Subject: Letter of Reference for PRAGATI in UN Public Services Award 2019

Dear Madam/ Sir,

PRAGATI - 'Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation' was initiated by the Prime Minister’s Office in March 2015 to push implementation of Government agenda.

As Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, I have been directly involved in multiple PRAGATI forum discussions in the reviews to resolve complex issues of Highway construction across India, especially the important projects stuck-up for considerable period on account of pending unresolved issues. More than 85 stuck-up Highway projects have been taken up for direct review under PRAGATI till date.

Timely resolution of open issues between multiple agencies is a critical need in core infrastructure sectors, which requires constant attention and engagement at all levels. Participation of stakeholders in Highways sector - especially the Chief Secretaries of states and the concerned Secretaries to Government of India at national level through the PRAGATI platform - has ensured an integrated approach for timely creation of public assets. The impact of this initiative is cross-sectoral in the overall economic infrastructure of the country. Like National Highways, the outcomes in expanding Railway network, India’s Renewable energy cover, opening of new Aviation sectors and Ports has been tremendous.

Prime Minister’s presence as the chair of PRAGATI forum - aided with modern technology for real-time view of on-ground implementation, has yielded faster collaboration and expeditious resolution of impeding issues. The record achievements in Highways sector have become a benchmark of performance for the country and industry as a whole. As one example, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway - a six-lane access controlled expressway, which surrounds Delhi, was started in November 2015 and completed in May 2018. This marks a feat, unheard of in the Indian road construction industry.

India today has increased its speed of Highway construction in last 4 years to 28 kms per day from a measly 10 kms per day in 2013-14, a direct impact of constructive engagement and collaboration through PRAGATI.

Yours sincerely,

(Y. S. Malik)