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**Prime Minister confers awards for excellence in implementation of priority programmes**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi conferred awards for excellence in implementation of priority programmes on the occasion of 10<sup>th</sup> Civil Services Day here today. For the priority programme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJSY), Nagaon, Assam was awarded in North East and Hill States category, Chandigarh in UTs and North 24 Parganas, West Bengal in Other States group. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), West Sikkim and Bikaner, Rajasthan were awarded in North East & Hill states and Other States category respectively. Under Swachh Vidyalaya programme, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh were awarded in North East & Hill states, UTs and Other States group respectively. In the implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh and Balrampur, Chhattisgarh were conferred award in North East and Hill states and Other States respectively.

The Prime Minister congratulated the awardees for their successful initiatives and said that their success could prove inspirational for other civil servants. The Prime Minister noted that 74 success stories were shortlisted for consideration for awards this year, which represents a substantial jump over previous years. Nevertheless, he added, this represents only about 10 per cent of India's districts. He urged all districts to become more proactive in this regard. The Prime Minister urged civil servants to be bold enough to experiment and look at new ways of achieving objectives in the interest of the people.

The Prime Minister exhorted civil servants to become "agents of change" in their respective organizations and departments. Addressing civil servants on Civil Services Day, the Prime Minister said that in the 21st century, civil servants need to redefine their role, and move beyond controlling, regulating and managerial capabilities, and think of themselves as change agents.

The Prime Minister urged civil servants to build teams. He said that his mantra of "Reform to Transform", should be interpreted by civil servants as "Reform to Perform to Transform." He said if civil servants were able to perform, the transformation on the ground would be evident.

Recalling the recent Committees of Secretaries which had been formed at his initiative to look into key areas of governance, he said that officers worked on these tasks voluntarily, after office hours and on holidays. He said these teams had successfully broken silos, and presented fresh ideas and suggestions. They had devoted 10,000 manhours to this work, he added.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also released two books namely: The Change Makers and Transforming India.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that in the last two years the Government has become more citizen-centric towards the goal set by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of delivering "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance". More than 65% of India's population is below the age of 35 years, so being citizen-centric is being youth centric, he added. He also mentioned about the initiatives of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) which include Anubhav portal for the retiring employees to share their experiences, Bhavishya, self-attestation by citizens and abolition of interviews for the junior grade. Dr Jitendra Singh said that nearly 90 per cent of these grievances are being redressed by the Department and he has started calling the citizens to take feedback regarding redressal of their grievances. He also said that Government has taken various measures to create a work-friendly environment for the employees. These initiatives pertain to transfer policy, awards for their work, LTC facility and Yoga classes etc. He said that in future, the focus will be on achieving the goal of "governance with a difference".

Cabinet Secretary, Shri P. K. Sinha said that this year, for the first time the awards are being given for the implementation of priority programmes of the Central Government. He said that an elaborate exercise including site visits, has been conducted to short list the awarded districts.

On the occasion, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog made a presentation on the Status of Implementation of Reports of the Group of Secretaries. He presented the actions taken and action to be taken regarding the eight themes including Accelerated Growth with Inclusion and Equity, Employment Generation Strategies, Health and Education: Universal Access and Quality, Good Governance: Challenges, Opportunities, Farmer Centric Issues in Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Swachh Bharat and Ganga Rejuvenation, Energy Conservation and Efficiency and Innovative Budgeting and Effective Implementation. The link of detailed presentation is available at <http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/apr/201642101.pdf>

The Civil Services Day function was inaugurated by Union Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu yesterday. He called upon all stakeholders like Centre, State etc., to work for the common objective of the national development. The Civil Services Day function spread over two days included eight Sessions attended by more than 1,200 civil servants representing different States. These sessions were chaired by Union Ministers/persons of eminence.

Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) Shri Devendra Chaudhry thanked the Prime Minister for his vision and the Union Ministers for their participation and guidance during Civil Services Day function.

Former Cabinet Secretaries, Secretaries, Chief Secretaries of States and senior officers from various Ministries of Central and State Governments were also present in the Civil Services day function.

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