

Opening Remarks by V.Srinivas, IAS Secretary DARPG and DPPW at the 10th Chintan Shibir of Government of Gujarat dt 20 May 2023

Respected Chief Minister of Gujarat,
Respected Finance Minister of Gujarat,
Chief Secretary Gujarat,
Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, I pay my respects to Sardar Vallabhai Patel at the inspiring and formidable Statue of Unity, an engineering marvel at Ekta Nagar Gujarat,

I am deeply privileged to attend the 10th Chintan Shibir deliberations today. The Chintan Shibir lays down a futuristic model of governance representing far reaching administrative reform in the Amrit Kaal Period. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has addressed the Chintan Shibir of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on 18 February 2023. In his remarks, the Hon'ble Prime Minister shared his vast experience in governance, urged officials that impersonal governance models need to find life through deep personal commitment. This could be achieved through personal interactions, spending time together to think about common good and seeking to find happiness in every job assigned.

An apt way of describing 21st century governance is "In god we trust, everybody brings data to the table." As decision making becomes more complex and data driven, it is important to bring greater depth of data analytics and digital dashboards to governance models. The District Good Governance Index is one such initiative.

The DARPG has stood at the forefront of analyzing and presenting assessments of Governance in States through the Good Governance Index 2019 and 2021 and the National E-Services Delivery Assessment Reports 2019 and 2021. The GGI framework covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators. The Sectors of GGI 2021 were

1. Agriculture and Allied Sectors
2. Commerce and Industries
3. Human Resource Development
4. Public Health
5. Public Infrastructure and Utilities
6. Economic Governance
7. Social Welfare and Development
8. Judicial and Public Security
9. Environment
10. Citizen Centric Governance

The GGI 2021 categorized States into

- a. Other States Group A and Group B
- b. North-East and Hill States
- c. Union Territories

Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa top the composite rank score covering 10 sectors. Gujarat registered a 12.3 percent increase over GGI 2019 indicators.

In the sectoral scores, Gujarat topped the Economic Governance Sector.

The District Good Governance Index represents Next Generation Administrative Reform in Benchmarking Governance at District Level. This was prepared after extensive stakeholder consultations. DGGI Gujarat is the first for any big state of India as the Index benchmarks governance in all the 33 districts of Gujarat on 65 indicators under 10 sectors. The ranking brings healthy competition amongst districts to address existing gaps, plan to bridge these gaps and aid decision making tools. 12 rounds of meetings were held between Government of Gujarat – DARPG and CGG Hyderabad in the conceptualization and formulation of the DGGI, Gujarat.

On Civil Services Day April 21 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister said “when there is people centric governance, when there is development-oriented governance, it not only solves problems, but also gives better results. There is accountability towards the public in good governance, if one district performs well in the same state and the other does not, then the real reason behind this is the difference in good governance”.

On this occasion, the DARPG thanks each of the officials who have enabled scripting of this document – Shri Raj Kumar Chief Secretary Gujarat, Shri Dhananjay Dwivedi and Shri Mohammad Shahid Secretaries of Administrative Reforms, and Shri Shabbeer Shaikh, Dr. Eskoni and Shri Vaibhav Purandare of CGG Hyderabad, DARPG officials Shri NBS Rajput and Shri Sanjeev Shrivastav for taking the Nation's Governance Model of “Maximum Governance – Minimum Government’ forward.

With these opening remarks, I present the DGGI for Gujarat,

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