To Whom It May Concern

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

PRAGATI – Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation was initiated by the Prime Minister’s Office in March 2015, in order to push implementation of Government agenda. NITI Aayog – Government of India’s premier policy think tank – has been tasked with overseeing India’s progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and collaborating with the states to promote policy implementation. As a CEO of Niti Aayog,

I believe PRAGATI has been lynchpin of India’s governance transformation over the last 4 years and exemplary case of ‘Ensuring integrated approaches in the public-sector institutions’.

The significance of PRAGATI is visible in improved outcomes of India’s governance, in particular the radical makeover in the programme execution and delivery by the Government institutions. This is a result of enhanced collaboration and engagement brought about through this initiative of the Prime Minister’s Office.

Multiple number of schemes and programmes enhancing social inclusion, which are centrally financed get implemented by the state Governments. The reviews in PRAGATI and have yielded exemplary results in generating on ground impact in their implementation.

These include world largest public healthcare programme – Ayushman Bharat, digitisation of Public Distribution (Food programme), elimination of black fever, monitoring Maternal Mortality Rate, Leprosy Eradication, mother-child welfare, and Tuberculosis Control Programme.

I believe, the significance of PRAGATI lies in improved condition of women, especially those at the margins of our society and empowerment of the poor who are now getting a rightful place and voice.

PRAGATI by its design and rigorous follow-up mechanisms, and direct involved of Indian PM on the forum, has not only enhanced collaboration across horizontal structure of central ministries but also aligned, engaged the vertical hierarchy of states, to make this happen.

(Amitabh Kant)