<u>**Statement of India**</u>

6th Session of Committee on Statistics, UN ESCAP

<u>**Agenda Item no. 11:**</u> *Member States' perspectives on navigating policy with data to leave no one behind*

19th October, 2018

Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

- Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,
- India has been a strong proponent of the use of data to target the well-being of the most vulnerable sections of the population effectively.
- We have created world leading digital infrastructure such as Aadhaar, UPI, e-Sign and Digilocker.
- The twin combination of the country's sheer diversity in languages, demographic potential and fast-growing market size AND globally leading digital infrastructure such as Aadhaar, United Payments Interface(UPI – the world's first mobile first bank to bank payments system based on mobile number) means it can function as a potential hub for cutting edge techniques in data science and statistics at scale.

• **Aadhaar**	• **-35 million authentications per day.** • **-World's largest identity data base with greater than 1 billion biometric identities**
• **UPI**	• **-400 million transactions in September** • **-Grew by 100 million in just one month from August to September** • **Government reference app, Google Tez,**

	Whatsapp UPI integration
• GSTN	• 160 million returns • 4.3 billion invoices uploaded
• Aayushmaan Bharat	• -World's largest health scheme • -500 million beneficiaries covered

- o Under the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana(Financial Incusion scheme), we have created 32.94 crore, or about 330 million new bank accounts. Of all bank accounts opened from 2014-17 globally, 55 percent are from India.
- o The use of mobile data has increased 15 times from 2014 to 2017 in India. On average, an Indian subscriber consumed 7.4 GB of data on mobile networks alone a - figure that is on par / higher with developed economies.
- Mr. Chair/Madame Chairperson, according to a UNDP report, we have pulled 271 million people out of poverty in the last 10 years. We are confident that with the use of the foundational digital infrastructure we have created, coupled with the use of data and effective government statistics to target the beneficiaries and of course with effectively conceptualized and implemented policies, we can aim to drastically reduce the incidence of this scourge even further.
- We are targeting SDGs at the unit of governance through our Aspirational Districts programme where we are targeting the districts most in need of further development and tracking them on social outcomes by putting their performance and ranking them on their delta in performance and putting the rankings transparently in the public domain. This programme focuses on many SDGs including 3: **Good Health** and Well-being, 4: Quality **Education**, 5: **Gender Equality**, 6: 6: **Clean Water and Sanitation**, 7: **Affordable** and Clean Energy, 8: Decent Work and **Economic Growth** and 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure with the overarching focus on 10: reduced inequalities.
- As a country with a federal structure, we believe in cooperative and competitive federalism, where different states share best practices and also compete to better outcomes. We have created the SDG India

Index and are first country in the world to develop its own SDG index to rank sub-national governments with data sets on 70 key SDG Indicators

- We have delocalized this philosophy to our districts now with the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- This is creating opportunities for vertical coherence, new datasets and real time monitoring.
- The use of data to leave no one behind has been practised effectively even at the village level in rural development programmes. The Socio Economic Census provided the details of deprived households. ICT use and Geo-tagging after further Gram Sabha validation has generated lists of beneficiaries under Ujjwala scheme for LPG, Soubhagya for free electricity connection, beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin(Housing for All – Rural scheme), and now Ayushman Bharat. We have been able to clean up beneficiary selection through SECC, IT/DBT and Geo tagging with all payments falling into beneficiary accounts directly.
- To further the realization of UN SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing, India has launched the world's largest publicly funded healthcare scheme, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). The scheme provides a free health coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs or 0.5 million INR per family to more than 100 million families or 500 million citizens to meet catastrophic health expenses.
- The backbone of PMJAY's implementation is a robust data system that includes the Beneficiary Identification System to accurately identify entitled citizens on a real-time basis, the Transaction Management System to facilitate cashless and paperless patient registration and claims process, and the Hospital Empanelment System to manage hospital registrations and approvals.
- Through this end-to-end data system, PM-JAY is monitored daily on parameters such as registered beneficiaries, claims submitted, claim amount disbursed, speciality-wise utilization etc, to address possible micro-level implementation issues and to ensure effective last mile delivery. Over time, the data shall be further utilized to improve resource allocation through disease surveillance and facilitate better preventive healthcare infrastructure. A paper on how to realize this vision and create functioning Health Stack has been released by NITI

Aayog(our policy body). At the same time, while recognizing the importance of data, India has developed PM-JAY data privacy and security guidelines to safeguard the data collected across the various systems.

- We are committed to ensuring accessibility to our datasets and ease of use by the common man. A National Data and Analytics Portal is in the process of being created that will act as a single point of access for all national and state government datasets, semantically connected and with advanced search functionalities to facilitate ease of use by the common man.
- In our policies for emerging technologies, such as the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and upcoming strategy on blockchain, we have focused on how they can be utilized to 'Leave No One Behind': our AI policy has focused on how emerging economies should approach the technology
  - o The Strategy is termed #AIForAll as it is focused on leveraging AI for inclusive growth in line with overarching Government policy to leave no one behind for development(Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas)
  - o Role of the Government has been clearly delineated to develop the research ecosystem, promote adoption and address skilling challenges.
  - o The focus is on sectors like agriculture, health and education where public investment and lead would be necessary.
- This combination of our foundational digital infrastructure, large scale social schemes for the poor, and our focus on emerging technologies in data for the public good means that we can contribute to the global statistical and policy community in two important ways:
  - o Degree of scale invariance – Typically new methodologies in data collection and reporting suffer from scaling issues due to various constraints. With foundational digital infra in place, the scalability of novel approaches utilizing mobile and digital technologies is greatly increased while keeping data as disaggregated as possible.
  - o More real time corrections – Ultimately, for data driven policy making, the data should be converted into actionable insights as quickly as possible, whilst adhering to internationally accepted

standards, methodologies and principles of veracity. **We can contribute to the mechanism of ensuring these standards are adhered to in letter and spirit while developing novel approaches at scale.**

- We are looking forward to contribute further and would like to place on record our appreciation to the chair of the session – Mr. Mohd Uzir Bin Mahidin for the smooth conduct of proceedings, all fellow distinguished delegates for their views and valuable perspectives, the secretary for her assistance to the chair in the smooth resolution of any divergence in opinion, partner agencies, the Royal Thai Government and the UN ESCAP secretariat, especially the statistics division headed by Ms. Gemma Van Alderen and supported by all the other staff at UN ESCAP for organizing a regional consultation on such a pertinent topic.

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