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Dear *Principal Secretary/Secretary*

As you are aware the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been making efforts to bring in transparency, efficiency and accountability in the functioning of Panchayats through use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Ministry has been fervent in recognizing the efforts taken by the States/UTs in the use of ICT by the Panchayats by conferring e-Panchayat Puraskars.

2. Under e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020, performance assessment parameters were developed for monitoring the efficient utilization of e-Applications i.e. both Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) Applications and States own Applications, for the appraisal year 2018-19. The States/UTs were classified into three categories. The replies of the States/UTs on the MIS developed for e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020 have been evaluated in the Ministry.

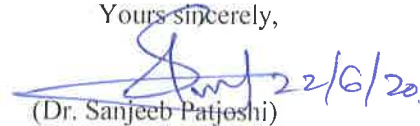
3. I am pleased to inform that the winners under various categories of e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020 are as follows :

| Category I                  |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| State                       | Prize           |
| Himachal Pradesh            | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Chhattisgarh                | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Maharashtra & Uttar Pradesh | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Category II (A)             |                 |
| State                       | Prize           |
| Madhya Pradesh              | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Category II (B)             |                 |
| State                       | Prize           |
| Karnataka                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> |

4. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj commends and applauds the efforts made by the above mentioned State Governments in furthering the objective of empowering the grassroots level local self-governments. The Ministry hopes that this recognition will encourage all the functionaries and officials working in the States to implement the e-Governance activities for empowering the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

  
(Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi)

Principal Secretary/ Secretary, D/o Panchayati Raj & Rural Development, State Government of Himachal Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh/ Maharashtra/ Uttar Pradesh/ Madhya Pradesh/ Andhra Pradesh/ Tamil Nadu/ Karnataka