration is that it doesn't emphasise finding the fit between the opportunities and trainees' attitudes and aspirations. There are many professional agencies with sophisticated tools built using interest and attitude mapping vis-a-vis the occupational themes. To work with these agencies some understanding of psychology and psychometry is required. Not an expert level of understanding but just enough to demand the agencies to use tools to gauge the trainee interests and offer qualified advice on the choice of courses available. Likewise, district skill planners would have to learn to distinguish between trades that give livelihoods to people and trades which have a growth potential beyond the local at state, national or international levels where the nature of skill training would need to be expert and state-of-the-art.

The empowerment of DSC and their expanding role would necessitate financial resources and the means of raising them, whether they come from state budgetary allocations or innovative revenue-generation models developed by DSC themselves. This would mean the need for training in financial management. They are also now expected to interact with industry representatives such as local industry and trade chambers, sector skill councils, experts including professional consultants and MGN Fellows. Courses in self-development and interpersonal communication and other softer aspects will also help them be more effective. ❏

Challenges in Federalism and the Way Forward

Sameera Saurabh

A diverse and large country like India requires a proper balance between the six pillars of federalism: autonomy of states, national integration, centralisation, decentralisation nationalisation, and regionalisation. Extreme political centralisation or chaotic political decentralisation can both lead to the weakening of Indian federalism. The right balance would prevent the Union government from repressing state autonomy beyond a point while guarding the states against divergence that can threaten national unity. Controlling these extremes is a challenge, as federalism must reconcile the need for national unity on the one hand, and on the other, regional autonomy.

T he Indian Constitution laid down a political system which is federal in nature. There are two tiers of government: at the national level and the state level. However, the Indian Constitution has structurally made the Union government more powerful than the states—therefore the paradox of "centralised federalism."

During the Constituent Assembly debates, the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru cautioned that "it would be injurious to the interests of the country to provide for a weak central authority which would be incapable of ensuring peace, of coordinating vital matters of common concern and of speaking effectively for the whole country in the international sphere." Other prominent members of the assembly also demanded a stronger Union government necessary for India's survival and political stability, given its vast diversity based on religion, language, caste and ethnicity.

However, it is incorrect to conclude that India's constitutional structure is entirely tilted towards empowering the Union government

over the states. There are some highly crucial federal features in the Indian Constitution. Australian Constitutional expert K.C. Wheare once described the Constitution of India as "quasi-federal": "Indian Union is a unitary state with subsidiary federal features rather than a federal state with subsidiary unitary features." Quasi federalism may have its issues like the opportunity costs of decentralization, which materialize in terms of unexploited economies of scale; the emergence of spillover effects among jurisdictions, and the risk of cost-shifting exercises from one layer of the government to the other.

Federal Governance During Covid-19

India's response to the Covid-19 pandemic has shifted the balance of its federal structure. The pandemic has enabled the central government to implement far-reaching reforms traditionally considered the domain of states. This exercise by the central government indicates its willingness to use the levers of federal power to implement significant reforms.

India's Constitution lays out a detailed scheme for the separation of powers between the centre and the states, albeit with a unitary bias. The constitutionally mandated Finance Commission recommends the division of revenues between the centre and the states, with the centre traditionally retaining a significant majority of the pool. But the specific contours of this relationship have changed over time — for example, with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.

These changes have sometimes come as a function of the raw assertion of political power from the centre.

The most important moment for federalism in this phase is the revelation of the vital role of state governments on the ground level in managing the Covid-19 crisis in India. After initial challenges, the Union government ceded adequate space and autonomy to the states to strengthen their healthcare facilities, manage the localised lockdowns, and implement social security measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

At other times there has been broad agreement on the need for change.

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The initial stages of the Covid-19 response highlighted the unitary tilt in the Indian federal structure. The central government implemented a national lockdown using its powers under a central disaster management law. The Ministry of Home Affairs issued extensive guidelines to states for controlling the pandemic. This law empowers the central government to commandeer state and local authorities if necessary. State governments followed the Centre's orders even though they have independent powers under a more specific law, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. State governments requested the central government to continue its administration of the national lockdown during its initial phase. In doing so, states ceded considerable decision-making power and political capital to the central government.

Subsequent phases of the lockdown have seen their autonomy

restored, but Indian states now have less functional power than the centre. Since the national lockdown required shutting down almost all economic activity, State Government had a drastic reduction in revenue. Even before the lockdown, many states in India had already breached — or came close to breaching — their mandated fiscal deficit limits. The lockdown has further increased their financial dependence on the centre.

In May 2020, India's Finance Minister announced a series of reforms to facilitate India's post-lockdown economic recovery.

One such measure has been a conditional increase in the borrowing limit for states. The central government enhanced the borrowing limit of state governments from 3 percent to 5 percent of their gross state domestic product. But only the first 0.5 per cent of this increase is unconditional — a further 1 percent will be permitted only if the borrowing is linked to specific reforms such as debt sustainability, job creation, power sector reforms and urban development. A final 0.5 percent will be permitted only if states achieve key milestones in these areas.

Reforms in the agricultural sector may impact state autonomy but are necessary for growth and prosperity. Agriculture is a state matter in India, and states oppose even modest reforms suggested by the central government. The recent reforms changed the long-standing agricultural marketing system, which monopolised trade in agriculture within states and prevented the growth of a more efficient agricultural marketing system. Ordinances passed by the central

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government side-step the powers of states in this regard but the Centre has to consider the welfare of the entire country and its citizens in a long-term holistic view and not merely the interests of a single state.

While some states such as Punjab have voiced opposition to specific reform areas (agriculture), most states have not opposed these measures in any significant way. Both measures — the increase in borrowing limits and the agricultural reforms — are examples of the centre using their power to push much needed reforms .

It has also come about when India's ruling party is the country's dominant political party. It is noteworthy that some reforms, such as those in agriculture and labour markets, are dismantling policies established in an earlier era of political hegemony in the three decades following India's independence. It suggests that federal relations in India are a function of political forces more than structural constraints. State powers seem to increase relative to the centre in the absence of single-party dominance, and wane as single-party dominance, increases. In addition to its other effects, the pandemic may

have merged a new phase of federal relations, where states increasingly accept the reform priorities of the centre in a manner not seen in a generation.

While drafting or enacting any legislation for the entire country, the consultative process with the State Governments takes the central stage. However, in such diversity it is often very difficult to find a common platform to enact legislation which will find resonance with each state as many times certain problems and issues may be specific to a particular state and may not meet national consensus.

For example India is a member of the ILO : International Labour Organization and we have ratified several core Fundamental Conventions of the ILO like Equal Remuneration Convention , Worst Forms of Child Labour, Abolition of Forced Labour, Minimum Age Convention and others like Maritime Labour Convention etc but even before ratifying a convention which will have international obligations, our Central Government has to consult all the State Governments and ensure that its national legislations and national law is not in contravention to any of the provisions of the International Convention before ratifying. A vigorous consultative process with all State Governments usually occurs which includes workshops and conferences and several brainstorming sessions with all the stakeholders. Only when all the State governments agree to the proposed legislations or any possible amendments, can the Centre move forward its proposal for ratification.

Most times, seeking uniform consensus with all states in a proposed timeframe may become a challenge. While 34 States have notified rules under RERA, West Bengal has enacted its own legislation HIRA, which stands challenged before the Supreme Court.

In such instances, the political leaning of the State Government may also influence its policy making process if it is not on good terms with the Central Government in power. While drafting new legislation or trying to amend existing ones, the Central Government consults all State Governments and in today's age, draft legislations are shared online on websites for larger outreach and stakeholder consultations. For example, the Centre is drafting the Model Tenancy Act and has involved all State Governments and stakeholders in giving their views and suggestions.

The adoption of the market economy heralded a new era in which States came to occupy a strategic position in India's market led economy. The Centre has even gone to the extent of encouraging states to negotiate loans / FDI with overseas banks / institutions directly since the 1990s. With the Centre's grants in aid no longer being seen as the only source for financing their expenditure, States compete to attract FDI. And positively so, the Centre is not being seen as an obstacle but as a facilitator. Still, approval for FDIs are centralized with the DPIIT being the nodal Ministry at the centre for FDI approvals. In many cases, the DPIIT has to transfer the

proposal for FDI licensing to the other central Ministries in whose Rules of Business the subject matter of proposal may fall . In proposals where land border issues or security issues arise, the concurrence of other nodal ministries may also be sought.

Paradiplomacy by the States

Foreign economic policy is no longer a central preserve with the emergence of paradiplomacy by the States. Economic globalization has made it possible for the States to interact with respective investors in foreign countries in a de facto sense, if not in a de jure sense. Investment promotion activities abroad indicate this fact. Such initiatives have helped some states in their economic development and reduced their financial dependence on the Centre. The decision of the Gujarat Government in 2014 to set up international desks independently in USA, China, Japan for facilitating "INVEST IN VIBRANT GUJARAT" by overseas investors is perhaps the first attempt by any state to start overseas facilities to attract FDI directly.

However, such enterprise may also raise issues for the sovereignty or security of the country considering that India is largely surrounded by neighbours who are hostile and we face the challenge of reconciling the demands of opening up further in a globalised economy with related security concerns.

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The Centre, therefore, has a more responsible and complex role to perform. In granting license to an overseas entity, it has to examine the proposal from many angles. It is not limited solely to the business/ profit it may bring to the State coffers. Whereas, the complexity of examination may not be appreciated by the State Government and the Centre may be construed as taking too much time and not acting as per the wishes of the State Government.

Often, the State Governments may feel that the Centre is interfering with its jurisdiction where as the Centre has to adopt a larger view which will benefit most or all its citizens irrespective of the states' positions. Article 256 of the Constitution obligates the State government to exercise its executive power to ensure compliance with the laws made by Parliament and any existing laws which apply in that State. If the state government fails to do so, the executive power of the Union can give such directions to a State as the Government of India finds them necessary.

The President can impose President's Rule in the States which refuse to enforce the law against the Centre's directions under Article 356 or take cognisance of Article 365. This reading was well evident in S.R. Bommai v. Union of India positioned Indian federalism decisively.

Conclusion: The Way Forward

A diverse and large country like India requires a proper balance between the six pillars of federalism: autonomy of states, national integration, centralisation, decentralisation nationalisation, and regionalisation. Extreme political centralisation or chaotic political decentralisation can both lead to the weakening of Indian federalism. The right balance would prevent the Union government from repressing state autonomy beyond a point while guarding the states against divergence that can threaten national unity. Controlling these extremes is a challenge, as federalism must reconcile the need for national unity on the one hand, and on the other, regional autonomy. ❑

(The views expressed in the article are that of the author.)

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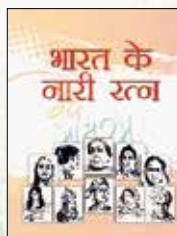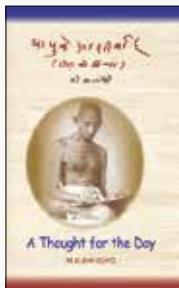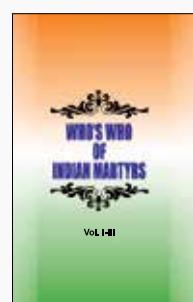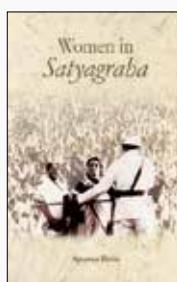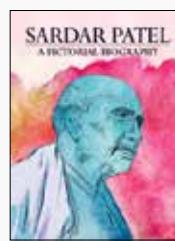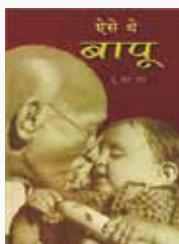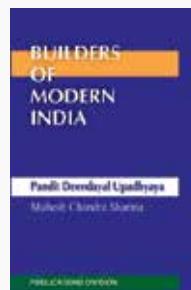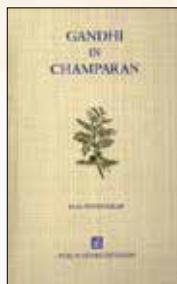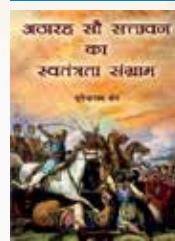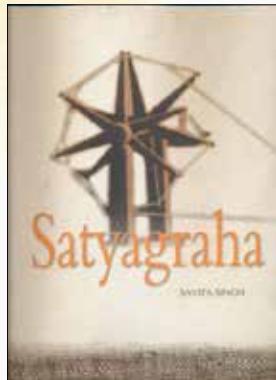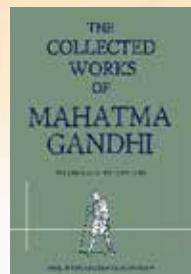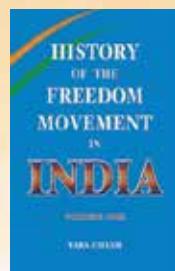
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Progress in Human Development since Independence

Naresh Gupta

Eradication of poverty has been a major objective of planned development in India. Poor quality of life, deprivation, malnutrition, illiteracy and low human resource development are characteristics associated with poverty. During the 1950s and 1960s, large investments in physical infrastructure were seen as the primary means of development. In fact, until the mid-1960s, the main thrust of development policies all over the world was to accelerate the growth process since the 'trickle down' mechanism was supposed to take care of distributional objectives.

Concept of Human Development

In 1990, the time had come for a broad approach to improving human well being that would cover all aspects of human life, for all people. The term "*human development*" is accepted in the development economics literature as an expansion of human capabilities, a widening of choices, an enhancement of freedom and the fulfilment of human rights.

Human Development Reports and Measurement

The initiation of the above approach marked the beginning of the annual series of Human Development Reports- the first Human Development Report of UNDP was published in 1990. In contrast to the GNP – the only other widely used indicator of a country's overall development – the Human Development Index (HDI) reflects the average achievements along three dimensions of human development: longevity, educational attainment and command over resources needed for a decent living.

However, the HDI does not reflect the deprivation or the distributional aspects of development, particularly inequality. Constructing composite indices to account for gender inequalities for the first time in 1995 took care of it. Second, in 1997, a composite index was proposed and constructed for measuring the multidimensionality of poverty. Third, these composite indices were disaggregated in terms of regions, provinces, gender, races, ethnic groups and the rural-urban divide[1].

A gender-related development index (GDI) and a gender empowerment measure (GEM) emerged in 1995. The GDI measures achievements in the same dimensions and variables as the HDI, but considers inequality in achievements between men and women. The GEM indicates whether women are able to actively take part in economic and political life. It focusses on participation, measuring gender inequality in key areas of economic and political participation and decision-making[2].

In 1997, a composite measure for multi-dimensional poverty, the **Human Poverty Index** (HPI) was introduced.

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There has been a change in the methodology of computation of HDI from 2010. The 2014 HDR introduced changes to minimum and maximum values (goalposts) which are now fixed rather than set at the observed values. The minimum and maximum levels for the dimension indicators are currently set as follows:

- Life expectancy: the minimum value is set at 20 years. The maximum value is fixed at 85 years.

- The minimum value for both education variables is set at 0. The maximum values for mean years and expected years of schooling are fixed at 15 and 18 years, respectively.

- GNI per capita (2011 PPP): the minimum value is $100. The maximum value is capped at $75,000.

India's Ranking in Human Development

Out of 189 countries, India ranks 131 on the Human Development Index 2020. With an HDI value of 0.645, the country fell in to the medium human development category. The UNDP in to its country report gave some statistics tracing India's journey in human development between 1990 and 2019. The report stated that since 1990, the HDI value of India has increased from 0.429 to 0.645, registering an increase of over 50%. During the same period, the life expectancy at birth in India rose by nearly 12 years, while the mean years of schooling witnessed an increase of 3.5 years. During this while, the expected years of schooling also rose by 4.5 years. Moreover, during this period, India's GNI per capita also increased, registering a rise of nearly 274%.

The UNDP compared India's value in the HDI with other countries in South Asia, viz, Bangladesh and Pakistan. As against India's rank at 131, Bangladesh ranked at the 133rd position, while Pakistan stood at 154th place. In the South Asian region, India's HDI is more than the region's average which stands at .641, while India is also above the average value of 0.631 among the medium HDI category countries.

In the UNDP's Human Development Report of 2017, Francine Pickup, Country Director (then), UNDP India, noted India's steady progress in improving its HDI value. "*The Government of India is committed to improve the quality of life for all its people. The success of India's national development schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat, Make in India, and initiatives aimed at universalizing school education and health care, will be crucial in ensuring that the upward trend on human development accelerates and also achieve the Prime Minister's vision of development for all and the key principle of the Sustainable Development Goals -- to leave no one behind.*"

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, 149 world leaders countries came

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[3]

Goal	Target
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education	3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and school education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015
4. Reduce child mortality	5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
5. Improve maternal health	6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
6. Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases	7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water 11. Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
8. Develop a global partnership for development	12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction-both nationally and internationally) 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries (includes tariff- and quota-free access for exports, enhanced programme of debt relief for and cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction) 14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and 22nd General Assembly provisions) 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term 16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work of youth 17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies

together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the **United Nations Millennium Declaration**. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the eight goals set by the 189 UN member states in September 2000 and agreed to be achieved by 2015. There are 8 goals, 18 targets, and 48 performance indicators. The following are the eight Millennium Development Goals:

1. to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger;

2. to achieve global primary education;

3. to empower women and promote gender equality;

4. to reduce child mortality;

5. to promote maternal health;

6. to fight malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases;

7. to promote environmental sustainability; and

8. to develop a universal partnership for development.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[3]

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals are

an inclusive agenda.

GOAL 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GOAL 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

GOAL 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

GOAL 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GOAL 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

GOAL 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

GOAL 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

GOAL 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

GOAL 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

GOAL 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GOAL 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GOAL 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

GOAL 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
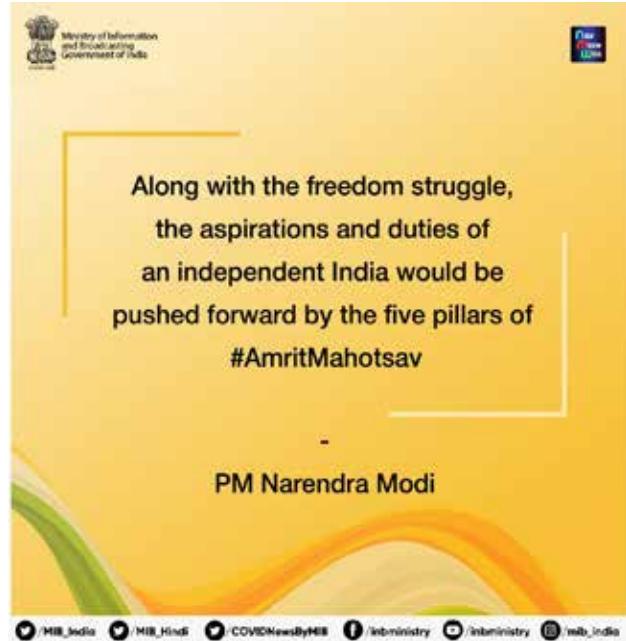
GOAL 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

GOAL 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Important Programme Initiatives/ Schemes launched in India having a bearing on MDGs

GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGA)
- PradhanMantriAwasYojana - Gramin
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural

Along with the freedom struggle, the aspirations and duties of an independent India would be pushed forward by the five pillars of #AmritMahotsav

- PM Narendra Modi

Livelihood Mission (DAY- NRLM)

- Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana
- The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY – NULM)
- National Food Security Mission
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- National Health Mission

GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- Mid Day Meal Scheme
- Early Childhood Care and education under ICDS

GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya Scheme
- Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education
- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
- Mahila Samakhya Programme
- Saakshar Bharat
- Kishori Shakti Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – SABLA

- Support to Training and Empowerment Programme
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

- National Health Mission
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram

GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

- National Health Mission
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Indira Gandhi Matritva SahyogYojana
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Yojana

GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- National AIDS Control Programme

TARGET 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

- National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme
- Urban Vector-Borne Diseases Scheme
- Revised National TB Control Programme

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- National Afforestation Programme
- National Mission for a Green India
- National CFC consumption phase-out plan
- National Rural Drinking Water Programme
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

[TARGET 18 : In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population

48 A. Internet subscribers per 100 population

48B. Personal computers per 100 population]

- National Knowledge Networks
- National E-Governance Plan
- State Wide Area Networks
- Digital India Programme

Bare Necessities Index

Availability of "bare necessities" such as housing, water, sanitation, electricity and clean cooking fuel, improved across all states in the country in 2018 compared to 2012, the Economic Survey for 2020-21 showed based on the first-ever BNI (bare necessities index), released on 28.01.2021as part of the Economic Survey. The BNI has been developed for rural, urban and all-India level using data from two NSO (rounds 69 and 76) on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing conditions. The index summarises 26 indicators on five dimensions — water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and other facilities (assessed using indicators like access to the type of kitchen, ventilation of the dwelling unit, access to a bathroom, electricity and type of fuel used for cooking). The survey reports that improved access to "the bare necessities" has led to improvements in health indicators and correlates with future improvements in education indicators.   ❑

Endnotes

1. From *Readings in Human Development: Concepts, Measures and Policies for a Development Paradigm*- Chapter *Evolution of the Human Development Index* by SelimJahan (page159)

2. Ibid

3. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html

Radio Frequency Spectrum Allocation

Dr Pratap C Mohanty
Dr Karun Rawat

In an era of cellular communication, the radio frequency spectrum is an important resource which fuels our daily activities related to connectivity as well as entertainment. Whether it is television, cell phone or internet services, all of them exploit the radio frequency spectrum, making it an important resource for revenue generation.

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to two economists–Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B.Wilson–who populated the auction theory, especially since the introduction of USA's spectrum auction in 1994. Both of them developed several innovative and valuable formats and designs. Among them, Simultaneous Multiple Round Auction (SMRA) has been very famous which is in part with Preston McAfee, for the 1994 U.S. Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) radio-spectrum auction. Other auction designs they developed are: Share Auctions, Combinatorial Clock Auctions, and Incentive Auctions. Prof. Roger B. Myerson in 2007 and Prof. Jean Tirole in 2014 received this coveted prize for their contribution to the theory of mechanism design, and regulation and competition policy respectively which used auction theory as a stepping stone.

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Following the exponential rise of demand for mobile communication in the early 1990s and the 1991 Laureate Ronald H. Coase's expositions of the 1950s, the broadcasting licenses to the firms have been made on a competitive price mechanism basis which has been most efficient. This led the FCC of the U.S. to take a decision on allocating auction in radio-spectrum licenses.

Auctions are broadly of two types: Single and multiple items auctions. Classical auctions are of four types: English auction, Clock or Dutch auction, First-price auction, Vickrey or Second-price auction. The modern form of auction extended to the private value models and ex-ante asymmetries. Vickrey also found the First-price auction to be inefficient with asymmetric bidders, as opposed to the Second price and English auctions, which are always efficient. These are due to the issues of revenue generation.

The multi-object auction applies in the case of homogenous or divisible objects like government debt and electricity and the heterogeneous or non-identical multiple objects such as radio frequencies or bus routes, which are of either complements or substitutes. These involve exceptionally large values, and governments face

> The multi-object auction applies in the case of homogenous or divisible objects like government debt and electricity and the heterogeneous or non-identical multiple objects such as radio frequencies or bus routes, which are of either complements or substitutes. These involve exceptionally large values, and governments face a challenging trade-off between raising revenue and allocating the spectrum efficiently.

a challenging trade-off between raising revenue and allocating the spectrum efficiently. This year's Nobel laureate contributes significantly to addressing the barriers to trading interrelated objects. Wilson (1979) works apply to the common-values model such as auctioning of shares.

Wilson, in 1969 took the crucial steps in developing a theory of auction using the Bayesian Nash equilibria in the mineral rights model as having interdependent values. In the extended model in 1967, he explained the role of information asymmetries in common-value auctions. Various other authors also applied the common-values model including Wilson (1977), Milgrom (1979, 1981), Engelbrecht-Wiggans et al. (1983) and Maskin and Riley (2000).

In spectrum auctions, bidders generally prefer combinations of complementary licenses which is more complex than substitute products. For example, phone-service providers often seek to cover large areas, and so they prefer licenses for adjacent geographical regions. Given the efficiency focus, the eventual solution is to use the Vickrey-Clarke-Groves (VCG) auction. This is applied in the private values framework and a generalisation of the Second-price auction. Early designs of the multi-

Deployment of Additional Spectrum Acquired in Networks of Telecom Service Providers

The bidding for spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, and 2300 MHz bands took place in March 2021. The e-auction was based on the Simultaneous Multiple Round Ascending Auction (SMRA) methodology. The total quantity of spectrum for which right to use has been acquired in these bands is 855.60 MHz. The participants did not bid in 700 MHz and 2500 MHz bands. Three bidders – Bharti Airtel Ltd, Vodafone Idea Ltd, and Reliance Jio InfocommLtd – participated in the auction.

Bidder-wise details of the quantity of spectrum acquired and amounts payable are as follows:

Bidder	Total quantity (MHz)	Total amount (Rs. crore)
Bharti Airtel Ltd	355.45	18,698.75
Vodafone Idea Ltd	11.80	1,993.40
Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd	488.35	57,122.65

A total quantity of 2308.80 MHz spectrum was put to auction, including spectrum that is expiring up to December 2021. Of this quantity, bids were received for 855.60MHz of spectrum. Excluding spectrum in 700MHz and 2500MHz bands, this is about 60% of the spectrum put to auction. In the 2016 spectrum auction, where there were 7 bidders, the spectrum sold was 41% by quantity and 12% by value of the total spectrum put to auction. The corresponding figures in the 2021 spectrum auction are 37% and 19% respectively, with 3 participants.

The quantity of spectrum put to auction and the spectrum acquired in different bands is as follows:

Band	Quantity put to auction (MHz)	Quantity acquired (MHz)	Percentage
700 MHz (paired)	660	0	0
800 MHz (paired)	230	150	65.22
900 MHz (paired)	98.80	38.40	38.87
1800 MHz (paired)	355	152.20	42.87
2100 MHz (paired)	175	15	8.57
2300 MHz (paired)	560	500	89.29
2500 MHz (paired)	230	0	0
Total	**2308.80**	**855.60**	**37.06**

Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) for the spectrum acquired in this auction will be payable at the rate of 3% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of the licensee, excluding revenue from wireline services. The auction is concluded and these provisional results are subject to scrutiny and approval by the Government.

With the deployment of additional spectrum acquired in this auction in the networks of Telecom Service Providers, the Quality of Service and customer experience of telecom consumers across the country are expected to improve.

The Union Cabinet had approved a proposal of the Department of Telecommunications to conduct spectrum auction through which spectrum will be assigned to the successful bidders for providing commercial mobile services. By winning the right to use spectrum through the auction, incumbent telecom service providers will be able to augment their network capacity whereas new players will be able to start their services.

In the auction, bidders have to comply with parameters/conditions e.g. block size in which bidders will be able to submit their bids, spectrum cap i.e. the maximum amount of spectrum that can be held by each bidder after the completion of the auction, roll-out obligations, payment terms, etc. In addition to the bid amount, successful bidders will also have to pay 3% of the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) excluding wireline services as spectrum usage charges for the spectrum won through this auction.

The spectrum auction is a transparent process of spectrum assignment to successful bidders. Sufficient spectrum availability increases the quality of telecom services for consumers. It is relevant that the Telecom Sector today is a key infrastructure provider with strong linkages with economic growth, direct and indirect employment generation, and expansion of Digital India.

object auction largely abstracted from these problems.

Another three multiple round auctions are also relevant so far as demand for radio frequencies is concerned. They are SMRA, also mentioned as Simultaneous Ascending Auction (SAA), Combinatorial Clock Auctions (CCA) and Incentive Auctions. The two proposals on which SMRA was based are by Milgrom and Wilson, and by Preston McAfee. On a successful note, the FCC spectrum of 1994 increased the auction to twice the expected amount (i.e. $20 billion) and about $34 billion raised by the U.K. 3G spectrum auction in 2000. The SMRA auction design for spectrum sales has been widely applied worldwide. Some versions of this are applied in U.S., Canada, U.K., Finland, India, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, and Spain. After adopting of CCA for selling radio-spectrum licenses in the U.K. in 2008, many countries followed suit, including Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, and Switzerland. Milgrom led the team of economists who advised going for wireless broadband services than from broadcast television resulted in the FCC adopting the new Incentive auction in 2017.

The auctions reflect two efficiency concerns. Firstly, the best productive suppliers minimise the costs. Secondly, this generates funds through markets than rigid taxation. Economists observed that the per unit taxes (in dollar) raise the social deadweight losses is between 0.17 to 0.56 dollars. Conversely, the objective of maximal revenue of a set of spectrum licenses may be too short-sighted and lead to monopolisation. However, both approaches have been rejected by economists so far as net public welfare is concerned.

> In spectrum auctions, bidders generally prefer combinations of complementary licenses which is more complex than substitute products. For example, phone-service providers often seek to cover large areas, and so they prefer licenses for adjacent geographical regions. Given the efficiency focus, the eventual solution is to use the Vickrey-Clarke-Groves (VCG) auction.

The Government intervention in India has become apparent because of the exponential rise in demand for wireless communication, given radio frequencies a scarce commodity, the underneath conflicts in spectrum management and their efficiency of use. For example, aggressive bidding in India during auctions (in 2010, 2012 and 2015) led to major increases in spectrum prices. The average holding of the spectrum of Indian operators was 31 MHz as compared to the global average of 50 MHz in 2017. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in August 2018 highlighted its recommendations on the auction of spectrum across several bands including two bands yet to be auctioned in India, i.e., 3300 - 3400 MHz and 3400 - 3600 MHz. These bands are likely to emerge as the primary band for 5G services. Spectrum pricing is an invaluable tool to promote efficiency.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) proposes four different approaches for the valuation of the spectrum. They are:

1. Price from previous auctions duly indexed,
2. Estimation based on producer surplus,
3. A production function approach, and
4. A revenue surplus approach.

TRAI also uses a multivariate regression method in addition to these approaches. There are often disputes between the state and the operators in allocating and managing spectrums in India. However, India has been following a 'quasi-property rights' regime to avoid the subjective administrative management to a market-based mechanism. ❑

One Nation One Ration Card: 'Mera Ration' Mobile App

Key highlights of the system

One Nation One Ration Card

- One of its kind **Beneficiary Centric** initiative in the Country.
- A **technology and data driven** system for **nation-wide portability** of ration cards under NFSA.
- **Empowering NFSA Migrants** with seamless food-security, anywhere in the Country.
- Ration card details and **entitlements are available online** on any ePoS device in the country.
- Includes both **inter-State and intra-State** (inter-district/intra-district) portability of ration cards.

Key Enablers

Digitisation of Ration Cards	Aadhaar Seeding of Ration Cards	ePoS Devices at the FPSs	Biometric Authentication of Beneficiaries
100% ration cards covering ~81 Cr. beneficiaries are digitised in the country.	92% ration cards and 89% beneficiaries seeded at the national level.	92% (4.96 Lakh of total 5.38 Lakh) Fair Price Shops in the country are automated.	Avg. 70%~75% biometrically authenticated ePoS transactions on a monthly basis.

The initiative One Nation One Ration Card allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through the existing ration card in a seamless manner. *Mera Ration* Mobile App will benefit especially those ration card holders who move to new areas for livelihoods. The system which was started initially in 4 States in August 2019 has been swiftly rolled out in a very short period in 32 States/UTs by December 2020 and the integration of the remaining 4 States/UT (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and West Bengal) is expected to be completed in next few months. At present, the system covers nearly 69 Crore NFSA beneficiaries (about 86% NFSA population) in the country and a monthly average of about 1.5~1.6 Crore portability transactions are being recorded under the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).

ONORC has proved to be a tremendous value-added service to each NFSA beneficiary during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly migrants, which allowed them to avail the benefit of subsidised foodgrains with flexibility from any location wherever they were during the lockdown/crisis period. The freedom of choosing any FPS was not available earlier. During the period April 2020 to Feb 2021, a total of about 15.4 Crore portability transactions have been recorded under ONORC.

The ONORC scheme is being implemented by the Department for the nation-wide portability of ration

'MERA RATION'

Mobile Application for
One Nation One Ration Card

'MERA RATION' Mobile Application at a glimpse

cards under National Food Security Act (NFSA). This system allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner. The system also allows their family members back home, if any, to claim the balance foodgrains on same the ration card. ❑

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Justice N V Ramana is the new Chief Justice of India appointed by the President. This is done by exercising of the powers conferred by ……………. of the Constitution of India.**
   a) Clause (2), Article 124
   b) Clause (3), Article 123
   c) Clause (1), Article 121
   d) Clause (2), Article 123

2. **Consider the following statements regarding the Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State in India:**
   1) He is elected by the members of the concerned State Legislature.
   2) He can be removed from his office by a resolution passed by a majority of all those present and voting members of the concerned State Legislature.
   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

3. **Which one of the following is not a correct statement regarding the provision of Legislative Council in the State Legislature?**
   a) The States of Bihar and Telangana have Legislative Councils.
   b) The total number of members in the Legislative Council of a State shall not exceed one-third of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly.
   c) One-twelfth of all members shall be elected by electorates consisting of local bodies and authorities.
   d) One-twelfth of all members shall be elected by graduates' residing in the State.

4. **Who is the new revenue secretary appointed in the recent bureaucratic reshuffle?**
   a) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
   b) Tarun Bajaj
   c) Gyanesh Kumar
   d) Ajay Seth

5. **Consider the following statements with respect to the powers of the Governor of a State:**
   1) The Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the State Assembly.
   2) The Governor can adjourn the sittings of the State Assembly.
   3) The Governor addresses the first session of the Legislative Assembly after elections.
   4) The Governor causes to lay the annual budget in the State Assembly.
   Which of the statements given above are correct?
   a) 1 and 2
   b) 1, 3 and 4
   c) 2 and 3
   d) 2 and 4

6. **Who among the following got an 18 months' extension as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman?**
   a) Ajay Tyagi
   b) Surjeet Singh Deswal
   c) Arvind Kumar
   d) Yogesh Chandra Modi

7. **Which of the following is not related to the powers of the Governor?**
   a) Diplomatic and military powers
   b) Power to appoint Advocate General
   c) Summoning, proroguing and dissolving State Legislature
   d) Power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remission of punishments

8. **Which country has undergone a legislation according to which its President will continue in power until 2036?**
   a) Brazil
   b) Russia
   c) China
   d) South Korea

ANSWERS KEY :
1. (a), 2. (d), 3. (c), 4. (b), 5. (b), 6. (a), 7. (a), 8. (b)

...Continued from Cover II

The Journey to GST

The gross GST revenue collected in March 2021 is at a record of Rs. 1,23,902 crore of which CGST is Rs. 22,973 crore, SGST is Rs. 29,329 crore, IGST is Rs. 62,842 crore (including Rs. 31,097 crores collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs. 8,757 crore (including Rs. 935 crores collected on import of goods).

The government has settled Rs. 21,879 crores to CGST and Rs. 17,230 crores to SGST from IGST as a regular settlement. In addition, the Centre has also settled Rs. 28,000 crores as IGST ad-hoc settlement in the ratio of 50:50 between Centre and States/UTs. The total revenue of Centre and the States after regular and ad-hoc settlements in March 2021 is Rs. 58,852 crore for CGST and Rs. 60,559 crore for the SGST. The Centre has also released a compensation of Rs. 30,000 crore during March 2021.
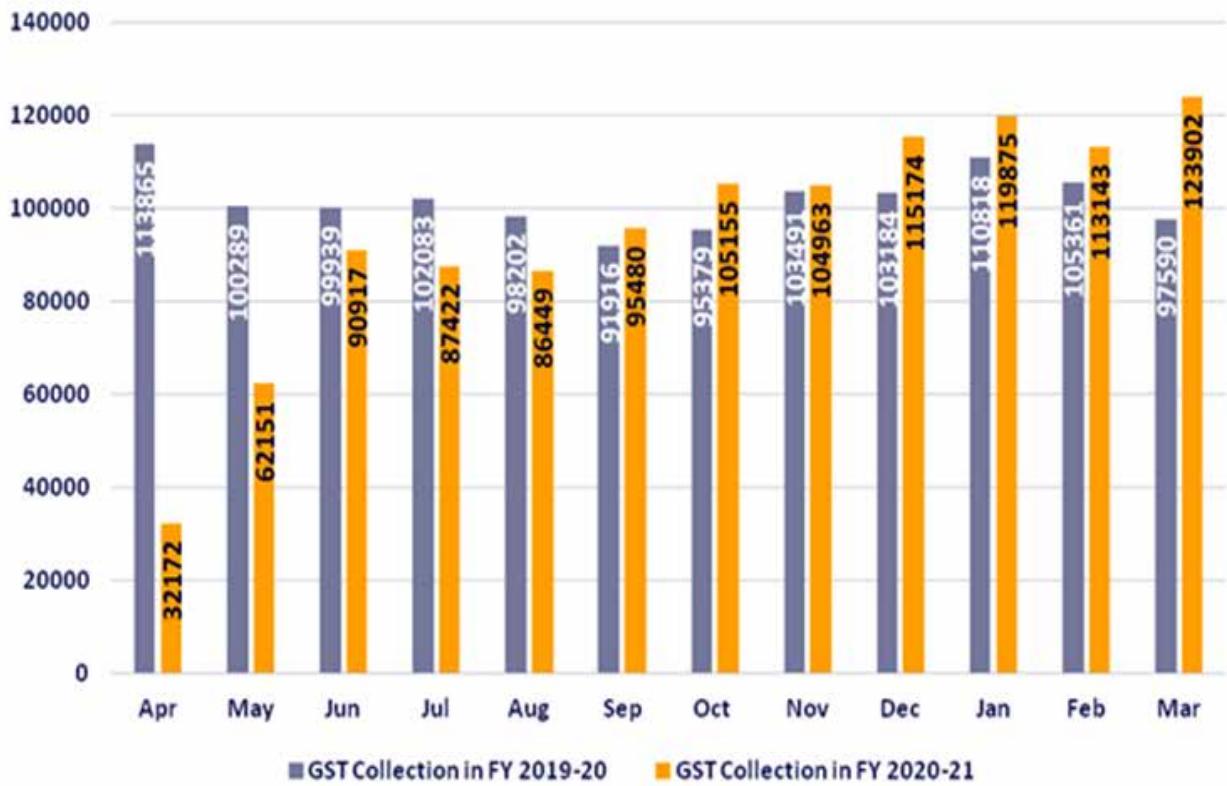
The GST revenues during March 2021 are the highest since the introduction of GST. In line with the trend of recovery in the GST revenues over the past five months, the revenues in March 2021 are 27% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 70% higher and the revenues from the domestic transaction (including import of services) are 17% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. The GST revenue witnessed a growth rate of (-) 41%, (-) 8%, 8% and 14% in the first, second, third and fourth quarters of this financial year, respectively, as compared to the same period last year, clearly indicating the trend in the recovery of GST revenues as well as the economy as a whole.

GST revenues crossed above Rs. 1 lakh crore mark at a stretch for the last six months and a steep increasing trend over this period are clear indicators of rapid economic recovery post-pandemic. Closer monitoring against fake-billing, deep data analytics using data from multiple sources including GST, Income-tax and Customs IT systems and effective tax administration have also contributed to the steady increase in tax revenue over the last few months.

The chart below shows trends in monthly gross GST revenues during the current year. The table shows the state-wise figures of GST collected in each State during the month of March 2021 as compared to March 2020.

Trends in GST Collection in Rs. crore

Month	GST Collection in FY 2019-20	GST Collection in FY 2020-21
Apr	113865	32172
May	100289	62151
Jun	99939	90917
Jul	102083	87422
Aug	98202	86449
Sep	91916	95480
Oct	95379	105155
Nov	103491	104963
Dec	103184	115174
Jan	110818	119875
Feb	105361	113143
Mar	97590	123902

State-wise growth of GST Revenues during March 2021 *(Does not include GST on import of goods)*

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