



**Permanent Mission of India
to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations
Avenue Appia 21, 1292 Pregny-
Chambésy, Geneva
Tel. : +41 22 7170600
Email: india.geneva@mea.gov.in**

No. GEN/PMI/353/6/2024

30 May 2024

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to Note Verbale of 29th April 2024 from the Chief Sustainable Development Section inviting to submit inputs to the call on the thematic report titled "Best Practices in the contribution of Development to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic" due to be presented at the fifty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council.

The Permanent Mission of India has the honour to submit the information in this regard in the enclosed Annexure I.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
(Kind Attn: Sakshi Rai)
Palais des Nations,
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

**Subject: Inputs in context of recovery from COVID-19 pandemic from
Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights**

- Poverty is a complex challenge, with simultaneous deprivations such as inadequate health, limited education, job insecurity, and low living standards. At the core of the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the goal of ending poverty in all its forms.
- The current government's policy framework has been guided by the concept of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". By prioritizing inclusive growth, the Government aims to ensure that the benefits from development initiatives reach all corners of the nation, paving the way for a more prosperous and equitable future for all its citizens.
- The Government's focus on inclusive growth is reflected in its commitment to tackle multiple dimensions of poverty and inequality, provide social security, and livelihood options, and improve the quality of life of the vulnerable sections of the population in the country. The Government has taken a host of measures to benefit the citizens by improving their livelihoods along with creating both physical and digital infrastructure.
- These targeted initiatives include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), PM Vishwakarma, etc.
- Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), one of the world's largest food security programs under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), provides food grains of 5 kg per person per month to more than 800 million beneficiaries. During the COVID-19 crisis, the food supply was disrupted due to a variety of reasons for different sections of society and thus efforts to alleviate hunger were intensified under the PMGKAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana) scheme among others.

- Meanwhile, various TPDS reforms were done like Aadhaar authenticated distribution of monthly allocated food grains under NFSA. Additionally, the "One Nation One Ration Card" plan ensures nationwide portability and access to grains for citizens, with nearly 35 million monthly transactions facilitated by technology.
 - POSHAN Abhiyaan, launched in 2018, tackles malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, and mothers comprehensively. It benefits 101 million beneficiaries including lactating mothers, pregnant women, and children aged 0-6 years. It also supports 1.3 million Anganwadi Centers and 1.2 million Anganwadi workers. Furthermore, initiatives such as maternity benefits, which have reached over 35.9 million women, and free antenatal care for 46 million individuals, play a crucial role in promoting maternal and child health.
- From widespread vaccination to making essential medicines affordable through a network of 10,000 new stores offering generic drugs, the focus has been on accessibility and affordability. Over 2.2 billion vaccine doses for COVID-19 were administered domestically and over 290 million were exported to aid other countries.
- Over 40 million houses have been constructed in rural and urban areas under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY). Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), tap water connections have been provided to 142 million households, ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has led to the construction of over 120 million toilets, promoting public health and sanitation across the country. The efforts in electrification have resulted in 28.6 million households being electrified under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - "Saubhagya". Additionally, over 101 million families have been provided with clean and safe LPG connections for cooking purposes under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).
- As the world's largest public works program, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) offers a vital safety net for millions of people. Over 140 million workers, more than half of them women, have participated, and the program has led to the creation of over 80 million assets that benefit rural communities.
- Digital advancements, especially Aadhaar and UPI, have revolutionized public services. Aadhaar's wide reach ensures that everyone can benefit from government programs. The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile) acts as a key enabler, facilitating direct benefit transfers into beneficiaries' bank accounts, eliminating corruption and middlemen. Faster and

cheaper internet (internet data costs down by 97%) has brought millions online, allowing them to access these digital services. This digital transformation has delivered benefits worth over Rs. 34 trillion to over a billion people. The Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched in 2014, transformed universal financial access by opening 517 million bank accounts, with over half belonging to women.

- Building on the principles of inclusivity, the Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the Aspirational Districts Program of India. The program identifies the most backward districts across various states of India and focuses on addressing their specific developmental needs through a convergence of efforts by central, state, and local governments, as well as other stakeholders. Building on the success of ADP, the Government launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme. The programme focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens and service delivery in the remotest and less developed blocks of India.
- In a landmark move, India recently assured one-third reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State/Union Territory Legislatures, guaranteeing women's greater participation in shaping national and regional policies.
- These interventions demonstrate positive outcomes over time, contributing to comprehensive and equitable development across the nation besides bringing down poverty.
- As per the '*National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023*' report, India's multidimensional poverty declined from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21 resulting in 135 million people escaping multidimensional poverty during the five-year period. The poorest states saw the fastest reduction in MPI value in absolute terms during this period. Rural areas saw the fastest decline in multidimensional poverty during this period.
- Moreover, building on the findings of the National MPI 2023 report, NITI Aayog has also released a discussion paper titled '*Multidimensional Poverty in India since the year 2005-06.*' According to the discussion paper, India has experienced a reduction in multidimensional poverty, decreasing from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022.:23, resulting in 248 million individuals escaping multidimensional poverty during the 9-year period.
- The substantial progress in all indicators of the National MPI, which intersect across multiple SDGs, demonstrates that concerted efforts have been made to achieve overall progress towards Agenda 2030.