

India Deepens Regional Statistical Ties in Cooperation with UN Agencies

NSSTA, MOSPI hosts Asia-Pacific Workshop on Data Ethics, Governance, and Quality in a Changing Data Ecosystem

Role of NSOs in data stewardship underlines the importance of embedding trust and quality frameworks into data systems: Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, MoSPI

India is first country to develop subnational SDG indicator framework: Mr. Shombi Sharp, UNRC

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Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as an active member of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) is hosting three days' (14 to 16 July, 2025) Regional Workshop, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on "Data Ethics, Governance, and Quality in a Changing Data Ecosystem" for 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop reflects India's commitment to collaborative, ethical, and future-ready data ecosystems.

This workshop brings together Chief Statisticians/Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSO's) and other Senior Statisticians from 16 countries namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. The workshop is honoured to host eminent Chief Statisticians//Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSO's) – Mr Sonam Tenzin (Bhutan), Mr Gogita Todradze (Georgia), Ms. Aishath Hassan (Maldives), Mr Batdavaa Batmunkh (Mongolia), Mr. Sonny Harry Budiutomo (Indonesia), and Mr. Elias dos Santos (Timor-Leste) - whose experiences and insights will enrich the regional discourse. Their participation underscores the shared regional commitment to innovation and integrity in official statistics.



National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA), Central Training Institute under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, is first time organising this kind of workshop and it reflects India's long-standing tradition of excellence in official statistics and its regional and global leadership in advancing statistical capacity and governance. Through, NSSTA, MOSPI, India continues to play a pivotal role in capacity building of NSOs and promoting collective progress toward data-driven and inclusive development.

The workshop comprises four thematic sessions, focusing on: Evolving role of NSOs; Modernization of institutional and organizational frameworks to maintain relevance and credibility; Quality assurance in official statistics; and Adoption of modern statistical production architectures. These are complemented by interactive breakout sessions and group discussions, offering space for peer learning and the exchange of experiences and innovative approaches tailored to national contexts.

The workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of NSOs across the Asia-Pacific region to remain relevant and trusted amid rapidly changing data landscape and increased demands for official statistics. Post COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing challenges, amid the proliferation of new data sources and emerging technologies, tools, and the growing demand for disaggregated, timely, and high-quality data have reinforced the central role of official statistics in framing public policy and achieving sustainable development goals.

The workshop highlights the importance of South-South cooperation, recognizing that countries can learn from each other in tackling the complexities of today's data ecosystem. Sharing of good practices and challenges is essential to help NSOs adapt, embrace new technologies and data sources, and ensure that official statistics continue to serve as a cornerstone of informed policymaking.

The workshop commenced with an inauguration session chaired by Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, MOSPI, and graced by esteemed dignitaries including Mr. Shombi Sharp, UNRC, India; Dr. Shailja Sharma, Director, UN SIAP; Mr. Gabriel Gamez, UNSD, Mr. Matthias Reister, UNSD, Shri P R Meshram, Director General (Data Governance), MOSPI, Shri K B Surwade, Additional Director General (Capacity Development Division), MOSPI, Dr J S Tomar, Deputy Director General (NSSTA), MOSPI and other officers from Government of India and UN agencies.

During the inaugural session, key dignitaries emphasized the evolving role of data in policymaking, governance, its challenges and way forward. Most of the delegates emphasized that this workshop is very timely and important as NSOs are revisiting their legislations, investing for modernizations and learning from this workshop will be very useful.



Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, MoSPI, noted the rising expectations of users in the fast-changing world and also underscored the importance of addressing the issues of data ethics, data quality, trust, transparency etc for evidence-based policymaking. While highlighting the recent initiatives of MOSPI towards data standards, interoperability, harmonization and dissemination, he said that the role of NSOs in data stewardship underlines the importance of embedding trust and quality frameworks into data systems. The MOSPI, India being a member of UNSC is happy to collaborate and build statistical capacity in the region.



Mr. Shombi Sharp, UNRC India, informed that India is first country, who developed subnational SDG indicator framework and appreciated the significant achievement of India in terms of SDGs. He also highlighted that globally a significant percentage of SDG targets are off-tracked and urged for stronger cooperation within the regions. He appreciated the efforts of India in organising the workshop and its leadership in data stewardship.



Dr. Shailja Sharma, Director, UN SIAP, said that this “Data Age,” underlines the urgency of ethical safeguards and a need for granular data to support the SDGs. While expressing her desire for future collaborations she expressed sincere gratitude to NSSTA, MOSPI for hosting this workshop.

Mr. Gabriel Gamez (UNSD) as well as **Mr. Matthias Reister, UNSD** stated that the workshop very timely and provides a platform to reimagine statistical governance and related aspects.

After the inaugural session, the workshop proceeded with the technical sessions with two concluding sessions, structured as group and panel discussions summarizing key insights and recommendations.



The regional workshop will be followed by a two -day National Capacity Building Workshop (17–18 July 2025), aimed at strengthening the statistical systems of States and Union Territories. The participants will include officers from the Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES) and Central Ministries / Departments. Organising the National Workshop is reinforcing MoSPI 's commitment to wards building capacity at all levels of India's statistical system.

Further information about the workshop is available at <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/meetings/2025/data-ethics-asia-pacific/> and about UNSIAP at <https://www.unsiap.or.jp/> , about NSSTA at <https://nssta.gov.in/> and about MOSPI at <https://www.mospi.gov.in/>

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