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DAY -1

Q.1. Development of infrastructure near farms will benefit small and medium farmers in India. How will it help ensure sustainability of agriculture? Discuss. [Paper III: Economy]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning of small and medium farmers and their present condition.
- 👍 Significance of infrastructure near farms.
- 👍 Possible advantages of development of infrastructure.
- 👍 Concept of sustainability of agriculture.
- 👍 Role of infrastructure in sustainability.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Union Agriculture Minister addresses the 16th sustainability summit 2021 of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Government is committed to address climate change and other challenges, says Shri Tomar

Central government developing infrastructure near farms for the benefit of small and medium farmers

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that the government is committed to addressing various challenges faced by the agriculture sector including climate change. Due to severe climate imbalance, some regions are facing droughts while others are struggling to control floods. The Minister said the government is serious about such adverse climatic conditions and our scientists are also working very diligently to develop innovative seed varieties which are compatible with such climatic conditions. Shri Tomar said this while addressing the 16th sustainability summit 2021 of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the Chief Guest today.



Shri Tomar said that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated on the call of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to mark the completion of 75 years of independence. During COVID crisis, India on its part has extended all possible support to other countries. He said the vaccination drive against Covronavirus is

also going on in full swing in the country and 66 crore doses have been inoculated in the country so far.

The minister added that despite the Covid 19 pandemic, Indian Farmers with their hard work could achieve bumper production. India being an agricultural country, the contribution of the agriculture sector to the GDP has always been significant. Shri Tomar said that under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, so far about 1,57,000 crore rupees have been deposited in the bank accounts of more than 11 crore farmers of the country.

The Minister said that the Prime Minister has launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which will prove beneficial for other industries including food processing. In order to make agriculture profitable for small and medium farmers, infrastructure is being developed near the farms as part of the concrete steps of the government. In this regard, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs one lakh crore rupees has been created, through which projects are being sanctioned. Projects of more than Rs four thousand Crore have been approved. 10 thousand Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) will be formed in the country under the new scheme of the Center, the work of which has started. The scheme will provide better market to the farmers and enhance their income. It is a matter of pride for the country

that we have cracked into the top ten list of agricultural produce exporters and we want to further enhance it. For the benefit of the farmers, the agriculture sector is being connected with state-of-the-art technology. Along with more than seventy Kisan Rail in the country, farmers are also being benefited through Udaan Yojana.

Shri Tomar said that the Central Government, which is committed for the upliftment of the farmers, has brought the Agriculture Reforms Act, which will bring about a radical change in the field of agriculture. With the new farm laws, the whole country will be an open market for the farmers. The private sector can also now invest in modern agri-business platforms, setting up post-harvest facilities like godowns-cold storage. This will pave

the way for better facilities for the farmers at lower charges. It is very important for the development of agriculture sector. These reforms have created substantial investment opportunities and have tried to bridge the gaps. Shri Tomar said that India shares cordial relations with Denmark, it has been the constant endeavor of Prime Minister Shri Modi ji that both the countries share knowledge and technology of each other.

The conference was also addressed by Denmark's Environment Minister Ms. Lea Wermelin and CII Director General Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee and Chairman of the Advisory Council (Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development) Mr. Sanjiv Puri. Many entrepreneurs virtually participated in the program.

Q.2. Do you agree that Mission Sagar has been a major milestone in India's engagement with Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries? Discuss.
[Paper II: International Relations]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Introduction to the Mission and its mandate.
- 👍 Brief note on the status of India's engagement with IOR countries.
- 👍 Geopolitical significance of the Mission.
- 👍 Possible advantages to India.
- 👍 Prospects and challenges.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

What is Mission SAGAR?



- As part of the ongoing Mission SAGAR, INS Airavat reached Sattahip in Thailand with COVID relief material. The ship delivered 300 oxygen concentrators based on the requirement projected by the government of Thailand in its fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
- INS Airavat has been deployed to deliver COVID relief material to friendly foreign nations in Southeast Asia under the aegis of Mission SAGAR launched by the Indian government last year.
- In the current deployment, the ship has delivered COVID relief materials to Indonesia, Vietnam before arriving in Thailand.
- Earlier this week, Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Savitri reached Bangladesh's Chattogram harbour carrying two 960 LPM (Litres Per Minute) Medical Oxygen Plants (MOP) to support the ongoing efforts of the military and government agencies in combating the pandemic in that country.
- in line with 'SAGAR — Security and Growth for All in the Region'.
- Launched on May 10, 2020, Mission SAGAR is India's initiative to deliver COVID-19 related assistance to the countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Mission SAGAR is in line with India's role as the first responder in the region and builds on the excellent relations existing between these countries to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As part of this Mission, INS Kesari successively visited Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles during May-June 2020 to deliver assistance to our maritime neighbors in dealing with the COVID crisis.
- India's humanitarian assistance included supplies of essential food items, medicines, Ayurvedic medicines and deployment of medical assistance teams to Mauritius and Comoros.
- As part of Mission SAGAR-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat delivered food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.



Mission SAGAR

- Mission SAGAR is a major milestone in India's engagement with the countries in the Indian Ocean Region,

What is SAGAR policy?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the concept of SAGAR — 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' during his visit to Mauritius in

March 2015.

- It is a high-level articulation of India's vision for the Indian Ocean. SAGAR has distinct but inter-related elements and underscores India's engagement in the Indian Ocean.
- The principles enshrined in SAGAR provide a coherent framework to address some of the challenges related to economic revival, connectivity, security, culture and identity.
- During his address in Maldives Parliament in June 2019, Modi said SAGAR is also a blueprint for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Under the broad vision of SAGAR, relations have been augmented with partners in the region in defence and security, development partnership, training and capacity building. The Indian Ocean Region received priority in COVID assistance.



Key features of SAGAR:

- Enhancing capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories and interests.
- Deepening economic and security cooperation in the littoral.
- Promoting collective action to deal with natural disasters and maritime threats like piracy, terrorism and emergent non-state actors.
- Working towards sustainable regional development through enhanced collaboration.

- Engaging with countries beyond shores with the aim of building greater trust and promoting respect for maritime rules, norms and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- The 'Blue Economy' has emerged as a promising new pillar of prosperity in the region, with immense economic and employment potential. India is engaging with its neighbours in Blue Economy initiatives, particularly in the areas of marine bio-technology, exploration and sustainable exploitation of ocean mineral resources, sustainable fishing practices, and harnessing of ocean energy.

Challenges for SAGAR:

- The main challenge is to ensure intra-ocean trade and investment, and the sustainable harnessing of the wealth of the seas, including food, medicines and clean energy.
- Security is fundamental to the SAGAR vision. If the revitalised maritime economy of the Indian Ocean region is to be a force for global economic growth, it is essential that the waters remain peaceful, stable and secure.
- The waters must not only be better connected but they should remain free from non-traditional and traditional threats that could impede the seamless movement of goods, people and ideas.
- The Indian Ocean is prone to non-traditional security threats like piracy, smuggling, maritime terrorism, illegal fishing, and trafficking of humans and narcotics.

DAY - 2

Q.1. What are pani samitis? How would they ensure management of village water supply system? Discuss. [Paper II: Governance]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Introduction to pani samitis under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- 👍 Brief note on village water supply system.
- 👍 Role of Gram Sabhas in this system.
- 👍 Challenges and prospects.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

PM to interact with Gram Panchayats and Pani Samitis on Jal Jeevan Mission on 2nd October

PM to launch Jal Jeevan Mission App and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will interact with Gram Panchayats and Pani Samitis/ Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) on Jal Jeevan Mission on 2nd October, 2021 at 11 AM via video conferencing.

Prime Minister will launch the Jal Jeevan Mission App for improving awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the Mission.

Prime Minister will also launch Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh, where any individual, institution, corporate, or philanthropist, be it in India or abroad, can contribute to help provide tap water connection in every rural household, school, anganwadi centre, ashramshala, and other public institutions.

Nation-wide Gram Sabhas on Jal Jeevan Mission will also take place during the day. The Gram Sabhas will discuss planning and management of village water supply systems and also work towards long-term water security.

About Pani Samitis/VWSC

Pani Samitis play a key role in planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of village water supply systems, thereby providing clean tap water to every household on a regular and long-term basis.

Out of over 6 lakh villages, Pani Samitis/VWSCs have been constituted in around 3.5 lakh villages. More than 7.1 lakh women have been trained to test the

quality of water by using Field Test Kits.

About Jal Jeevan Mission

On 15th August, 2019, Prime Minister announced the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide clean tap water to every household. At the time of launch of the mission, only 3.23 Crore (17%) rural households had tap water supply.

Despite Covid-19 pandemic, in the last two years, more than 5 Crore households have been provided with tap water connections. As on date, about 8.26 Crore (43%) rural households have tap water supply in their homes. Every rural household in 78 districts, 58 thousand Gram Panchayats and 1.16 lakh villages are getting tap water supply. Till now, tap water supply has been provided in 7.72 lakh (76%) schools and 7.48 lakh (67.5%) anganwadi centres.

To realize Prime Minister's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', and following 'bottom up' approach, Jal Jeevan Mission is implemented in partnership with States with a budget of Rs. 3.60 lakh Crores. Further, Rs. 1.42 lakh Crore has been allocated to PRIs as a tied grant under 15th Finance Commission for water and sanitation in villages for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Q.2. The proposal to set up India and US joint working group in defence industrial security will not only be beneficial for critical defence technologies but will also enhance bilateral cooperation. Discuss.
[Paper II: International Relations]

Answer Format:

👍 Brief note on the proposal.

👍 Need to set up the joint working group.

👍 Meaning and significance of critical defence technologies.

👍 India and US relations and its present status.

👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE**India and US to set-up joint working group in defence industrial security****Key highlights:**

Held to develop protocol for exchange of classified information between defence industries of both countries

In-principle agreement to establish Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group

Group to meet regularly to align policies for defence industries to collaborate on critical defence technologies

The Industrial Security Agreement (ISA) summit between India and the United States was held between September 27 to October 01, 2021 at New Delhi. The summit was organised to develop protocol for the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the nations. The Summit was led by Designated Security Authorities (DSAs) namely Shri Anurag Bajpai and Mr David

Paul Bagnati from Indian and US sides respectively.

The ISA was signed in December 2019 to facilitate the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the countries. It was held to create a roadmap for the implementation of the ISA. The DSAs also visited Indian defence industry in preparation for the roadmap. During the summit, both the sides agreed in-principle to establish the Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group. This group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures expeditiously that will allow the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies.

DAY-3

Q.1. 'Healthcare is not just absence of illness.' Comment on the statement with reference to India. [Paper II: Social Justice]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning of Healthcare in general.
- 👍 Dimensions of health, physical, mental and Spiritual.
- 👍 Status of healthcare in India and its challenges.
- 👍 Steps taken by the Government to improve healthcare system.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Healthcare is not just absence of illness; take holistic view of health by including physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing – Vice President

Centre and States must work in a team India spirit to further improve the health indices – Vice President

VP calls for bridging disparities in health infrastructure between urban and rural areas

Urges health experts and youth icons to spread awareness about healthy lifestyle

Youngsters must take special care not to get addicted to digital devices – Vice President

The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu today said that healthcare is not just ‘absence of illness’ and called for taking a holistic view of health that includes physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing and empowers an individual to reach his/her full potential.

In a video message for NDTV’s latest edition of ‘Banega Swasth India’, the Vice President said that this holistic approach towards health is the aim of ‘Swasth Bharat’, which will ultimately lead to ‘Sampann Bharat’ or prosperous Bharat.

Taking note of the significant gains in health indices since independence, Shri Naidu urged the Centre and States to work in a team India spirit with renewed vigor to further improve the health indices. “Apart from increasing public spending on health, there is also a need to augment the health infrastructure at various levels through a public-private partnership,” he added.

Calling for bridging disparities in health infrastructure between urban and rural areas, he said “While bringing tertiary care to rural areas, it is imperative that we strengthen our primary health care

system for better health outcomes.” He lauded the government’s flagship scheme, Ayushman Bharat and said it has brought ‘health assurance’ to millions of poor families.

Expressing his concern over the disturbing trend of increasing Non-Communicable Diseases in India, Shri Naidu called for creating greater awareness among people on lifestyle diseases. He urged health experts and cultural icons to take the lead in this regard.

Referring to COVID pandemic, the Vice President praised all frontline workers including doctors and paramedics staff, sanitation workers, police and media persons for the extraordinary resilience, courage and spirit of sacrifice displayed by them in fighting the pandemic and serving the people. He said the pandemic has also reminded us that our health is intricately connected to the health of the planet and man must avoid interfering with the natural ecosystems for his selfish interests. ‘One Health, One Planet, One Future’ is the way forward, he added.

Noting that about 65 percent of our population is below the age of 35 years,

he exhorted the youth to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle by undertaking regular physical activity like yoga or cycling and eating healthy food. He advised youngsters to avoid getting addicted to digital devices.

Complimenting NDTV for the timely and important initiative to improve public awareness on crucial issues of health and wellness, Shri Naidu wished the program all success.

Following is the full text of Vice President's video message –

“Sisters and Brothers,

I am happy to know that NDTV has launched another edition of its annual event, ‘Banega Swasth India’. This is a very timely and important initiative that seeks to improve public awareness on the crucial issues of health and wellness. I compliment NDTV for this effort.

The COVID pandemic has taught us many important lessons. It has also made every one of us—from individuals to governments focus greater attention on health. Before moving further, I would like to convey my deepest appreciation to all the doctors and other frontline healthcare workers for the extraordinary resilience, courage and spirit of sacrifice displayed by them in fighting the pandemic and serving the people. My compliments also to all other COVID warriors from sanitation staff to media and police personnel for their dedicated service during this pandemic.

Friends,

As you all are aware, India is a young nation with about 65 percent of the population below the age of 35 years. It is, therefore, imperative for our youngsters to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. They must undertake regular physical activity like yoga or cycling; avoid sedentary

habits, unhealthy diet like junk food, and consumption of substances that are harmful to health. Youngsters must also take special care not to get addicted to digital devices.

While India has made significant gains in health indices since independence, the Centre and States must work in a team India spirit with renewed vigor to further improve the health indices. Apart from increasing public spending on health, there is also a need to augment the health infrastructure at various levels through a public-private partnership. The stark disparities in health infrastructure between urban and rural areas need to be bridged. While bringing tertiary care to rural areas, it is imperative that we strengthen our primary health care system for better health outcomes.

It would be pertinent to point out that the government's flagship scheme, Ayushman Bharat, is a laudable initiative which has brought ‘health assurance’ to millions of poor families.

Going forward, we must focus on curbing the disturbing trend of increasing Non-Communicable Diseases in India, which now account for around 60 percent of deaths in the country. We need to create greater awareness among people on lifestyle diseases. I urge health experts and cultural icons to take the lead in this regard.

The pandemic has also reminded us that our health is intricately connected to the health of the planet. Man must avoid interfering with the natural ecosystems for his selfish interests. ‘One Health, One Planet, One Future’ is the way forward.

Friends,

Finally, I suggest that we move past the notion of healthcare as the absence of illness and take a holistic view of health

that includes physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing and empowers an individual to reach his/her full potential. This is the aim of 'Swasth Bharat', which will ultimately lead to 'Sampann Bharat' or prosperous Bharat.

My best wishes to the audience of NDTV and the panelists on this programme. May we strive together with greater determination for a Swasth and Sampann Bharat.

Q.2. New initiatives in maritime sector will improve the geo-economic status of India. Do you agree? Discuss. [Paper II: International Issues/Paper III : Economy]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Significance of maritime sector from political and economic viewpoints.
- 👍 Initiatives to be taken in future.
- 👍 Role of Shipping Corporation of India.
- 👍 India's geo-economic status.
- 👍 Challenges and prospects.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

There will be many new initiatives in maritime sector in the future: Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal
We are striving to develop all major ports of India in every possible manner in accordance with international standards: MoS, Shipping
Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways inaugurates Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Shipping Corporation of India in Mumbai today

There will be many new initiatives in maritime sector in the future, stated Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in Mumbai today. “People should know about the prospects, potential and strength of water transportation mode. It should be used optimally with the help of technology. We should move forward by using our natural resources”, Shri Sonowal urged. The Union Minister was addressing the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), along with Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur.

The Union Ministers virtually flagged off MV SCI Chennai from Kandla Port for EXIM trades with the middle-eastern countries. The vessel will sail from Kandla, proceed to Kochi and Tuticorin for loading export cargo and sail towards the Middle East.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sonowal said, students residing in different parts of India should know about the opportunities in the maritime sector and how the marine resources can be utilized for the development of our country as well as mankind.

Shri Sonowal applauded SCI for playing a big role in fulfilling the Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Transformation through transportation’. “SCI will have to further show its strength in the future”, he said. He said, SCI has played an important role in spreading India’s name and fame across the world for the last 60 years. The Minister also praised SCI for organizing the diamond jubilee programme only with in-house people and no outside help, thereby displaying a spirit of self-reliance and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Shri Sonowal felicitated the all-women crew members of SCI’s MT Swarna Krishna which was flagged off from JNPT Liquid Berth Jetty on March 6, 2021 and created history. Congratulating the brave-hearts, the Minister said to them: “You have set a big example which will bring more women into this field in the future”. The voyage was a historic one for the global shipping sector and the Union Minister extolled the courage of the woman seafarers and termed them as



a glowing example of India's Nari Shakti taking on a male dominated industry.



Union MoS Shri Thakur said, “We are striving to develop all major ports of India in every possible manner in accordance with international standards”.

Shri Sonowal also virtually launched a coffee-table book on the eventful journey of SCI over the last 60 years. The coffee-table book may be accessed [here](#).

Coinciding with the program, the Union Minister planted a Tulsi sapling at the SCI campus and witnessed a colourful play and cultural display showcased by members of the SCI family.



The dignitaries present on the occasion included Lok Sabha MP Shri Manoj Kotak, Shipping Secretary Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust Rajeev Jalota and CMD of SCI Mrs. HK Joshi.

Chairperson & Managing Director, SCI Mrs. HK Joshi said, "SCI's innovative measures and financial prudence have been a great contributor to the organization".

The event showcased cultural programs which highlighted the achievements of the organization over the last 60 years.

The event was attended by officials of the Ministry and of Directorate General of Shipping.

About SCI

The Shipping Corporation of India was established on October 2nd, 1961, by the amalgamation of Eastern Shipping Corporation and Western Shipping Corporation. The Government of India has conferred “Navratna” status to SCI on 01.08.2008 - enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to the Company towards capital expenditure, formation of Joint Ventures, mergers, etc. A detailed brief about SCI can be found [here](#).

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DAY-4

Q.1. India lags behind if Northeast lags behind. Comment. [Paper II: Governance/Paper III: Internal Security]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Politico-strategic significance of Northeast region.
- 👍 Issues and concerns in the region.
- 👍 Status of development.
- 👍 How does its development impact development of India.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Vice President asks North-Eastern Council to propel the NE region on a phase of accelerated development

India lags behind if Northeast lags behind: VP

Focus on bridging the gaps in respect of socio-economic development, VP advises NEC

VP lauds NEC for its creditable achievements

VP suggests promotion of private investment in North-Eastern region

The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu today advised the North-Eastern Council to propel the NE region on a resurgent phase of accelerated development by quickly resolving issues that have been impeding its progress. Addressing a Workshop on "Changing Role of North-Eastern Council in the Development of North-Eastern Region" at Shillong, the Vice President pointed out that India's progress cannot be complete if there was uneven progress in various regions. "If the northeast region progresses, India progresses...If the region lags behind, India lags behind", he observed.

He suggested to the North Eastern States to share best practices in various fields and derive mutual benefit. "India should work as Team India- Centre, States and Local bodies working together on developmental issues to find solutions", Shri Naidu said.

While lauding the NE Council for its creditable achievements, he said "we cannot merely rest on our past laurels. We certainly have many miles to go". He said this was the right time to revisit the approaches of the Council as it braces up to meet the challenges of the winds of change that need to be harnessed in the interest of the North-Eastern Region and its people.

Stating that the government led by

Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modi has embarked on a path of reform in all spheres with a view to improve performance and productivity, Shri Naidu said that ease of doing business and ease of living are key objectives. "Working with a sense of urgency has become the norm", he added. He said that from conceptualization of a policy or programme to its implementation, clear processes and timelines are drawn for meeting the goals in time and ensuring the delivery of intended benefits to the targeted. Citing various initiatives including Swachh Bharat Mission and 'Housing for All' in this regard, the Vice President expressed confidence that the North-Eastern Council will also be guided by this new ethos and policy environment.

"We cannot afford to go slow. We cannot be satisfied with poor quality. We have to constantly strive to be better than the best", he exhorted.

In this context, the Vice President stressed the need for ensuring accountability & transparency in every programme and said that schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer would go a long way in ensuring benefits reach to every intended beneficiary.

As the country celebrates 75 years of independence and plans for the next 25 years, he stressed the need to eliminate extreme poverty, reduce disparities, narrow rural-urban development gaps,

revamp the education system and ramp up public health infrastructure, while building a healthy, educated, skilled and inclusive Atmanirbhar India.

The Vice President said, “Ours is an aspirational India. And the vibrant northeast region, with a population of around 45 million, has its own dreams to be realized”. The North East Council can be an effective instrument to bring coherence to these dreams, strategize, plan, catalyze and coordinate the implementation in conjunction with the State governments, he added.

Terming the creation of the Council as a seminal landmark redefining the approach towards the development of the North-Eastern Region, he listed out some of its achievements, including the construction of more than 11,000 KMs of Roads; 10,340 KMs of power transmission and distribution lines and setting up of iconic institutions, among others.

Expressing his happiness over the perceptible change in the economy of the region over the past six-seven years, he said the Per Capita Net State Domestic Product of all the states has grown significantly.

While there has been overall progress in the economic and human development profile, Shri Naidu wanted the Council to focus on bridging the gaps in respect of socio-economic development and said the North-Eastern Region Social Development Goals Index, 2021-22 released by the Niti Ayog provides clear direction in this regard. The Index is an effective tool for monitoring progress and identifying necessary interventions. The Council should analyze the data and recast its plans to address the current and emerging challenges.

Maintaining that insurgency and the attendant violence that proved to be the bane of the region for a long time is on

the decline, he reiterated that peace is absolutely necessary for fast tracking development of North Eastern Region. “Dialogue is the only way forward to resolve any problem. We are one country, states should be in constant dialogue to resolve any issues”, he added.

He said the youth of the region, like their counterparts in other parts of the country, are keen to write a new chapter in the history of our country. They have to be given opportunities and encouragement through concrete actions, he remarked.

Recalling that the 69th Plenary meeting of the Council held in January this year had identified two key issues of resolving inter-state border disputes and attracting private investments, the Vice President said private investment needs to be promoted through encouraging entrepreneurship, venture funds, start-ups and skill development.

Later, the Vice President attended a cultural program at Raj Bhawan, followed by an interaction with achievers in various fields from the state of Meghalaya.

Shri Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister Of Meghalaya, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister, Ministry Of DoNER, Shri Shri B.L. Verma, Minister Of State, Ministry Of DoNER, Shri Lok Ranjan, Secretary, Ministry Of DoNER, Shri K. Moses Chalai, Secretary, North Eastern Council and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Following is the full text of the speech:

“I am indeed happy to be associated with this important workshop on the theme “Changing Role of North-Eastern Council in the Development of North-Eastern Region” which gives me an opportunity to learn from you about the key role played by the council in the development of the region and share some of my thoughts on its changing role. The world is changing very fast in many ways and India is swiftly transforming

itself to emerge as one of the major economies in the world.

We have put in place a number of robust, far-reaching, progressive policies.

We have initiated a number of programmes that are intended to improve the quality of life of our people.

We have committed ourselves to accelerate the Country's progress towards sustainable, inclusive development. 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' is our overall philosophy.

Dear Sisters and brothers,

India's progress cannot be complete if there is uneven progress in various regions. If the northeast region progresses, India progresses. If the region lags behind, India lags behind.

We have big dreams for our country.

As we celebrate 75 years of our independence and plan for the next 25 years, we wish to see a distinct transformation in the way we govern ourselves, the way we wish to shape public policies and the way we empower people through citizen-centric programmes. Eliminating extreme poverty, reducing disparities and narrowing rural-urban development gaps, revamping the education system and ramping up public health infrastructure, we are aiming at a healthy, educated, skilled India.

We are looking at building an India that is Atmanirbhar, self-reliant, capable of meeting its people's needs and aspirations. We are looking at a well connected Shreshth Bharat where people commute and communicate easily, share knowledge, expertise, skills, cultural treasures and civilisational values. We want a Bharat that grows inclusively, celebrating its fascinatingly rich diversity in a spirit of mutual respect and encouragement.

Ours is an aspirational India. And the vibrant north east region, with a population of around 45 million, has its

own dreams to be realized.

The North East Council can be an effective instrument to bring coherence to these dreams, strategize, plan, catalyze and coordinate the implementation in conjunction with the State governments. To be abreast with changing times, effective planning and execution holds the key. The North-Eastern Council that came into being as a regional advisory body in 1971 was converted into a regional planning agency in 2002 to enable coordinated actions among all the eight member states for collective benefits.

Planning is all about the process of deciding what to do and how to do it based on certain key principles and practices. Effective planning requires imagination and anticipation.

A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan with effective implementation transforms that dream into a tangible reality.

The journey so far of the North-Eastern Council may be evaluated against its vision, its plans and their implementation resulting in measurable outcomes.

I am happy to note that the Council deserves appreciation on several counts. The creation of the Council is a seminal landmark redefining the approach towards the development of the North-Eastern Region. Construction of more than 11,000 KMs of Roads; 10,340 KMs of power transmission and distribution lines; installation of 700 Megawatts of power general capacity; setting up of iconic institutions; a cohesive articulation of common issues are some of the creditable achievements of the Council. We are all proud of these accomplishments.

However, we cannot merely rest on our past laurels. We certainly have many miles to go.

This is the right time to revisit the

approaches of the Council as it braces up to meet the challenges of the winds of change that need to be harnessed in the interest of the North-Eastern Region and its people.

The government led by Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modi has embarked on a path of reform in all spheres with a view to improve performance and productivity. Ease of doing business and ease of living are key objectives. Working with a sense of urgency has become the norm.

From conceptualization of a policy or programme to its implementation, clear processes and timelines are drawn up for meeting the goals in time. This is also marked by higher levels of energy and intensity ensuring effective monitoring to ensure delivery of intended benefits to the targeted. This is quite evident in case of several initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Housing for All Mission, the Smart Cities Mission, Financial Inclusion, digital transfer of entitlements to beneficiaries, building National Highways and various infrastructure projects. I am confident that the North-Eastern Council will also be guided by this new ethos and policy environment.

We cannot afford to go slow. We cannot be satisfied with poor quality. We have to constantly strive to be better than the best.

The North-Eastern Region has inherited historic and legacy issues that have been impeding its progress. We must now quickly resolve these outstanding issues and move ahead faster and with greater confidence, building upon the good work already done and capitalizing on the enormous strengths of the people of this region.

The region must enter an exciting resurgent phase of accelerated development and the Council must propel the region on to this path.

Recognition of the problems of this region and the need to move forward on its development has resulted in the 'Look East Policy' in the early years of the decade of 90s. This was further given a greater thrust by the 'Act East Policy' in recent times which is built upon improving the infrastructure within the region and connectivity with the East and South-East Asian nations for increased economic integration with the region for the development of the North-East and the country.

The North-Eastern Council should be guided by the principle of enabling realization of the objectives of 'Act East Policy' and take all necessary initiatives to fast track implementation.

North-Eastern Region is a repository of a diverse range of natural resources including vast tracts of forests, the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas etc. But for a long time, the region lagged behind rest of India in terms of economic and social development indicators. We must take a comprehensive view on using the existing natural resources for the overall development of the region. At the same time, we should be careful not to upset the ecological balance and damage the environment.

I am very happy to note that during the last six-seven years, there has been a perceptible change in the economy of this region. The Per Capita Net State Domestic Product of all the states has grown significantly. The growth was as high as 87% in Mizoram and 75% in Tripura. The Per Capita Net State Domestic Products of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim were higher than that of Net National Income during the last two financial years and that of Nagaland and Tripura are close to the national average. While the Net National Income of the country increased by

about 60% during 2018-20 over that of 2013-14, the increase in that of 6 of the 8 North-Eastern States was more than the national average.

It is indeed heartening to note that 7 of the 8 North-Eastern States have better human development indicators than the national average as per the National Human Development Index 2019. Only Assam scoring 0.613 was slightly below the Indian average of 0.645.

While there has been overall progress in the economic and human development profile, there are quite a few areas that need further attention.

The Council now needs to focus on identified gaps in respect of socio-economic development.

The North-Eastern Region Social Development Goals Index, 2021-22 released by the Niti Ayog provides clear direction in this regard. 108 districts of region have been ranked on their performance in respect of these goals. This Index is an effective tool for monitoring progress and identifying necessary interventions. 69 districts of the region are in the Front Runners category. The region as a whole did well in respect of Goal-15 which is about 'Life on Land' given the forest cover and Goal-16 which is about 'Clean Water and Sanitation'. But the region as a whole lags behind with respect to Goal-9 which is 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure'; Quality Education (Goal-14); Sustainable Communities and Cities (Goal-11) and others.

The latest data gives an idea as to where greater focus is required. The North-Eastern Council should analyze the data and recast its plans to address the current and emerging challenges.

Due to sustained efforts, the insurgency and the attendant violence that proved to be the bane of the region for a long time is on the decline.

The youth of the North-Eastern Region, like their counterparts in other parts of the country, are keen to write a new chapter in the history of our country.

They have to be given the opportunities and encouragement through concrete actions.

We now have to look at the future agenda. The expert planners and brilliant academicians present here today should put their heads and hearts together and draw up an action-oriented plan keeping the latest available data and evidence. In the 69th Plenary meeting of the Council held in January this year two key issues of resolving inter-state border disputes and attracting private investments in the region have been identified as thrust areas.

Private investment needs to be promoted through encouraging entrepreneurship, venture funds, start-ups and skill development etc. Private investment, so far has been crowded out of the region's economy due to heavy public sector intervention besides being stifled out by insurgency and violence. The NEC Guidelines - 2020 highlight the need to step up our efforts in this direction.

The Council needs to be a thinking body, a reflecting body, a facilitative, catalytic body and a forward looking planning body. It should be a repository of the state-of-the art information and knowledge about the region as the Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi had suggested in 2016.

Learning from the experience of the last five decades, I am confident that the North-Eastern Council under the able leadership of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah would redefine its role and approaches so as to enable the North-Eastern Region to march on the path of progress.

I wish the Council all success in its endeavours.

Q.2. India and UAE have established a strong bilateral relations. Do you see any role of Indian Diaspora in improving the relationship ? Discuss.
[Paper II: International Relations]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Importance of the two countries for each other.
- 👍 Areas of cooperation.
- 👍 Present status of their relations.
- 👍 Brief note on Indian Diaspora in UAE.
- 👍 Role of the Diaspora especially in investment in India.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Shri Piyush Goyal calls upon the Indian diaspora in UAE to encourage others to Invest in India

There is huge opportunity waiting for growth and investment in India - Shri Goyal

“From red-tapism to laying the red carpet for businesses, India, under PM Modi, has come a long way”: Shri Goyal
Each Indian settled in UAE must work as the true ambassador of India - Shri Goyal.

Commerce Minister addresses Indian People's Forum in Dubai

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has called upon the NRIs and Indian diaspora to invest in India unhesitatingly. Addressing the Indian People's Forum (IPF) Business Conclave in Dubai today, Shri Goyal said this is the right time for India's vast expatriate community to invest in their motherland. There is a great opportunity in extraordinary growth in India.

“Under Prime Minister Modi we are seeing rise in economic indicators despite the pandemic. Merchandise exports in Apr-Sep'21 touched \$197.11 bn, recording 23.8% growth over Apr-Sep'19. Manufacturing PMI average improved to 53.8 (Q2) from 51.5 (Q1) while GST collections have hit a 5-month high in September,” he said.

Shri Goyal said the Government has taken many steps to create conducive business environment.

“From red-tapism to laying the red carpet for businesses, India under Prime Minister Modi has come a long way. As a result, India climbed up in Ease of Doing Business ranking from 130 to 63 in just 5 years and also jumped to 46th spot on the

Global Innovation Index (GII), a jump of 35 places in last 6 years. Steps in last 7 years helped us nurture world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem,” said Shri Goyal.

“In the 75 weeks of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', we aim at taking the number of unicorns to 75 in the country. Similarly, India received the highest ever FDI inflow of around \$ 82 billion in 2020-21 (during peak of pandemic), up 10% over 2019-20 (pre-pandemic time). Total FDI inflow of US\$ 22.5 bn during Q1 of current fiscal is 90% higher compared to US\$ 11.8 bn during the corresponding period last year,” he added.

Shri Goyal said the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister has catapulted our nation to a higher pedestal in the international community.

“Our ancient wisdom Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam & Sarve Santu Niramaya inspired us to serve the world selflessly and we supplied medicines and vaccines to world,” he said, adding, “I urge you to spread this message and help strengthen our global ties.. Hope the Indian diaspora to contribute in the best possible manner to take Prime Minister Modi's great work forward & make the country 'Vishwaguru' again.”

Stating that India and the UAE are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relationship next year, Shri Goyal said this is a good opportunity to take our ties to the next level.

“We are celebrating ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’ to commemorate 75 years of Progressive India & to highlight its glorious history, culture & heritage. Coincidentally, UAE is also celebrating this year as the ‘Year of 50’ to commemorate the declaration of the Union in 1971. ‘Projects of the 50’ of UAE & Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ reflect the statesmanship of our leaders,” he said, adding, “India is focusing on fulfilling its aspirations in next 25 years to celebrate the Centenary of its Independence in a grand way, while UAE leadership is planning their journey for the next 50 years.”

Expressing delight at meeting the Indian community in Dubai, “the City of Gold”,

Shri Goyal said, “It is because of you all Dubai is considered as an extended neighbourhood of India, - a 2nd home to our exporters and a prime destination for Indian tourists.”

Shri Goyal underlined that the 3.4 million strong Indian diaspora in the UAE acts as a bridge between the two countries.

“I commend the efforts of Indian People’s Forum (IPF) in connecting the people of Indian origin residing in the region & bringing them on a single platform. By spreading our culture, tradition & values on a far-off foreign land, you are not just NRIs but “cultural ambassadors” of our country,” he said.

Shri Goyal is in the UAE to inaugurate the India Pavilion at Dubai Expo. The official visit is being seen as major step towards boosting Indo - UAE Strategic Partnership and taking trade and investment between to unprecedented levels. The ongoing Expo is India’s window to the world, An opportunity to showcase India’s capability & potential.

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DAY-5

Q.1. What are Industrial Parks? Discuss the findings in the recently released Industrial Parks Rating System Report. Discuss. [Paper III: Economy]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning and definition of Industrial Parks.
- 👍 Their significance in the economy.
- 👍 Recently released Report and its main findings.
- 👍 How do such parks contribute to industrial competitiveness in India?
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

41 Industrial Parks identified as "Leaders" in the Industrial Park Ratings System Report

Industrial Park Rating System Report 2.0 launched by MoS (Commerce and Industry), Shri Som Parkash

Report will enhance India's industrial competitiveness and attract investment: Shri Som Parkash

41 Industrial Parks have been assessed as "Leaders" in the Industrial Park Ratings System Report released by DPIIT today. 90 Industrial Parks have been rated as under Challenger category while 185 have been rated as under "Aspirers". These ratings are assigned on the basis of key existing parameters and infrastructure facilities etc.

The 2nd edition of the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) Report was launched by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Som Prakash here today. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Som Parkash said the IPRS 2.0 Report will enhance India's industrial competitiveness and attract investment.

"As India continues to strengthen its status as a leading investment destination by continuously improving its 'Ease of Doing Business' through the enactment of several policy measures especially during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continuity, I am sure this rating exercise will be instrumental to contribute to India's growth story and to chart out the path of progress for both the industry and the country," he said.

The Minister said the Report is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank which features more than 4,400 industrial parks in a GIS-enabled database to help investors identify their preferred location for investment. The portal is currently integrated with industry-based GIS system of 21 States

and UTs and plot-wise information in these are updated on a real-time basis, he said.

"We expect to achieve PAN India integration by December 2021," said Shri Som Parkash.

The Minister said, with this system, the investors can even remotely refer to this report to identify the suitable investable land area, as per the various parameters of infrastructure, connectivity, business support services and environment and safety standards and make informed investment decisions.

"This exercise also aligns with the Government's concentrated efforts for encouraging industries to set base in the country and grow. Some of the recent initiatives include Project Development Cells (PDC), that have been constituted in Ministries/Departments to create a shelf of readily investible projects. PDCs will handhold investors and aim to improve Ease of Doing Business to spur sectoral and economic growth. To ensure ease of living for citizens and Ease of Doing Business, around 15,000 unnecessary compliances have been reduced by rationalising, eliminating, and automating processes," he said.

Shri Som Parkash said, under the astute leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has fought the successful battle against COVID-19 globally. Several initiatives have been

undertaken by the Government, such as the One District One Product (ODOP) Initiative, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes and the National Single Window System (NSWS), to promote industry and boost exports. Despite the COVID, India's economic indicators have bounced back.

"India's GDP has grown at over 20% in Q1FY22, highest quarterly expansion, exports jumped 45.17% to US\$ 33.14 billion in August as against US\$ 22.83 billion in the same month last year. India attracted record FDI inflows of US\$81.72 billion last year. Continuing this record run, US\$ 22.53 billion flowed in just in first three months of this financial year – almost double as compared to same period last year! Few weeks ago, India has jumped to the 46th spot on the Global Innovation Index, a jump of 35 places in last 6 years," he said.

Shri Som Parkash said this IPRS 2.0 ratings will be instrumental to contribute to India's growth story and to chart out the path of progress for both the industry and the country.

"The aim to take India to new heights in manufacturing seems to be getting nearer," he said.

The IPRS 2.0 Report is part of the Commerce & Industry Ministry's AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, and comes during the Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav festival.

The India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) provides details of more than 5.6 lakh hectares, roughly the size bigger than 30-40 countries, on the click of a button and prospective entrepreneurs can apply sitting from anywhere across the world.

The GIS-enabled IILB acts as a one-stop source of information on Industrial Infrastructure. Significant scaling up in coverage of Industrial Parks on this Land Bank has played a key role in facilitating the IPRS.

The IPRS pilot exercise was launched in 2018, with an objective of enhancing industrial infrastructure competitiveness and supporting policy development for enabling industrialization across the country as the Government pushes ahead a high-growth trajectory with an aim to scale the \$5 trillion mark for the Indian economy by 2025.

Based on the learnings from the pilot stage, the Government started the IPRS 2.0 in 2020. All the States of India and 51 SEZs, including 29 Private, have participated the IPRS 2.0 Report. 24 Private Sector Industrial Parks have also been nominated. Ratings have been undertaken for 449 out of 478 nominations received. The feedback survey involved responses from 5,700 tenants.

Q.2. Discuss the role of National Health Authority in improving the healthcare system in India. [Paper II: Social Justice]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Introduction to the Authority as an apex body in the sector.
- 👍 Implementation of Ayushman Bharat by the Authority.
- 👍 Challenges faced by it.
- 👍 Steps being taken to improve healthcare system.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

National Health Authority Revises Health Benefit Package of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY

Rates for around 400 Procedures Revised

New Package related to Black Fungus added to the Revised Package

The revised packages for oncology will enhance cancer care for the beneficiaries in the country: Shri Mansukh Mandaviya

The National Health Authority (NHA), the apex body for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has revised the Health Benefit Package (HBP) Master under the scheme. In the revised version of Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2), rates of some health packages have been increased by 20 percent to 400 per cent under PM-JAY. Around, 400 procedure rates have been revised and one new additional medical management package related to black fungus has also been added. The HBP 2.2 is expected to be rolled out from November, 2021.

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare expressing his elation said “I am glad that the revised version of Health Benefit Packages (HBP 2.2) will strengthen the empanelled hospitals to provide better healthcare services to the beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. The revised packages for oncology will enhance cancer care for the beneficiaries in the country. Addition of new packages related to black fungus will be a huge relief to the beneficiaries. I am sure that the rationalised HBP will further improve the uptake of scheme in private hospitals leading to reduced Out-of-Pocket Expenditure for the beneficiaries.”

Dr R. S. Sharma, CEO, National

Health Authority (NHA) assured that NHA constantly works on the feedback received from stakeholders for rationalization of health benefit package master. Since the inception of the AB PM-JAY scheme, new packages have been added to cover more disease conditions and regular rates of the packages are being revised to provide better healthcare services. These changes are necessitated to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and will be made in the Transaction Management System (TMS) to ensure that there are no challenges in portability. State Health Agencies (SHAs) currently implementing any of the previous versions of HBP can now accept and implement the latest version of HBP 2.2. He further said that NHA is doing continuous consultation with stakeholders and eminent professors of institutes of eminent medical institutes.

NHA has undertaken rate revision in the following categories:

- Radiation oncology procedures,
- Medical Management procedures like procedure for dengue, acute febrile illness etc.,
- Surgical package treatment for black fungus,
- Other procedures like Right/left

heart catheterization, PDA closure, Arthrodesis, Cholecystectomy, appendicectomy etc.

Under medical management procedures, rates for ICU with ventilator has been revised by 100 percent, rates for ICU without ventilator by 136 percent, rates for HDU has been revised by 22 percent while prices for routine ward has been revised by 17 percent.

Currently, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY has 1669 treatment procedures out of which 1080 are surgical, 588 medical and one unspecified package. Under the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY aims to achieve the target of Universal Health Coverage and provide access to free and affordable healthcare services to the citizens residing in the remotest of the areas.

In 2018, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY was launched with the HBP 1.0 with a total of 1,393 packages. The scheme aims

to provide free and cashless healthcare services up to Rs 5 lacs per family per year to over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (over 53 crore beneficiaries) as per Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011 database.

Since the inception of the scheme, more than 2.2 crore eligible AB-PMJAY beneficiary have been provided with health coverage for secondary, tertiary and day care procedures for treatment of diseases and medical conditions through a vast network of 24,000 Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP). Health Benefit Package (HBP) is the backbone of AB PM-JAY scheme. It not only defines the scope of healthcare services being provided but also determines the extent of financial risk protection to the beneficiaries. Thus, HBP's are designed to cover diseases with high incidence / prevalence rates and the diseases which contribute to the maximum Out of Pocket (OOP) expenditure.

DAY-6

Q.1. Though India needs rapid urbanization but urban planning and development should be people-centric. Discuss. [Paper I: Indian Society]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Status of urbanisation in India.
- 👍 Why do we need rapid urbanisation?
- 👍 Meaning of urban planning and development.
- 👍 Why should it be people-centric?
- 👍 Challenges.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Vice President calls rapid urbanization an opportunity; emphasises the need for people-centric urban planning and development

Our cities must be inclusive cities that cater to basic needs of the urban poor – Vice President

Vice President attends civic reception hosted by the Government of Tripura

Launches smart road projects in Agartala

Connectivity, physical and digital, must improve for development of North East- Vice President

Vice President interacts with achievers from SHG and other sectors

The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu today called for viewing rapid urbanization as an opportunity and emphasised the need to focus on people-centric urban planning and development. “We must see that our cities are inclusive cities that cater to basic needs of the urban poor by increasing their access to water supply, sewer connections, housing and improved service delivery,” he said.

The Vice President made these remarks at a civic reception hosted in his honour by the Government of Tripura. On this occasion, Shri Naidu also launched the project of conversion of roads of Agartala city into Smart roads.

Emphasizing that good connectivity is a prerequisite for the overall development of any region, he said that this is even more true in the case of our landlocked North-Eastern States.

“Connectivity—be it physical or digital, has to improve for investments to flow and economic activity to pick up pace,” he further said. Under the newly inaugurated project, the roads within Agartala city and those connecting the

capital with its peripheral area will be converted into climate-resilient roads with an investment of Rs 439 crore. The Project not only aims to decongest the city but will also provide better facilities to residents of Agartala by way of better lighting, footpaths, signage, storm water drains and a utility corridor, among others. “Together, these development initiatives will also improve public health by reducing urban floods and air quality,” Shri Naidu said.

Taking note of massive infrastructure development taking place in the Northeast region under the Act East Policy, the Vice President expressed satisfaction that leveraging this thrust, the Government of Tripura has taken several initiatives to boost social and economic development of the state. Listing a number of projects to ease transportation bottlenecks, he said that the railway network has already expanded to the far end of Tripura—to Sabroom, and efforts are being made to revive waterways which could soon emerge as an efficient and cheap mode of transportation. Lauding the efforts for upgrading the MBB Airport and making

the Kailashahar airport operational, Shri Naidu said that these combined efforts will lend a fillip to tourism and other industries in Tripura.

Recognizing that Tripura is a fertile land for fruits like pineapple, jackfruit, lemon, orange, the Vice President praised the state government's initiative for creating right market linkages for these fruits in India and abroad. "The newly introduced Kisan Rail connects Tripura to New Delhi, Kolkata and other cities, thereby opening up a new avenue for the farmers of Tripura to market their produce in the country viably," he said. He suggested that the Centre and states should focus on increasing the exports of our horticultural products, given the global popularity of our indigenous products. He called for improved access to information for our farmers and better branding, marketing and connectivity to boost agri-exports.

Shri Naidu also welcomed the Agar Mission which was launched in Tripura recently with an aim to create an agar-based economy in the state to the tune of Rs 2000 Crore per year by 2025. It will not only promote agar-based industries in Tripura but also encourage plantation of more and more Agar trees thus leading to conservation and propagation of this endangered plant species, he said. Noting that Tripura is the second largest producer of natural rubber in the country after Kerala, he appreciated the state government for assisting rubber plantations and encouraging the rubber-based industry.

Observing that the agarbatti stick industry in Tripura has been adversely impacted by decrease in import duty on bamboo sticks in the past, the Vice President expressed happiness that the Government of India has now raised the import duty on agarbatti sticks and as a result, the industry in the state has

begun to thrive. He also complimented the state government for launching a new scheme called Mukhyamantri Agarbatti Atmanirbhar Mission to give a further impetus to this household business activity.

Wishing the people of the state, Shri Naidu hoped that the Government of Tripura under the Chief Ministership of Shri Biplab Kumar Dev would keep working for the welfare of the people of Tripura. Stressing on the importance of transparency and accountability in governance, Shri Naidu said the fruits of government initiatives should reach even the last beneficiary. "There should be no delay, deviation, dilution to the government funds", the Vice President reiterated.

Later, the Vice President interacted with achievers from the primary sector, SHG members and frontline workers.

Praising the SHGs for their dedication and hard work, he said that they are playing a crucial role not only in empowering women but also in strengthening the rural economy. Shri Naidu evinced keen interest to about the activities and experiences of the women SHG members present during the occasion. He listened to their experiences and posed many questions about their activities and welfare.

Interacting with the healthcare workers, the Vice President lauded their services to the country during the pandemic and learnt about their experiences during the second wave.

Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Chief Minister Of Tripura, Smt. Pratima Bhoumik, Union Minister Of State for the Ministry of Social Justice And Empowerment, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Deputy Chief Minister Of Tripura, Dr. Kumar Alok, Chief Secretary, Govt. Of Tripura and

other dignitaries were present during the event.

Following is the full text of the speech:

“Namaskar and Khulumkha,

Let me begin by conveying my greetings to all of you. This is my second visit to Tripura, and I feel overjoyed to be here again. Indeed, I have no words to convey my gratitude to the people of Tripura for the love and affection they shower so generously on me.

It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate the project of conversion of roads of Agartala city into Smart roads. Agartala is one of the first 100 Smart cities declared by the Government of India. With an investment of Rs 439 Cr, the roads within Agartala city and those connecting the capital with its peripheral area will be converted into climate-resilient roads. This will have far-reaching impact. The Project will not only decongest the city but will also provide better facilities to residents of Agartala. Naturally, this translates into better lighting, footpaths, dedicated parking, bollards, signaling, construction and rehabilitation of stormwater drains and a utility corridor, among others. Together, these development initiatives will also improve public health by reducing urban floods and air quality.

Dear friends,

Good connectivity is a prerequisite for the overall development of any region, and this is even more true in the case of our landlocked North-Eastern States. Connectivity—be it physical or digital, has to improve for investments to flow and economic activity to pick up pace. This is the cornerstone of the Smart Cities Mission—smart roads and public transport lie at the core of the scheme. I am glad to note that till June

2021, some 70 cities have developed and operationalized Integrated Command and Control Centres under Smart Cities Mission. Also, 310 Smart Road projects, 57 Smart Solar Projects and 101 Smart Water Projects have been completed under this scheme.

The rapid urbanization in India needs to be viewed as an opportunity. It is also important to give due weightage to people-centric urban planning and development. We must see that our cities are inclusive cities that cater to basic needs of the urban poor by increasing their access to water supply, sewer connections, housing and improved service delivery.

Friends,

Tripura is a land with vibrant culture and a rich cultural heritage of the royal era, as also different tribes besides a large Bengali population. Sharing its borders with Bangladesh on three sides, this land-locked state of Northeast India, has in recent years, seen accelerated development. Massive infrastructure development is taking place in the Northeast region under the Act East Policy, with a fair share of it happening in Tripura. I am happy to note that leveraging this infrastructure development, the present Government of Tripura has taken several initiatives to boost social and economic development of the state.

To ease transportation bottlenecks, a network of internal and national highways is being developed in the state. The railway network has already expanded to the far end of Tripura—to Sabroom, and work on the Agartala—Akhaury rail line is also progressing speedily.

In the pre-independence era, waterways constituted a major means of transportation in Tripura. The Government's endeavour to revive this mode has paid off and the first goods

vessel from Daudkandi (in Bangladesh) reached the floating jetty of Srimantapur Terminal at Sonamura as a trial run through this water route in September last year. In future, with enterprise, initiative and management, this mode of transportation could be made efficient and more operational, thereby slashing the transportation cost of goods from other parts of India to a minimum.

MBB Airport is the second busiest airport in the Northeast region after Guwahati airport and I am told that it is likely to be declared as an international airport. Efforts are also on to make the Kailashahar airport operational, besides promoting new destinations through helicopter services. All these are added feathers in Tripura's colourful cap. I am sure that they will lend a fillip to tourism and other industries here. It is good to know that the State government is encouraging the youth to take up IT and ITeS ventures for employment generation.

Tripura is a fertile land for fruits like pineapple, jackfruit, lemon, orange etc. Earlier, for want of adequate marketing and processing facilities, large quantities of such products used to get wasted. I am happy to know that the state government has come forward to create a linkage for marketing of these fruits. Resultantly, queen pineapple, scented lemon and jackfruits of Tripura have started finding markets in Dubai, UAE, London, UK and Germany. The newly introduced Kisan Rail connects Tripura to New Delhi, Kolkata and other cities, thereby opening up a new avenue for the farmers of Tripura to market their produce in the country viably.

Agar tree is the State tree of Tripura. The Agar Mission which was launched in Tripura recently with an aim to create an agar-based economy to the tune of Rs 2000 Cr per year by 2025,

is a welcome initiative. It will serve to tap the enormous economic potential that the Agar tree offers and will not only promote agar-based industries in Tripura but also encourage plantation of more and more Agar trees thus leading to conservation and propagation of this endangered plant species. I compliment you on this initiative which serves to promote agriculture while contributing to natural conservation.

As you are aware, Tripura is the second largest producer of natural rubber in the country after Kerala and rubber-based industry is one of the major industries in the state. Therefore, the state Government's efforts in assisting rubber plantations and encouraging the development of rubber-based entrepreneurship among its people deserves appreciation.

I was told that agarbatti stick industry has been a household business activity traditionally which had declined due to cheap imports caused by decrease in import duty on bamboo sticks. I am happy to note that the Government of India has now raised the import duty on agarbatti sticks and as a result, the industry in the state has begun to thrive. I am happy to know that a new scheme called Mukhyamantri Agarbatti Atmanirbhar Mission has been launched recently to give further impetus to this sector. We should provide all possible support to our traditional bamboo artisans.

I am convinced that the Government of Tripura under the dynamic leadership of Shri Biplab Kumar Dev is committed to the welfare of the people of Tripura, as reflected in its excellent work.

I convey my sincere appreciation to the Government of Tripura and my best wishes to the people of the state for a happy, healthy and prosperous future.

Q.2. India urgently needs both cooperative and competitive federalism. Do you think that it is viable? [Paper II: Governance, Constitution]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Concept of cooperative and competitive federalism.
- 👍 Why do we need these?
- 👍 Possible advantages.
- 👍 Possible challenges.
- 👍 Steps being taken in this direction.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

DD News Conclave on 'Cooperative and Competitive Federalism'

Team India Spirit pervades in Centre-State relations, High Vaccination Rates and COVID-19 management have been made possible through this: Union Law Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju

Experts discuss role of Finance Commission, GST Council and NITI Aayog in boosting Cooperative and Competitive Federalism

DD News Conclave Series enters its last phase, discusses aspects of New India

As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - celebrating India's 75 years of glorious Independence, DD News is organising a series of conclaves, bringing together eminent dignitaries, policymakers and domain experts. The Conclave has discussed various topics ranging from Yuva Shakti to Social Empowerment to Ease of Living.

The sixth Conclave in this series was held on the topic 'Cooperative and Competitive Federalism' with Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Law and Justice, Dr. N.K. Singh, Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, Shri B.P. Singh, Former Governor, Sikkim & Former Home Secretary, Prof. Sudhir Singh, Department of Political Science, Delhi University and Prof. Ashwani Mahajan, Economist. A studio audience comprising of scholars and college students interacted with the panellists during the session.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Kiren Rijiju said that a Team India spirit has been maintained in Centre-State relations, with cooperation in GST Council, and frequent interactions between Prime Minister and Chief Ministers, especially

in the fight against COVID-19. He said that without this cooperative spirit, India could not have achieved such high numbers in vaccination or utilised PM Cares funds for combating COVID-19. He added that while grievances may exist in a country with finite resources and diverse demands, institutional framework like Finance Commission and NITI Aayog have encouraged a consultative process to ensure equitable and proportionate distribution of resources.

Dr. N.K. Singh said that the Finance Commission has an important role in helping States meet their developmental goals and that it has studied every state's unique issues in detail. At the macro level, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has tried to allocate resources balancing demographic management, growth inequality, needs of states and performance incentives for progress, he said. He cited that while Himalayan and North-Eastern states had to account for ecological considerations in their growth path, southern states have prioritised population management, thereby a 'One Size Fits All' Approach no longer works, he said.

Shri B.P. Singh cited the need for a trio of institutional framework, finances and technology to be adapted to the needs of the states. He said that Prime Minister Modi has changed the grammar of democratic governance by keeping the channels of communication open with states.

Prof. Ramesh Chand said that the Aspirational Districts Programme set targets to ensure that those districts with lower growth than state average were focussed on. The next phase of this shall be Aspirational Blocks and so on until there can be micro-level growth emphasis on India's villages, he said. He added that just like successive Finance Commissions have tried to address inequality between states through grants, State Finance Commissions must be empowered to do the same between districts. Prof. Sudhir Singh said that villages where more than 50 per cent of India's population lives, needs to overcome governance deficit through capacity building, resources and boost to Gram Sabhas.

Prof. Ramesh Chand also elaborated on NITI Aayog's Index Approach that has heralded a new wave of Competitive Federalism between states on a variety of aspects including Ease of Living, meeting Sustainable Development Goals, Swachh Survekshan among others. He informed that NITI Aayog has used Knowledge Sharing Platforms for transferring best practices and innovations across states. Prof. Ashwini Mahajan said that states have to make a wise choice between the path of growth and fiscal prudence versus populism and doling out freebies. He said that successive Finance Commissions have encouraged States to prioritise their developmental goals by increasing the allocation of revenues and rationalising Central Sector Schemes. He said that India is an aspirational country that has proven its capabilities during the COVID pandemic and that it needs institution building and some of its brightest minds to come together to achieve its goals.