

## Report on NaMo Bharat Dialogues

**Theme: “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance (#SardarPatel150)”**

**15 November 2025, Nalanda Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**

The **NaMo Bharat Dialogues**, organised by **The Indian Futures** think tank, were held on 15 November 2025 at the **Nalanda Auditorium of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC)**. Centred on the theme “**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance (#SardarPatel150)**”, the session brought together distinguished administrators, policy thinkers, and reform-oriented practitioners to examine India’s ongoing transformation in governance. The event was **moderated by Shri Akash Patil, Director, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**, whose stewardship ensured a cohesive and insightful exchange among all speakers.

Delivering the keynote address, **Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, offered a comprehensive examination of India’s rapidly advancing digital governance ecosystem. He emphasised that the overarching goal of governance reforms is to ensure that every public service reaches “*the person in the last mile without hesitation and difficulty.*” This mission, he noted, is anchored in the **twin pillars of digital empowerment of citizens and digital transformation of institutions**. Shri Srinivas highlighted India’s remarkable progress in delivering **more than 25,000 e-services**, many of which have set national and global benchmarks. Platforms such as **CPGRAMS** for grievance redressal, the **PM GatiShakti GIS platform**, the internationally acclaimed **CoWIN portal**, and the “**Bhavishya**” portal offering face-authentication for Digital Life Certificates were cited as examples of successful technology-led public service delivery. He further connected these digital achievements to internal administrative reforms, including the **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NESDA)** framework, extensive **Secretariat Reforms** emphasising digitisation and delayering, and **Special Campaign 5.0**, which focuses on cleanliness, efficiency, and responsible e-waste disposal across government offices.

Offering a contrasting yet complementary viewpoint, **Shri Rajesh Sinha, former IPS officer**, delved into the structural complexities of India’s civil

services. He described the principle of “**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**” as the “**weightloss of government,**” advocating for a leaner, more agile administrative structure supported by efficient processes. Shri Sinha underscored that civil servants are envisioned to be *politically neutral* and *socially sensitive*, but systemic pressures, particularly those related to transfers and postings, often dilute these ideals. Situating his critique within the broader narrative of the “**New India Movement,**” he highlighted the emergence of integrated national frameworks such as **One Nation, One Tax; One Nation, One Poll; and One Nation, One Civil Code**, which collectively aim at consolidation, uniformity, and administrative coherence. He also pointed to India’s strategic evolution in foreign policy, from non-alignment to **multi-alignment**, as a shift that must be mirrored in governance reforms.

The event concluded with a pragmatic and forward-looking perspective from **Shri Satyajit Mohanty of the Ministry of Defence**, who emphasised the central role of technology in driving administrative change. He remarked that “**behavioral change is much slower than technological change,**” stressing that the most effective way to accelerate governance reform is by embedding technology first. Technology, he argued, acts as a corrective force by **negating discretion**, thereby reducing subjectivity, enhancing transparency, and compelling systems to adopt consistent and rule-based functioning. While acknowledging that behavioural and cultural transformation within institutions is inherently gradual, Shri Mohanty asserted that technology creates an enabling environment where such change becomes not only possible but inevitable.

Overall, the NaMo Bharat Dialogues provided a rich and multidimensional understanding of what “**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**” signifies in the contemporary Indian context. Through discussions on digital transformation, civil service reform, and technology-driven behavioural change, the event illuminated the pathways through which India is redefining governance to be more efficient, citizen-centric, and future-ready. With **Shri Akash Patil** effectively guiding the proceedings, the dialogue reaffirmed DAIC’s commitment to fostering informed, forward-thinking conversations on national governance reforms.

