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Decentralization Community
Update 76
December 2013



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Dear Members,

We are happy to share the 76th Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

The Community Update covers news on indices on status of service delivery by Planning Commission, caste based development by Government of Karnataka and all India educational index. There is interesting analysis by Rajasthan Election Watch (REW) and Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) on the financial, criminal background and other details of Newly Elected MLAs in the Rajasthan Assembly Elections, 2013. The highlight of the update is the information on the visit facilitated by Election Commission of India and UNDP for eight countries to witness the processes and activities during the Assembly Pools in India; and the National Consultation held with the State Governments for improving Justice Delivery held in December.

We invite you to contribute to a range of queries that are running presently on NREGA, City level data management for urban governance and creating sustainable smart villages.



We do hope you will enjoy the update and send us your contributions for the next!

We wish you and your families a very Happy New Year!!

Regards,
Resource Team
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

Community Activities

Ongoing Queries

QUERY: Using MNREGA for Building Sustainable Livelihoods. Experiences and Referrals from Ved Arya and Stutilina Pal, SRIJAN, New Delhi

The query seeks experiences of Members on using MNREGA to work on livelihoods through building sustainable assets. Additionally they also seek comments on "A User's Manual: Building Sustainable Livelihoods of the Poor through MGNREGA" prepared by SRIJAN and MoRD.

Read the query [here](#)

QUERY: Improving city level data management for planning. Advice and Examples from Tarun Sharma, Ecorys, New Delhi

The query seeks Member's inputs on type of data and indicators that are relevant to plan and monitor social development in cities. Look forward to your contributions.

Read the query [here](#)

QUERY: Creating sustainable smart villages for better governance: Experiences and Advice from Jeyaseelan N, Hand in Hand, Chennai

The query seeks experiences on existing model smart villages and their understanding of a framework and parameters of defining a village as SMART or model village.

Read the query [here](#)

Please send your responses to se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net

Updates

News

UNDP facilitates 8 countries to witness Assembly polls in India

As many as 24 heads, representatives of Elections Commissions from eight countries of the Middle East and Africa witnessed Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. The visits were sponsored and facilitated under the ECI and UNDP MoU and an annual work plan, an important feature of which is to jointly promote exchange of visits and sharing of experiences and skills in the field of Electoral Management with developing countries under ECI's South-South Cooperation.

Read more [here](#)



Planning Commission develops a new performance index to rank states on delivery of schemes

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) set up as an attached office of the Planning Commission has developed a new performance index that will rank states on how they fair in delivering key government schemes aimed at inclusive growth. The index would holistically look at the implementation of the schemes and at the capacity of the state governments to "deliver public service". The states will be evaluated on the quality of education, health and law and order among other services being provided by the government. The index will also look into how the state government delivers on providing water and electricity connection and issues land records.

Read more [here](#)

Government of Karnataka prepares an index to gauge development based on caste

The Planning Department of Karnataka is selecting one gram panchayat in each district in Karnataka is being chosen to prepare an index — called Composite Dalit Development Index (CDDI) — to help gauge where Dalits stand in the process of development. The on-going exercise of compiling the **District Human Development Report (DHDR)** for the 30 districts in the State will, for the first time, have a new index to measure development on the matrix of caste, with one case study from each district. Read more [here](#)

SIX DIMENSIONS OF CDDI

Inclusion - Institutional and social inclusion

Discrimination - Perception, protest and resolution

Freedom - Social, political, economic and cultural

Standard of living - Land, non-agricultural sources of income, TV, fridge, two-wheeler

Gender dimension - Pre and post-delivery rest, reproductive health support

Access to basic facilities - Education, drinking water, housing, toilets and sanitation



Government to Combine MNREGS and IAY

The rural development ministry is planning to converge two of its biggest welfare schemes. The ministry plan to use its flagship rural employment scheme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), to provide free labour to build houses for poor under another big social scheme, the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). Read more [here](#)

All-India Educational Development Index 2012-13

The Human Resource Development Ministry and the National University of Educational Planning & Administration (NUEPA) have released 'All-India Educational Development Index 2012-13'. This composite Index is based on the data collected on parameters like access, infrastructure, student-teacher ratio, teacher training besides outcome vis-a-vis general enrolment ratio, SC/ST/OBC and Muslim enrolment, dropout rate etc. Read more [here](#)

Centre makes major changes in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Development Act

Now signing in the attendance register will not be good enough anymore for the labourers working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Development Act (MGNREGA) to get their wages. The ministry of rural development has brought in key changes in MGNREGA to free the flagship scheme of mismanagement and corruption. "Now, a person will not get paid just because he or she signed in the attendance register. Wage payment will take place on the basis of measurement or assessment of work done by the labourer. Read more [here](#)

THE INDIA STORY IS THE STATE STORY				
India GDP growth	2011-12	2012-13		
	6.2%	5%	*14 out of 26 states buck the trend, record higher growth in FY '13	
	2011-12	2012-13	2011-12	2012-13
Karnataka	4.86	6.19	Andhra Pradesh	7.82
Orissa	4.92	9.14	Haryana	7.83
Bihar	10.65	14.48	Madhya Pradesh	11.81
Chhattisgarh	8.14	8.57	Punjab	5.92
Jharkhand	7.18	7.83	Tamil Nadu	7.42
Maharashtra	7.10	7.13	Uttar Pradesh	6.45
Uttarakhand	5.18	7.87	Delhi	9.20
West Bengal	6.26	7.50		9.00

GDP growth: Most states grew faster than national rate in 2012-13

In 2012-13, when India's GDP growth slipped to its lowest in a decade at 5 per cent from 6.2 per cent in the previous fiscal, a majority of the states not only bucked the trend and reported a higher growth rate compared to their own pace in the previous year but also a rate higher than the one for the country. Read more [here](#)

With urbanization, villages thinning out

India's rural population is getting concentrated in a narrow band of villages ranging in size from population of 2000 to 10,000. Nearly half of the rural population now lives in just 1.2 lakh villages. The remaining half, lives in 4.8 lakh villages. This is the finding of Census 2011 as shown in village data released Tuesday. Read more [here](#)



Events

From [Democratic Governance Unit](#), UNDP, New Delhi



National Consultation on the Role of State Governments for improving Justice Delivery, December 5th, 2013, New Delhi

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India office through the GOI-UNDP Access to Justice Project organised a Consultation on State Litigation Policies and Role of State Governments in improving Justice Delivery on 5th December 2013. The aim of the Consultation was to review and identify challenges in State Litigation policies and discuss ways of involvement of States in improving justice delivery.

Consultation on Women's Participation in Electoral Process 18th-19th December 2013, Odisha

Election Commission of India (ECI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a Nation Consultation on Women's Participation in Electoral Process in Bhubaneswar. The consultation programme was attended by delegates from ECI, Chief Electoral Officers of various states, representatives from various Ministries and Government Departments, Civil Society Organizations, Corporate Organizations, Media and UNDP. The workshop was aimed as a platform for sharing experiences from different states as well as to discuss issues to increase participation of women in the electoral process.



Release of the Citizens' Report on Governance and Development 2013, 17th December 2013, India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi

National Social Watch (NSW) every year publishes Citizens Report on Governance and Development which focuses on the performance of institutions of governance namely the Parliament, the Executive, the Judiciary and the institutions of Local Self Governance. The Report tries to look at the performance of these institutions from the Rights Perspective. The Citizens' Report on Governance and Development 2013 was released on the occasion. The report can be read [here](#).

Workshop to Finalize People's Chapter, 22nd & 23rd December 2013 at Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD-DRTC) Bhubaneswar (from Sudarshan Chhotray, CYSD, Bhubaneswar)

PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO COMMITTEE is a civil society platform formed in connection with forthcoming general elections 2014. The mandate of the Committee is to draft/publish the PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO and share it with Political parties in particular and people of the state in general. More than 30 thematic subjects were identified to be discussed in small groups. Civil Society Organisations working on the various subjects/issues were requested to conduct these thematic group meetings at their end and send reports/findings. All these reports were compiled and shared in civil society convention.

Upcoming

Management Development Programmes Institute of Rural Management Anand- IRMA (From Oliver Macwan, IRMA, Gujarat)

Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) is organizing the following Management Development Programmes (MDPs) in January-March 2014: [Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Alleviation \(January 20-24, 2014\)](#) and [Developing Leadership Skills \(March 25-28, 2014\)](#). More details can be obtained [here](#)

National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship, Jan 31- Feb 2, 2014, XLRI Jamshedpur (from Madhukar Shukla, XLRI – Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur)

XLRI Jamshedpur is organizing 6th National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship from January 31 – February 2, 2014. The theme of which is **"Rethinking Development: Strengthening the Grassroots"** and it aims to explore and create a platform to showcase and learn from initiatives and social ventures which are promoting a holistic, decentralized and grounds-up model of development. The conference will bring together social entrepreneurs and development sector professionals to share their experiences, issues and challenges. For announcement and registration click [here](#)

Readings/Web links/Repositories

From [Resource Team](#), UNDP, New Delhi

Hamid Ansari releases new resource on Status of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India 2013

Vice President of India released a book on 'Status of Panchayat Raj' in the States and Union Territories of India 2013 by Institute of Social Sciences (ISS). In his address, he said that in a country of India's size and diversity, there is no option but to devolve governance to the local levels in order to deal with myriad local issues and services, which need local solutions and delivery, with active participation of the intended beneficiaries. Read more [here](#)

Revised version of the RTI User Guide

In light of the RTI Rules notified in 2012 and the new online RT application facility and the online fee payment facility, the Department of Personnel and Training of the Government of India has uploaded a revised version of its User Guide (to be published under Section 26 of the *Right to Information Act, 2005*). The User Guide can be assessed [here](#)

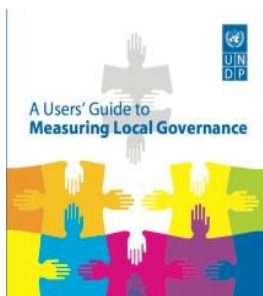
Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Public Expenditures in India: How Tracking of Public Expenditures Can Help (from Anand P Gupta, Economic Management Institute, New Delhi)

The presentation focuses on institutional arrangements for efficient and effective use of resources by the implementing agencies. The CAG's performance review of the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar

Yojana (SGSY) in Orissa since its launch on April 1, 1999 has been taken as a case study for discussion. The full presentation can be seen [here](#)

Analysis of Financial, Criminal Background and Other Details of Newly Elected MLAs in the Rajasthan Assembly Elections, 2013

Rajasthan Election Watch (REW) and Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) have analyzed the self-sworn affidavits of all 199 newly elected MLAs in the Rajasthan 2013 Assembly Elections. All information about MLAs, in this report has been taken from the affidavits filed by Candidates with their nomination papers. Copies of affidavits were obtained from the Chief Electoral Officer's website (<http://ceorajasthan.nic.in/Electors/rajelection.htm>). The detailed analysis can be viewed [here](#)



UNDP – Measuring Local Governance (From John Coonrod, The Hunger Project, Washington)

UNDP's Oslo Governance Center produced this useful guide to measuring local governance, published in 2009. The purpose of the Guide is "to compile existing knowledge and decentralization and local governance measurement and provide a platform for understanding and navigating the array of assessment tools that exist..." This report is a treasure chest of references to frameworks, tools and approaches, and would be a great starting place for anyone considering doing an assessment. It includes a wealth of helpful hints

for being aware of the diverse stakeholders that are involved. The report is based in part on interviews with sixteen of the key thought-leaders in the field. It presents four fictional case studies and reviews the relevant focus and utility of 22 different measurement tools. Read more [here](#)

Reimagining India: The Growth Challenge, a conversation with:

Eric Schmidt

India has about 120 million users on the Internet, which is less than 10 percent of the population. So we have no idea what is going to happen when the next 50, 60, 70 percent of the Indians—which represent a sixth of the world population, I might add—join the conversation. We hope that it'll be the same as what we've seen before, but we don't know. And unleashing that creativity is a great opportunity and challenge for the next few years. The interview transcript can be read [here](#)

Christopher Graves

When India was trying to develop its tourism in a very concerted effort with the government back in the early 2000s, Ogilvy & Mather worked with it to create exclamation point in admiration of India, called "Incredible India." And that stuck ever since then. And from a tourism point of view, that worked remarkably well. And in fact, tourism went up from \$3.5 billion to \$18 billion in receipts in just a decade. The interview transcript can be read [here](#)

Announcements/Opportunities

From [Democratic Governance Unit](#), UNDP, New Delhi

Vacancy Position	Job description	Last date of application
UNDP		
Communication and Advocacy Officer - New Delhi	For details, click here	8 January 2014
Chief Operating Officer (Roshni) - Hyderabad	For details, click here	8 January 2014
Moderator (Disaster Management Community) and Coordinator (KM) – New Delhi	For details, click here	8 January 2014

UNICEF		
Health Specialist (Policy and Planning)- New Delhi	For details, click here	3 January 2014
Wash Officer- New Delhi	For details, click here	8 January 2014

For more information, see <http://www.undp.org/content/india/en/home/operations/careers/>

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

If you have items to feature in the Updates, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Decentralization Community at

se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in



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