

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

**Shri Amit Shah chairs the 24th Meeting of Eastern Zonal Council at
Bhubaneswar**

**As per the vision of PM Shri Narendra Modi, the Eastern region needs
more focus to fast track its development: Shri Amit Shah**

New Delhi, February 28, 2020

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Bhubaneswar (Odisha) today. Other Dignitaries attending the meeting included Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, as Vice Chairman and host; CM Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar; CM West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee; Finance Minister, Jharkhand, Shri Ramesh Oraon and senior officers from the Central and State Governments.



Chief Minister Odisha welcomed all the participants and thanked Central Government for prompt support during cyclonic disasters. He raised the issue of increase in royalty on coal. Chief Minister, West Bengal raised the issue of delay in payments of GST proceeds and devolution of funds. Chief Minister, Bihar asked for formulation of National Silt Management Policy to take care of floods in Ganga river.

Addressing the meeting, Shri Shah welcomed all the members of the Council to the 24th meeting and hoped that this would be a fruitful meeting where all the issues having Centre-State and inter-State ramifications will be resolved with consensus. He stressed that according to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision, after due deliberations, decisions taken by consensus should be implemented to further strengthen the federal structure of the country. The

Home Minister also expressed his satisfaction at usefulness of Zonal Council mechanism and informed that more than 70% issues have been resolved based on the recent meetings of the Zonal Councils and remaining issues are also under resolution.

The Council also discussed the issues related Phulbari Dam under the agreement of 1978 signed by the States of Bihar and West Bengal on Upper Mahananda Water Scheme, Extension of Nuapada-Gunupur-Therubali Rail Link Project in northern districts of Odisha, Determination of Pension liability between Bihar and Jharkhand, Use of State Government land by Coal companies of GOI, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) - land transfer by CPSU, Speedy investigation of cases of sexual offence/rape against women and children. Prevention of cattle smuggling/illegal transportation of cattle to the Indo-Bangladesh Border, Lack of telecom and bank connectivity in Odisha, Illegal cultivation and trading of hemp / cannabis in the State of Odisha, Revision of royalty on Coal, Inadequate funding and delayed Land related issues of Petroleum projects etc. Out of the 48 items discussed today, 40 were resolved in the meeting.

As per the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Home Minister stated that Eastern region needs more focus to fast track its development. He hoped that today's meeting would be decisive and fruitful in resolving the issues listed in the agenda. He stated that besides the issues listed in the agenda, he would also like to add and discuss issues relating to law & order and administrative reforms so that this Council meeting is helpful in giving further pace to the development of the country.

Home Minister also exhorted various Central Government departments to expedite decisions that are pending with the Central Ministries. He also laid stress on expanding banking services to ensure that the benefits are available even in the remotest areas.



While concluding, he mentioned that the long pending issues need to be resolved by regular discussions and not only during the Zonal Council meetings. He also requested the States to ensure sharing of data on regular basis. The meeting concluded in the true spirit of cooperative federalism as envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

VG/SNC/VM/HS