



## Decentralization Community Update 79 March 2014



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Dear Members,

We are happy to share the 79<sup>th</sup> Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

In this update we are sharing news on upswing in the Human development indicators in BIMARU States. Also you would find information on: SAMADHAN - an internet-based platform primarily for the citizens to directly demand and track their entitlements and release of publication entitled 'Mainstreaming of Resource Convergence in Policymaking, Programme Design and Execution' authored by Dr. Aruna Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh. We are also sharing Documentary Films on Good Governance Initiatives by Ministry of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.

This issue also has important vacancy announcements by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and UNDP for Director- International Centre for Human Development and Head of Energy and Environment Unit.

We hope you will enjoy reading the Update. We look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

Regards,  
Resource Team  
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

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### [Community Activities](#)

#### [Ongoing Queries](#)

- **Role of State Finance Commission (SFC) in strengthening the finances of panchayats and urban local bodies. Examples and Experiences Reply by 10th March 2014 by A.N.P Sinha, Chairman; 5th State Finance Commission, Bihar**

Excerpt of the query: The State Finance Commission of Bihar seeks Members view on the following questions:

- What are the **methodologies and incentives that need to be incorporated to improve and raise the revenue (tax and non-tax)** of panchayats, ULBs and the state government?
- What are the **various tapped and untapped tax potentials of local bodies**, with particular emphasis on property tax?
- What procedure needs to be followed for **review and forecast of revenue and expenditure**?

Members may also share any relevant national and international best practices on the above mentioned questions that they are aware of. The valuable inputs of the Members will help SFC in framing its recommendation to the state government of Bihar for effective and efficient functioning of the local governance institutions.

#### **Other OPEN QUERIES:**

- **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](#)
- **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](#)
- **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](mailto:se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net)

## Updates

### News

#### Sikkim Human Development Report 2014



The Sikkim Human Development Report 2014 was released by the state Chief Mr. Pawan Chamling. The report shows how Sikkim has been able to combine high economic growth along with enhancing Human Development and making it a distinguishable phenomenon. The report is one of the major documents of interest in presenting what is happening in the state of Sikkim in the light of global criterion of progress. Read more at <http://www.sikkim.gov.in/Sikkim%20News/News44.htm>

#### Human development indicators on the upswing in BIMARU States

Human development indicators across the poorer States with a high concentration of marginalised groups are catching up with the national average, according to the latest figures released by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) under the Planning Commission. The data suggest that these socially disadvantaged groups are starting to share benefits of the process of human development. Read more at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/human-development-indicators-on-the-upswing-in-bimaru-states/article5774611.ece>

#### Indian elections grab world's attention

Delegates from 22 countries of Africa and Latin America will witness the world's largest democratic exercise in April-May when an over 800-million strong electorate, the world's largest, votes for India's new government. This will be facilitated under the Election Commission and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project titled Supporting Democratic Electoral Management. Last year 24 delegates from eight countries of Africa and the Middle East witnessed the assembly elections. Read more at <http://www.thehindu.com/posts/index/2014-03-23/Indian-elections-grabs-worlds-attention-89903>

#### CSR Can Play a Positive Role in development

Commencing this April, the new Companies Act, 2013, will require a certain class of companies to mandatorily spend on corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The statutory provision under Section 135 of the Act mandates every company having net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more, or turnover of Rs. 1,000 crore or more, or net profit of Rs. 5 crore or more to spend in every financial year at least two per cent of the average net profits made during three immediately preceding financial years. Read more at [http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinion/CSR-Can-Play-a-Positive-Role/2014/03/19/article2116816.ece#.Uykxo\\_mSzAk](http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinion/CSR-Can-Play-a-Positive-Role/2014/03/19/article2116816.ece#.Uykxo_mSzAk)

### **Missing half the demographic dividend**

According to estimates by the World Bank, the working-age population (15 to 59 years) is set to increase by more than 200 million in India over the next two decades, while it is expected to decline in most developed regions of the world, even China. However, India might fail to reap the benefits, mainly on account of the extremely low rates of female participation in the country's economy. The proportion of females (aged 15 years and above) in the labour force in India in 2012 was only 29 per cent compared to 64 per cent in China. Read more at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/missing-half-the-demographic-dividend/article5767244.ece>

### **India needs over 50 Years to Achieve Female Youth Literacy**



A recent UN report titled, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report* says that India would take over 5 decades in fulfilling complete literacy especially for young women. India has by far witnessed the largest population of world's illiterate adults at 287 million, amounting to 37 percent of the global total. Read more at <http://www.siliconindia.com/news/general/India-Needs-Another-56-Years-To-Achieve-Female-Youth-Literacy-nid-162734-cid-1.html>

### **India 111th among nations having women members in parliament**

India is placed at 111th position out of 189 countries in a list prepared by an international organisation that ranks nations on the number of women representatives in parliament. Read more at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-111th-among-nations-having-women-members-in-parliament/articleshow/31663985.cms>

## **Events**

From [Resource Team](#), Decentralization Community

### **Delivery of Public services must be efficient, accountable and transparent**

The State level "Samadhan" workshop was held in Bhubaneswar. Samadhan is an internet-based platform primarily for the citizens to directly demand and track their entitlements. Samadhan is a joint initiative of District Administration (Koraput and Kalahandi), SOVA (Koraput), Seba Jagat (Kalahandi) and VSO India. Read more at <http://eodishasamachar.com/en/delivery-of-public-services-must-be-efficient-accountable-and-transparent/>

### **Book release event: Mainstreaming of resource Convergence in Policymaking, Programme Design and Execution on 14 March 2014**

A publication entitled 'Mainstreaming of Resource Convergence in Policymaking, Programme Design and Execution' authored by Dr. Aruna Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh was released by UNDP. The Report assesses convergence initiatives underway in six states which reveal significant scope to achieve superior results and calls for greater integration and convergence among social schemes. The book may be read at [http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/democratic\\_governance/mainstreaming-of-resource-convergence-in-policy-making--programm/](http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/democratic_governance/mainstreaming-of-resource-convergence-in-policy-making--programm/)



## **Reviving Growth in North: Experts deliberate on Inclusive Growth and Good Governance on 17 March 2014**

Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) organized their annual conference on 'Reviving Growth in North'. The focus of the workshop was on "Consultation, Coordination and Collaboration amongst different institutions like Industry Associations, Governments, political parties, business houses, Academia etc to achieve the agenda of inclusive growth". Elaborating on the importance of inclusive growth, Mr. Arun Maira, Member Planning Commission, said that while there has been progress on inclusive growth indicators, but the same needs to be expanded down to the grassroots to truly meet the aspirations of the people of the country.

Read more at <http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=28386>

## **Readings/Web links/Repositories**

### **Documentary Films on Good Governance Initiatives** (from Ritu Mathur, UNDP, India)

Ministry of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and PMO launched six more documentary films produced by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) on good governance initiatives. The films are on the problem of Adverse Sex Ratio-initiative of District Administration of Nawashahr, Punjab; Initiative of Strengthening CSR spending in Raigarh District, Chattisgarh; Educational initiatives in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh; Saving Open Space and Urban Lakes (SOUL) and Cultural Rejuvenation of the Twin City of Hubali-Dharwad, Karnataka; Excellence in Rural Management and Development in the Challenging Physical Environment of the Sikkim Himalaya and Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra (Skill Development) project of the Directorate of Employment & Training, Gujarat. The documentaries are available at [www.darpg@nic.in](http://www.darpg@nic.in)

### **Ethics in Public Governance: Report on the Training on Ethical Leadership** (Veronica Peris, IC Centre for Governance, New Delhi)

IC Centre for Governance conducts training of civil service officers on Ethical Governance with a view of converting the civil services into instruments of positive action and dynamic development, with emphasis on providing public goods and services to the masses. In this context, IC Centre for Governance shares a report on the Ethical Leadership programme conducted during 17th to 21st February, 2014 for Odisha Administrative Officers on ethical governance. Read the report at [ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/comm\\_update/IC%20centre%20for%20Governance-report%20on%20OAS%20officers.pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/comm_update/IC%20centre%20for%20Governance-report%20on%20OAS%20officers.pdf)

### **How resource scarcity is driving the third Industrial Revolution**

Innovators are combining information technology with industrial technology, as well as harnessing materials science and biotech, to deliver step-change improvements in resource efficiency and cost. In this video interview, the co-authors of the new book *Resource Revolution* argue that these innovations are powerful enough to unlock a new phase of global economic growth. Read more at [http://www.mckinsey.com/Insights/Energy/Resources/Materials/How\\_resource\\_scarcity\\_is\\_driving\\_the\\_third\\_Industrial\\_Revolution?cid=resourcerev-eml-alt-mck-oth-1404](http://www.mckinsey.com/Insights/Energy/Resources/Materials/How_resource_scarcity_is_driving_the_third_Industrial_Revolution?cid=resourcerev-eml-alt-mck-oth-1404)

## **Announcements/Opportunities**

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

### **Director, International Centre for Human Development, UNDP, New Delhi. Apply by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

The Director will play a key role in convening and coordinating stakeholders on human development issues. The Director will report directly to the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative and will be guided by the direction of the Centre's Advisory Board. The Director will collaborate with the Manager, Asia Pacific Regional Centre on activities relating to national human development reports in the Asia Pacific region. For more details and application refer to [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_job.cfm?cur\\_job\\_id=45356](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=45356)

**Head of Energy and Environment Unit, UNDP, New Delhi Apply by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Under the overall leadership of the Resident Representative, the Head of Energy and Environment (E&E) Unit will lead this central portfolio in the UNDP India Country Office and provide strategic direction and advice on key and emerging issues relating to energy, environment, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change including their implications for UNDP programming. The Head of the E&E Unit will work closely with Government counterparts to identify policy options that contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication and enhance the impact of relevant UNDP projects and programmes. For more details and application refer to <https://gprs.unops.org/pages/viewvacancy/VADetails.aspx?id=4674>

**Project Manager, GoI- UNDP Project, Strengthening Public Administration and Governance, New Delhi, Apply by 11th April 2014**

The Project Manager will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the National Project Director (NPD or DARPG official designated by NPD) and Unit Head (Democratic Governance)/Programme Specialist, UNDP. The Project Manager will be responsible for managing the project activities as per the approved Work Plan. S/he will be responsible for integrating the project activities with the overall mandate of project. For more details and application refer to [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_job.cfm?cur\\_job\\_id=45333](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=45333)

**Various positions under Government of India (GoI) and UNDP project on "Strengthening Human Resource Management of Civil Services", Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoP), New Delhi, Apply by 11th April 2014**

The project focuses on developing capacities of civil servants and in strengthening their enabling environment in view of a more effective and efficient Human Resource Management at National and State level. The objective of the Learning Resource Centre is to drive the research and innovation activities in the field of training tools and technologies. The Centre would promote adaptation of emerging training tools and techniques to improve the reach of the training efforts to all levels in the Government.

- **Director, Learning Resource Centre, Department Of Personnel and Training.** For more details and application refer to [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_job.cfm?cur\\_job\\_id=45308](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=45308)
- **Research Associate, Learning Resource Centre, Department Of Personnel and Training.** For more details and application refer to [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_job.cfm?cur\\_job\\_id=45309](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=45309)
- **Executive Assistant, Learning Resource Centre, Department Of Personnel and Training.** For more details and application refer to [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_job.cfm?cur\\_job\\_id=45310](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=45310)

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***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](mailto:se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in)*



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