

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, PLANNING & INVESTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, ITANAGAR

(District Commissioners' Conference, Namsai 2021)

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Minutes of the meeting

The two-day Deputy Commissioners' Conference 2021 focussed on Sustainable Development Goals hosted by Department of Planning was held at Multi-Purpose Cultural Hall, Namsai from 24th to 25th September 2021 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

Highlights of Day 1 of the conference (24th September 2021)

(List of participants of Day 1 is enclosed at Annexure-A)

At the very outset, Learned Chief Secretary welcomed distinguished dignitaries and Hon'ble guests including all the participants of the conference. While touching upon various gamut of prevailing unsustainable practices and climate urgency, he emphasised on the pressing need to attain operative alignment between central and state government schemes in order to ensure sustainability at the grassroots level in complete harmony with the spirit of Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Mentioning about the instrumental role of the institution of the Deputy Commissioner in spearheading development in the district, he urged all deputy commissioners to take strong resolve to improve ranking and performance of their respective district by ensuring that the frontrunners transform them into achievers and performers should turn them into front runners in times to come. He concluded by suggesting everyone to strive for sustainability in united quest of state towards bringing down poverty and inequality.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister while welcoming everyone stated that the conference though conducted by Planning dept, it is '**conference of the DCs, by the DCs and for the DCs**' and also advocated for further strengthening of the institution of Deputy Commissioner. He also highlighted that linking forest cover with the 15th Finance Commission grants has yielded positive result in terms of wildlife preservation and sustainability and more such policy intervention is required to preserve the rich reserve of wildlife in Arunachal Pradesh. Mentioning about poor state of infrastructure inherited from NEFA period which have undergone significant deterioration, he highlighted about the state's strong resolve towards systematic overhauling of whole infrastructure regime of the state. While indicating about the immense potential that the state holds in the field of Agriculture & allied sectors, Hydropower and tourism, he pressed for appropriately infusing the element of sustainability while designing policies meant for these sectors. While reiterating about the importance of SDGs he urged all DCs to stick to and monitor the parameters of sustainability in effective manner in order to fulfil SDG vision in totality.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister while recalling vision 2030 of India, mentioned about Team Arunachal's steadfast commitment towards realising the elements of this vision in its true letter and spirit. Taking stock of positive improvements in SDG scores in 2020 vis a vis 2018, he instructed the deputy commissioners to brace themselves for expeditious score improvement in coming future. He reiterated about the paramount position of institution of Deputy Commissioner in effecting positive transformation in the district and expressed his needful commitment towards further

strengthening and empowering the same in order to enable it become the factor of change in lives of people living at margins.

He suggested all deputy commissioners to effect purposeful partnership with public representatives of their area and advised them to focus their energy on four key priority sectors viz. **Tourism, Agriculture & allied, Hydropower and Natural resources** while executing government policies on ground.

Mentioning about the state's varied geographical and cultural diversity, he expressed his utmost trust in the office of Deputy Commissioner while expecting DCs to effectively dovetail govt schemes in view of prevailing ground realities and implement the same in order to ensure sustainable development and public justice.

The Hon'ble Union Minister Tourism and DONER while discussing about the SDGs, advised state to aspire for targeted approach to achieve these goals.

While drawing attention of the house towards the wide development gap between western India and eastern/North eastern India, he suggested the state machinery to aspire for competitive development on the lines of Gujarat Development Model which believes in the fact that "healthy competition leads to fast but sustainable development of the area"

While emphasizing about importance of planning and effective monitoring in good governance, he advised all DCs to submit policy inputs from their respective areas by taking stock of ground realities and financial constraints of the government to enable more realistic policy formulation.

While concluding, he also mentioned about the instrumental role played by DONER ministry in development of North Eastern Region and also expressed about his plans to formulate state wise NER action plan in order to further expedite the development of the NER.

The Hon'ble Union Minister Jal Shakti while addressing the house, categorically mentioned about the untapped potential of state in field of tourism and natural resources and stated how effective planning in conformity with local needs may help realise the potential in these sectors in sustainable manner.

While expounding about the importance of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav he opined that though 75 years is not a significant period in a nation's journey but it certainly provides an opportunity to revisit and analyse the growth trajectory as well as also to determine the future

While advocating for better synergy between political units and bureaucracy for engendering speedy development on the ground, he weighed for effective people's participation in governance process for timely and easy realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Over the top, he added that people's ownership may certainly infuse sustainability to state's strive towards SDG target realisation.

He discussed about the noteworthy importance of the institution of Deputy Commissioner and the instrumental role played by it in effecting positive transformation in the society and at the same time instructed all DCs to channelise the vision and resources of the government to bring about incremental change in the life of people.

The role of technology in enabling better monitoring of policy implementation is highly welcoming said the Hon'ble union minister and recommended DCs to use modern technology while executing the government's policies on ground thereby infusing transparency and ensuring expeditious public service delivery.

While discussing about the development centric transformation that nation is undergoing at present, he urged all citizens to realise and direct their duties and contribution towards full accomplishment of this transformation goal. Collective Citizen contribution may speed up the wheel of transformation of changing India fuelled by spirit of the multifaceted and participatory development said the Hon'ble union minister Jal Shakti while concluding his remarks.

The Commissioner Planning while extending the vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Union Ministers, reiterated about the monumental significance of the DC's conference in bringing about the upward trajectory in developmental process.

Mooting the conference as healthy and bidirectional communication forum as well as a novel ideation platform, he explicated that the conference was not a fault finding exercise rather it was intended towards assessing the current position of the districts vis a vis various indicators and to determine the future growth trajectory of the districts.

He enumerated the expected outcomes while emphasising on "**Breaking the Silos**" by effecting inter departmental synergy to achieve convergence in real sense. He prescribed the Deputy Commissioners to optimise the factors of production by setting targets which are doable, measurable and impactful. He also expressed that the faulty data regime crippled with denominator effect that severely limits the planning at the state level and implementation of such plans on the ground designed on the basis of dubious data. He also called team of Deputy Commissioner's as 'Super-26' and called upon them to come out of 'business as usual' mindset.

As a way forward, he urged departments to brainstorm actions towards set targets and ensure speedy and effective delivery of the same. Mentioning that finance department will ensure optimal allocation of existing financial resources he stated that as apart of culmination of this conference, an outcome document as well as future action plan will be released by the dept. of planning.

Technical Sessions by Nodal Departments

(1) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 1 No Poverty:

COO, ArSLM, at the onset stated that the policy of new welfarism helps the policymakers to re-plan and redesign the government programs in order to take down poverty and unemployment while spearheading overall social development in the state.

Stating '*Poverty as the worst form of violence*', he discussed about the poverty trap while highlighting about the importance of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other grass-root institutions in converting *vicious cycle of poverty into virtuous cycle of prosperity*.

While mentioning about the poor state of inherited infrastructure and calling it as major hindrance to developmental quest that state is embarking upon, he reiterated about the united commitment of government partnered with rural SHGs and PRIs towards fighting poverty on ground and expediting the development process in entirety.

Mentioning about the way forward, he prescribed New welfarism based on the pillars of agriculture & allied schemes, financial inclusion and credit linked programs as the panacea to the problem of deep-rooted poverty.

He concluded by highlighting about the success story of Seppa wherein Self-Help Groups are acting as active catalyst in poverty elimination process which can be replicated in other districts.

(2) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 2 Zero Hunger:

Commissioner WCD started by emphasizing on community participation citing it as the sole way to achieve this goal in real sense. Data related to relevant indicators under the goal were discussed. Various parameters like stunting, wasting, malnutrition concepts were brought forward and explained before the house.

While stating about plentiful of schemes, she stated that the main problem lies in implementation and lackadaisical monitoring on ground. She emphasized on monitoring of height and weight parameters periodically to deal with issues of SAM and NAM children. She also discussed about anomaly pertaining to height deficiency citing genetic variations as one of the reasons which

explains that the height deficit is not because of malnutrition but is result of altogether different genetic makeup.

She reiterated on the importance of cleansing of data while emphasizing on importance of tracking height of all children for initial 2 years and also stressed on the importance of first 1000 days of a child to alleviate the issues of malnutrition.

She highlighted the prevailing lack of awareness about importance of child and mother's health and urged DCs to undertake mass awareness drive regarding the same.

As a part of way forward, the idea of "Golden Handshake" for existing anganwadis workers and helpers on the verge of retirement was thoroughly discussed and DCs put forward their valuable suggestions to make the idea implementable on the ground.

(3) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 3 Good health & well-being:

Principal Secretary Health emphasized on the importance of good health & wellbeing and discussed about the organic interlinkage of good health with all other goals while prescribing for effective and affordable preventive, curative and palliative health care.

While mentioning about positive impact of 'Eat Right Campaign', he recommended the underperforming districts to appreciate adoption of best practices prevalent in other districts.

He also discussed about ways of addressing determinants of health and suggested that local context and solutions can be incorporated through innovative ideas.

Through interaction, it was suggested that orientation and training of Circle Officers would be considered as great start to build monitoring capacities at the level of subdivisions and other administrative units and bring about better outcomes in terms of improved health indicators in future.

Citing underweight, stunting, maternal health and immunization as topmost priority he concluded by declaring community engagement and local context-based innovations as the two important mainstays to spearhead good health and well-being on ground.

(4) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 4 Quality Education:

At the onset Commissioner Education drew attention of the house on the skewed notion about concept of quality education and justified that quality teachers spearhead quality education and not the quality school infrastructure.

She highlighted about the disparity in school enrolment in different districts and put forward her concerns pertaining to the higher dropout rate if left unaddressed may lead to less productive future generations.

Stating that the arena of education suffers despite favorable Pupil Teachers Ratio (PTR) which is well above national level, she suggested for rationalization of teachers through software based transparent and objective transfer posting mechanism which would remove human intervention in entirety.

(5) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 5 Gender Equality and goal 10 Reduced Inequalities:

Commissioner WCD and SJETA focused on the role of community on attaining the goal of Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities.

While stating that violence has become a normal activity in marital life and has acceptance among the community, she highlighted about the importance of One Stop Centres which provides medical, legal aid as well as psychological support to women in crisis. She emphasised that behavioural change among both men and women are essential to achieve this goal.

Referring to the wide acceptance of well-established polygamy system which reinforces patriarchal mindset among the society, she raised her concerns that male dominance along with societal concept about marital violence often leads to out of the court settlement of many domestic violence cases thus infringing the legal rights of the women subjecting to gender based violence.

As a result most of the domestic violence cases does not end up in conviction of the accused, she pointed about and as proposed for frequent follow up of cases against women and children, and stringent action against defaulters or second time violators by the police as the way forward to eliminate the gender based crimes and brutalities.

While concluding her remarks she stressed upon early Codification of existing customary laws on priority basis in order to equip the women with fundamental marital rights.

(6) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 6 Clean water and sanitation:

Secretary PHED stated that Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) are the major schemes which will help in achieving the goal 6. The state has already achieved the ODF status, but maintenance of this status is the challenge going forward as it requires key behavioural change from the society, he stated.

He stressed upon the role of Community Ownership of the assets created under SBM in adding sustainability to it. At the same time, he also stated about state's unmoved resolve towards achieving ODF+ status by beefing up capacities of related stakeholders and effecting coordinated efforts by their active involvement.

He further emphasised that the government should continue to top up the funds for individual household latrines as did earlier using the state funds.

While stating about the poor maintenance of the already created assets which is under the active consideration of the department, he also emphasised on the role of community participation in ensuring sanitation at the level of villages and other community habitations including the township.

While reiterating about the idea of Commissioner planning in context of "Breaking the inter-departmental Silos" he advised for convergence of the schemes under PHED, 15th FC and MGNREGA to effectively utilise the funds in order to maximise the gains.

While concluding, He was of the considered opinion that IEC activities of various departments has to be converged and silos among departments has to be breached upon while designing and implementing policies on ground.

(7) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 7 Affordable & Clean Energy:

Commissioner (Power) informed the august gathering about 100% achievement of target in terms of completion of electrification in 5311 census villages. While mentioning about the issues viz. High AT&C losses, poor billing and collection, long LT lines and old transmission and distribution lines, he pointed out that providing quality and reliable power is still a huge challenge before the department. He expressed that with modern technologies and standalone electricity systems, it is now possible to give electricity to the remotest of the villages which was hard to imagine in the past days.

While discussing about the possible solutions to these problems he proposed for a comprehensive scheme including conversion of LT line into HT lines, installation of HVDS and replacement of bare conductors with Aerial Bunched Cables (ABC) in order to provide a reliable grid in the state.

As a part of his concluding remarks, he highlighted about the state's satisfactory performance when it comes to provisioning of LPG connections to household, the coverage of which at present stands at 96.8%.

(8) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities:

UD Secretary started by laying strong emphasis on urgent need of effecting rural to urban paradigm shift in designing and planning the government policies.

She further pointed out about prevalent rapid urbanisation trends in recent years due to influx of rural population into urban areas for employment and better standard of living and also informed that the poorest of the poor who migrate to the urban areas does not possess land which hampers the achievement of state with regards to execution and realisation of PMAY (U) targets.

Stressing on the need of observing strict adherence to the guidelines by administration while selecting beneficiaries under PMAY (U), she added that by doing so the poorest of the poor will derive justice and much needed benefit under this scheme.

She also requested the DCs to ensure the timely completion of buildings' foundation by beneficiaries for early release of first instalment under PMAY (U). While blaming the unrealistic allocation of money per house for poor target achievement in view of the difficult terrain and remoteness, she also added that irregular selection of beneficiaries and geotagging issues due to poor network poses challenges regarding implementation of this scheme.

Secretary U Dalso pointed out about the various lacunae in waste management across the urban towns. Along with limited manpower and limited infrastructure, shortage of funds also affects the performance of the state with regard to waste management. Extensive IEC campaigns along with active training and participation of SHG and community-based organisations are needed to ensure effective waste management system.

While focussing on the lack of Material Recovery Facility across districts in the state, she stated "Non availability of suitable land" is one major reason for the same, she assured that if suitable land is identified by the district administration, enough funds will be made available by the state in order to establish Material Recovery Facilities on the ground.

While continuing with the discussion Commissioner planning added that planning department will make funds available to disburse salary to staffs of all departments on a timely basis, irrespective of the status of receipt of central share.

(8) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 12 Responsible Consumption & Production:

Three major pillars were identified for achieving the goal of responsible consumption and production viz. Jhum Cultivation, Micro and Macro irrigation and Plastic Waste production, stated Secretary Agriculture while addressing the august gathering.

He stated that the farmers of Arunachal Pradesh still practice the age-old traditional Jhum Cultivation leading to large scale destruction of forest and ecology by citing Non availability of suitable land and lack of irrigation facilities as two possible reasons for the same.

Indicating about the importance of Terrace Cultivation in doing away with the Jhum practice, he termed the lack of funding as constraint in transforming the Jhum land into terrace cultivation.

He also proposed to revive the KVKs and take active support of ICAR while dealing with the issue of Jhum Cultivation.

He pointed out that Lack of dedicated program for irrigation was a major hurdle in front of the department, but with introduction of PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana this is solved to an extent. Large scale investment is needed to improve irrigation coverage and this can definitely help in promoting responsible production in future.

Taking the discussion forward he mentioned that one of the key challenges which is same across the globe is increased usage of plastics especially the Single use plastic that is widely used and generates lots of waste. However, without a sustainable, low cost, easily available, eco-friendly alternate material is available, this problem remains unsolved, he stated.

While concluding his remarks, He emphasised on the need of large scale IEC activities on the community level as well as segregation of waste at the source in order to ensure sustainable consumption pattern in society.

(9) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 13 Climate Action:

CCF highlighted in his presentation that the state of Arunachal Pradesh has already started experiencing the ill effects of Climate change manifested through increasing frequency of extreme rainfalls, recurrent landslides, flash floods to quote a few.

While raising his concerns over frequent drought like conditions being experienced by the state unlike in the past, he drew the attention of the house towards the climate projections for 2030 and 2050 which disturbingly point towards extreme climate events known by rising temperatures with severe implications on its water resources, agriculture, forest ecosystem services, infrastructure amongst others.

While highlighting the importance of conservation of environment for a safe future, he also pointed out how overall economic development is interlinked with environment conservation. He stated that the state should focus more on human and institutional capacity for mitigation and adaption to disasters and its after effects. He set the ball in motion by mentioning that the state should adopt cleaner and more renewable source of energies.

(10) Connectivity Challenges and way forward:

Secretary RWD proposed the need of proper implementation of projects as the way forward for improving the connectivity. While mentioning about adequate fund available at the state machineries, he blamed the poor implementation as the central reason behind the poor connectivity infrastructures in the state.

He pointed out how PMGSY has helped in connecting remote locations across the state and emphasised that despite of proper funding by state building quality roads remains a challenge given the implementation bottlenecks.

Maintenance of already constructed roads possess a key challenge before the department which in turn requires large scale investment, stated the RWD secretary while stressing upon the need of community participation and community ownership as the way forward for effective and timely implementation of projects.

He also highlighted the major challenges with respect to improving internet connectivity in the state. Stating that the state receives adequate funds from the centre for improving the network, he mentioned that difficult terrain and the geography poses challenges in implementation and modern technology will help us to accommodate with the said challenges.

(11) State's position w.r.t. aspirational goal 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institution:

While reiterating upon the committed resolve of Home department to ensure corruption free equitable delivery of services, the Commissioner Home stressed upon the need for ending bribery and corruption in all its possible forms. He mentioned that decadal census is very much important in understanding the key statistics and every DC should ensure that Census is conducted in a professional manner.

Highlighting the corruption in the state with supporting statistics, he stressed upon ensuring time bound investigation and proper follow up to corruption related complaints in order to improve the conviction rate of culprits.

While mentioning that the civil servants on the verge of retirement must be put through strict vigilance radar in order to identify the people with doubtful integrity, he suggested for early adoption of IS 37001 of international anti bribery standards to deal with the bribery and corruption related cases.

He concluded by highlighting on the importance to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture of children and Women.

Highlights of Day 2 of the conference (25th September 2021)

(List of participants of Day 2 is enclosed at Annexure-B)

The Day 2 of the DCs Conference had a fresh start with the launch of **Namsai Fresh- dairy products** by the Honourable CM and other dignitaries.

Session (1)

The whole idea of the conference was about improving Governance, and to make it more efficient and effective so that sustainable development is achieved in entirety, stated the learned Chief Secretary while mentioning that "the existence of the service and the officers is for and because of the public and not vice-versa".

Learned Chief Secretary emphasised on two pillars of good governance viz. Decision making and Implementation of the decisions in timely and effective manner and stated that poor implementation may turn even the rightest of the decision wrong.

He emphasised on the role of the institution of Deputy Commissioners in better implementation of govt schemes and policies and stressed upon the fact even perfectly designed policies are failed by the poor implementation regime.

Learned Chief Secretary reminded everyone being subjected to social media enabled constant surveillance of public and prescribed all officers to follow the maxim of efficiency, transparency and accountability while implementing policies on ground.

In the capacity of bureaucratic head of the state, he advised all the officers to organise themselves personally as well as their respective offices in order to build upon a system, which will ensure continuity of policies and service delivery.

While stating that offices should not be person oriented, rather system oriented, he directed planning department to issue a handy guide to all officers for field visits as well instructed IPR department to take up training of DCs in order to improve their press handling abilities. He also directed all DCs to fix accountability of HoDs in district level and conduct district level e-pragati once in two weeks.

While concluding he reminded everyone that "we are in this profession as a matter of our own choice, not by anyone's compulsion, so perform we must with no other choice left".

Session (2)

The next session was graced by **Shri Bhaskar Khulbe, IAS (Retd.), Advisor to the Honourable Prime Minister of India**. His vast knowledge spread across different domains along with his field experience in Arunachal Pradesh turned out to be perfect guide for the energetic DCs of Arunachal Pradesh.

He emphasised that SDG was all about reconciling development with efficient management of environment and natural resources. Stating that SDG aims of a world where no one is left behind and everyone has a safe environment, he advised the state to focus on community partnership areas.

He stressed upon realising the untapped potential lying in the field of Agri. & Allied Sectors, Renewable Energy sectors and highlighted that Across the Region and Across the Season Connectivity will be instrumental in effecting improvement in these sectors.

He highlighted that dropout rates, minimum proficiency level of students etc still haunts the state and proposed solution to this problem in form of utilising the valuable services of retired veterans (Swiss method) or the students pursuing higher studies outside the state etc. to conduct bridge courses for children.

While emphasising on GI tagging of the eligible state's products and advising that DoNER, TRIFED and postal department can help in marketing of these products in more efficient manner, he informed the house about the allocation of fund from GOI to ensure easy marketing of such produce and asked state to take up the matter with TRIFED MD.

Moving forward, he stressed upon the need to focus on locally available products to improve the nutritional level of state, for which he cited millets as an example. He also advised the state to focus on exports of handcrafted products made in bulk without compromising the quality.

While indicating about the importance of locally engineered innovations as well as rich potential of organic farming in the state, he advised the state to strive for global recognition of Organic Arunachal brand. When asked about the sectors to be focussed for Atma Nirbhar Bharat, he reiterated that focus is to be on "vocal for local" with mention of oil palm and fisheries sectors.

He ideated for the mobile vans in each district taking e-content in local language across the villages in order to impart knowledge to villagers by simplifying issues at door.

'Doordarshan can help in bridging the learning gap of students' said Shri Bhaskar Khulbe while concluding his remarks and prescribed for district specific and climate specific agriculture with the help of CPCRI and also advised to hold NE festival in Delhi to showcase the products of North East before the world.

Session (3)

Shri. Ajay Bhalla, IAS, Home Secretary GOI started the session by stating that India's development goals are aligned with SDG and while mentioning about the external and internal security concerns of the state he categorically pointed out about large hydro power potential of the state.

He went on to congratulate all the DCs for effective COVID management despite region being subjected to several geo-climatic challenges and equally emphasised upon the need of close coordination between civil administration and security agencies in view to safeguard the strategic region of the state.

While stating about the important role of DC in convergence and monitoring of projects/schemes, he suggested Ld. Chief Secretary to look into the possibilities of revival of Advanced Landing grounds in Arunachal Pradesh.

Session (4)

Shri Amitabh Kant, IAS (Retd), CEO NITI Aayog while focussing on the vitality of institution of DC in monitoring and implementing various schemes and suggested DCs to keep track on NER SDG indicator monitoring dashboard which provides data on real time basis. He emphasised how inputs from fields contribute into realistic policy making and congratulated the state in its Covid management quest and also for scaling the health infrastructure in a time bound manner.

While enumerating the untapped potential of the state in the field of responsible tourism, Irrigation, agriculture and specifically mentioning about the rich biodiversity along with socio cultural and linguistic diversity, he opined that Arunachal should emerge as a high value tourism destination rather than a mass tourism destination. Identifying tourism as the soft industry, he advised the state to create more employment in this sector like in Kerala.

Stating that focus on MSME and value-added agricultural products will bring in monumental change in the economy of the state, he highlighted about early realisation of digitisation in order to boost the service sector in the state.

While stating that, 'local entrepreneurs, local resort and local cuisines need to be promoted and can play pivotal role in bringing about positive changes in the economy of the state', he offered his help to onboard Amazon, Flipkart and other e-commerce platform to help market the products of Arunachal.

Basin Wise Presentations

(1) Siang Basin

On behalf of the Siang basin, DC Siang highlighted that these areas are prone to frequent natural disasters. He emphasised upon the staff shortage, low wage rate in MGNREGA and lack of financial literacy among public.

Stating the need of financial literacy programs, he added that credit linkage of SHGs has to be focussed. He raised concern over land records and land allotment.

Discussing about the Health sector DC mentioned that up-gradation of district hospitals in the newly established district like lower Siang, Siang and Leparada need to be considered.

Citing that immunization is a challenge in the labour pockets of the basin DC suggested that proper awareness and IEC activities are to be conducted. Moreover, rational distribution of health care professional is most desired in the whole basin.

Recurring failure in growth monitor devices in anganwadis, unavailability of anganwadis building are the challenges highlighted by the DC while discussing about child health and nutrition.

DC cited the increased use of chemicals that affects fertility of soil while talking about responsible consumption and production. He added that better water management and terrace cultivation is needed in order to replace Jhum cultivation.

While discussing about the Digital literacy, DC emphasised on steps to boost digital literacy through better provisioning of computers for the schools and Electrification of schools on priority.

Lastly, he added that basic infrastructure is missing and dept officers are missing in the newly created districts which makes policy implementation difficult in such districts.

(2) Dibang Basin

DC Lower Dibang valley proposed that the state should release the MGNREGA funds on a timely basis. Connectivity remains a biggest challenge in Dibang basin and he asked the state to install more mobile towers to improve the network in the basin.

Highlighting the high rate of suicide in the basin, he suggested posting of more psychiatrists in the district hospital. The potential of adventure tourism was emphasised in the presentation and he hoped that the state will take necessary steps to develop the basin into adventure tourist's hotspot.

(3) Subansiri Basin

DC highlighted that large number of villages in Kurung Kumey, Kra Daadi and Upper Subansiri still lack internet and surface connectivity. He pointed out that large scale migration is happening from across the districts to Itanagar in search of better standards of living and proposed to strengthen the institution of GB for ensuring swift justice.

(4) Tirap Basin

DC Changlang representing Tirap basin highlighted the high level of poverty in the whole basin. Major reasons being identified are subsistence-based agriculture, drug addiction etc.

Stating the fact that insurgency is a huge challenge in the TCL region, he proposed that rehabilitation of surrendering insurgents must be taken up under security related expenditure scheme of central Govt. DC emphasized that employment generation and livelihood is the only key to keep the youth engaged and save them from substance abuse.

DC further added that wage rate of MGNREGA need to be revised according to the existing market rates and proposed to start SRLM in TCL region at the earliest as NERCORMP has already been wound up.

He suggested that prefabricated Anganawadi buildings may be constructed across the state which proves out to be a low cost, but quality infrastructure solution and also prescribed for rationalisation of human resources in the health sector.

He further highlighted that Tirap basin has acute shortage of doctors and nurses in the hospitals. Speaking about the status of maternal health DC emphasized that inordinate delay in JSY and ASHA incentives de-motivate the ASHAs who are the main pillars of maternal and child health. He suggested taking up LaQshya compliance in mission mode across all health units.

To curb the growing drug menace village model drug de-addiction was done in Changlang through community participation and rehabilitation of drug de-addicts by installing poultry, piggery, fishery units were done.

Lastly speaking on the status of education, he said that foundational education needs to be converged with primary education. He stressed need for starting a child-care institute in TCL region.

(5) Lohit Basin

DC Namsai on behalf of Lohit basin suggested that providing employment to all job card holders will play a pivotal role in ending poverty. Speaking about affordable housing for all, he mentioned that his district has already sanctioned and completed 583 PMAY houses out of 2806 target.

Discussing on health and healthcare facilities DC gave the way forward that all the PHCs need to be developed according to IPHS standards. The growing drug menace poses a huge challenge to the society. There is only one de-addiction centre at Lathao which according to him is not sufficient and suggested that there should at least two more rehabilitation centres in the district. To ensure proper nutrition to the children Anganwadi needs to be upgraded with good facilities and coordination of ASHA and AWW is also very important.

He further emphasised on the need to organise more enrolment camps under mission mode to cover maximum beneficiaries under health insurance schemes.

DC also added that ration card updation facilities is to be provided at district level. He suggested that all the new hamlets has to be covered under the schemes for ensuring achieving SDG targets.

Lastly, he mentioned that there is no waste management plant at place in the district which requires immediate attention of the concern department.

(6) Kameng Basin

DC East Kameng put forth that SDG 5 will be the key enabler in achieving all the other SDGs. His presentation was majorly focused upon empowerment of women and its cascading effect on the other SDGs.

He stressed upon the need for capacity building of community-based organisations and suggested for relaxing material procuring norms under MGNREGA and strengthening redressal mechanism under NFSA.

He put forth a model in which each officer will adopt a school and visit them once every month. This will help in improving the quality of education across schools and ensure proper functioning, he stated while concluding his presentation.

Open Discussion & guidance to DCs

(1) In the open discussion, **Commissioner (PWD) cum Divisional Commissioner West Shri. Kaling Tayeng, IAS** highlighted the need for balance of younger blood and older to march together towards achievement of goals and prescribed the middle path for all the young administrators.

(2) **Hon'ble Minister Shri Wangki Lowang** highlighted that often politicians and bureaucracy seem to counter each other despite of the fact that both are serving the public. He suggested those issues can

be sorted out and sensibility is the utmost requirement of this time. He emphasised upon 3 points for improving governance which includes *spot delivery of services, simplification of processes and increased creativity and innovation in service delivery*.

(3)**Hon'ble Minister Shri Bamang Felix** highlighted that faults in SECC Census 2011 may be one reason behind faulty implementation of PMAY (G). He suggested DCs to seriously consider convergence of schemes for better implementation and also highlighted about the silent revolution by women led by SHGs echoing throughout the state.

(4)**Hon'ble Minister Shri Honchun Ngandam** reiterated the vital role that DC's play in the development process. He stressed upon the need of coordinated work among the executive, judiciary and legislature to achieve the desired results.

(5)**Hon'ble Minister Shri Tage Taki** highlighted upon the need of data integrity in every department. Stating that false data hampers policy formulation, he urged all DCs to prioritise correcting data in every department. He highlighted about the recently launched Bagwani yojana and asked every DCs to gain the maximum out of the scheme.

(6)**Hon'ble MP Shri Tapir Gao** highlighted that sometime Directorate act as a barrier in implementing schemes properly. They seem to block the channel between district and secretariat. He requested every DCs to be proactive and solve problems on spot. He asked to prioritise teachers training mechanism. Citing corruption and drugs addiction to be most impeding factors in the State, he claimed these two factors as the enemy for sustainable development. He laid out his expectation from DCs while asking them to be intimately involved with the ground realities and implement policies by healthy tweak in the legal framework if required for ensuring public justice at large. Similar to Verrier Elwin's 'A philosophy of NEFA', he suggested DCs to write book based on their experience which would act as a guide for the future generation of the state.

(7)**Honourable Deputy Chief Minister Shri Chowna Mein** called the event historic. Addressing the participants, he said to take up challenges as opportunities and do things with professionalism. While building infrastructure, vision should be there. He reiterated on efficient and effective utilisation of resources. He directed the WCD department to review supplement nutrition menu in Anganwadi centres based on their nutritional values. Concluding his speech, he reiterated strengthening the institute of Deputy Commissioner.

(8)**Honourable Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu** reiterated his vision to make his government available till the last person. He committed the political will to achieve the SDGs and asked all DCs to work with passion to achieve the goals. He emphasised upon the need of teamwork and asked his team to carry forward the good work to achieve a composite score of 67-68 in NITI Aayog index by March 2022.

While highlighting about his Rockstone resolve towards weeding out corruption from the state, he stated that his government ensured transparency in appointments through establishment of APSSB, and also put forth his further intention to attack cash related corruption.

Honourable CM said that every basin will get two ministers and two secretaries as basin in-charges for better coordination and directed the DCs to conduct regular review meeting with department level HoDs along with concerned MLAs.

He directed the planning department to formulate a mechanism to ensure seamless, but transparent, efficient and effective communication between secretariat and districts.

While highlighting about the importance of e-filing system in bringing transparency in file movement in the secretariat, he emphasised on urgent need for timely release of funds and directed the planning department to come up with a mechanism to reduce/avoid delay in release of funds.

To further empower the institute of Deputy Commissioner, he announced that his cabinet will approve for routing ACRs of all district level officers through DC. He asked everyone to be more vocal for local and reiterated the key four sectors that can bring in real development in the state.

He announced that his cabinet is going to review the powers to panchayat and make them more empowered. He further directed that SDG review meeting will be conducted on state level at a frequency of 6 months and made an announcement that districts will be rewarded based on performance with awards in categories viz. SDG Platinum category with cash award of 2 crore as untied funds, followed by Gold, Silver and Bronze categories with 1 crore, 50 lakh and 25 lakhs as cash awards respectively.

The Deputy Commissioners conference on SDGs ended with vote of thanks and concluding remarks by Shri Sharat Chauhan, IAS Principal Secretary (Finance).

Important highlights and key decisions taken by the team Arunachal as a culmination of this two-day DC's conference may be clubbed together and summarised as below:

- ✓ Districts to be divided into 5 basins clubbing Dibang with Lohit. Therefore the 5 basins are Lohit, Kameng, Subansiri, Siang and Tirap.
- ✓ Each basin to have 2 Cabinet Ministers as in-charge along with 2 Secretaries to review SDGs on quarterly basis to ensure better monitoring.
- DCs to revisit strategies with concerned HoDs and MLAs on regular basis in order to ensure need based and participatory development on the ground.
- State has to devise a mechanism to bridge the existing gap between District and Secretariat by strengthening and overhauling the directorate.
- Finance dept to come up with a mechanism to reduce/avoid delay in release of fund
- As advised by PM, vocal for local should be taken forward by the state in its quest to economic development.
- Long term policy plans for 4 key sectors viz. **Tourism, Agriculture & allied, Hydropower and Natural resource** to improve the State's economic growth trajectory.
- SDG based budget allocation to be ensured from the next budget.
- Institution of DCs to be empowered. ACR of district officials to be routed through DC.
- Empowerment of panchayat to be done. DCs to involve Panchayats in decision making.
- Meetings to be held with all depts on a timely basis.
- Timeline based target to be given to HoDs.

District review meeting on SDG at state level every 6 months. Four trophies based on review:

- *SDG platinum trophy - 2 crore untied fund to the top performer*
 - *SDG gold trophy - 1 crore*
 - *SDG silver trophy - 50 lakhs*
 - *SDG bronze trophy - 25 lakhs*
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Annexure-A (List of Participants Day 1, DCs Conference)

1. Cabinet Minister Jal Shakti, Govt of India
2. Cabinet Minister Jal Shakti, Govt of India
3. Cabinet Minister DONER, Govt of India
4. HCM, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
5. HDCM, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
6. MP East, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
7. Minister PHE & WS, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
8. Minister Tourism, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
9. MLA Pasighat West
10. MLA Boleng - Pangin
11. MLA Namsai, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
12. MLA Lekang (Namsai), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
13. MLA Hayuliang (Anjaw), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
14. Chief Secretary, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
15. Pr. Secretary Home, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
16. Pr. Secretary Health, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
17. Commissioner HCM, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
18. Commissioner PWD Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
19. Commissioner Planning, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
20. Commissioner WCD & Education, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
21. IGP (Law & Order), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
22. Secretary Planning, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
23. Secretary Food & Civil Supplies, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
24. Secretary Urban Development, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
25. Secretary Public Health Engineering Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
26. Secretary Agriculture & Horticulture Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
27. Secretary Tourism, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
28. OSD Chief Secretary, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
29. CCF, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
30. All District Commissioners, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
31. FormerDC Anjaw
32. Former DC Anini
33. ADC Miao
34. ADC Bordumsa
35. ADC Seppa
36. COO, ArSRLM
37. Scientist (Env & Forest), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
38. Joint Director Planning Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
39. Deputy Director Planning Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
40. 26 Officers from Districts assisting the DC
41. Public Health Specialist, State Surveillance
42. Research Assistants, CM Fellow, Sr. Consultant, Planning Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
43. Team District Administration, Namsai

Annexure-B (List of Participants Day 2, DCs Conference)

1. HCM, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
2. HDCM, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
3. MP East, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
4. Minister PHE & WS, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
5. Minister Home
6. Minister Agriculture
7. Minister RWD
8. MLA Pasighat West
9. MLA Boleng - Pangin
10. MLA Namsai, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
11. MLA Lekang (Namsai), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
12. MLA Hayuliang (Anjaw), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
13. Chief Secretary, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
14. Pr. Secretary Home, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
15. Pr. Secretary Health, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
16. PCCF, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
17. Commissioner HCM, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
18. Commissioner PWD, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
19. Commissioner Planning, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
20. Commissioner WCD & Education, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
21. IGP (Law & Order), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
22. Secretary Planning, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
23. Secretary Food & Civil Supplies, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh (AK)
24. Secretary Urban Development, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
25. Secretary Public Health Engineering Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
26. Secretary Agriculture & Horticulture Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
27. Secretary Tourism, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
28. All District Commissioners, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
29. Former DC Anjaw
30. Former DC Anini
31. ADC Miao
32. ADC Bordumsa
33. ADC Seppa
34. COO, ArSRLM
35. Scientist (Env & Forest), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
36. Joint Director Planning Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
37. Deputy Director Planning Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
38. 26 Officers from Districts assisting DC
39. Public Health Specialist, State Surveillance
40. Research Assistants, CM Fellow, Sr. Consultant, Planning Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
41. Team District Administration, Namsai