



सत्यमेव जयते

**NITI Aayog**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016-17**

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# **NITI AAYOG - AN OVERVIEW**



Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi  
Chairman



Arvind Panagariya  
Vice-Chairman



Rao Inderjit Singh  
MoS for Planning



Dr. Bibek Debroy  
Member



Dr. V K Saraswat  
Member



Prof. Ramesh Chand  
Member



Amitabh Kant  
CEO

Advisers	Vertical	States
Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser	Social Sector	
Shri Yaduvendra Mathur, Addl. Secretary (KIH)	Administration Verticals	
Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Addl. Secretary (TIH)	Infra-II, Energy & Climate Change, Atomic Energy, Power, MNRE, P&NG, Coal, External Affairs, Overseas Indian Affairs, Gen. Admn.	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh
Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Housing For All, MGNREGA, Rural Livelihood Mission, RD, HUPA, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
Dr. Manoj Singh, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	Railways, Roads & Highways Construction, Civil Aviation, Shipping, Infrastructure Part-III	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
Smt. Sunita Sanghi, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	Skill Development, Employment, Managing Urbanization	Punjab, Haryana
Shri Srikara Naik, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	SJ&E, Disability Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Minorities, Voluntary Action Cell	Odisha, West Bengal
Ms. Anna Roy, Adviser (KIH)	Data Management & Analysis, Industry, Digital Payments Campaign	
Dr. J.P. Mishra, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	RKVY, Agri & FW, AH&F, Land Resources, Food Processing	Gujarat, Uttarakhand
Dr. Yogesh Suri, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	Governance & Research, Food & Public Distribution, Chemicals & Fertilizers, Personnel, Public Grievance, Pensions, Administrative Reforms, DG (NILERD) Addl Charge	Karnataka, Kerala
Shri S.S. Ganapathy, Adviser (KIH)	RD (PMGSY)	
Shri U.K. Sharma Adviser (KIH)	S&T, Telecommunications, Posts, Meity, PRAGATI, E Samiksha, e office, Atal Innovation Mission	
Shri Praveen Mahto, Adviser (KIH)	PIB/PPAC & Programme Appraisal Sectt.	
Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	HRD (School, Education, Literacy, Higher Education), Governing Council Secretariat & Coordination, RTI, Parliament	Bihar, Jharkhand
Shri Alok Kumar, Adviser (KIH & TIH)	Health, Nutrition, Women & Children, NHM, ICDS, BBBP, H&FW, AYUSH, NACO, Pharma, Medical Research, WCD, FR, Admn., CM & OM	Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu
Shri Jitendra Kumar Adviser, (TIH & KIH)	Natural Resources & Environment, PMKSY, Green India Mission, Coordination of Port Led &Devl, Island Devl, E&F, WR, DONER	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Goa, Nagaland, Union Territories
Shri Vikram Singh Gaur, Joint Secretary (KIH & TIH)	States Coordination, Decentralized Planning, MHA Cell, Tourism & IB, Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports, Mines & Minerals	Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Shri C. Aangrup Bodh, Joint Secretary	DMEO (Admn & Finance)	
Shri D.Das, Adviser	DMEO (Evaluation)	



## OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF NITI AAYOG

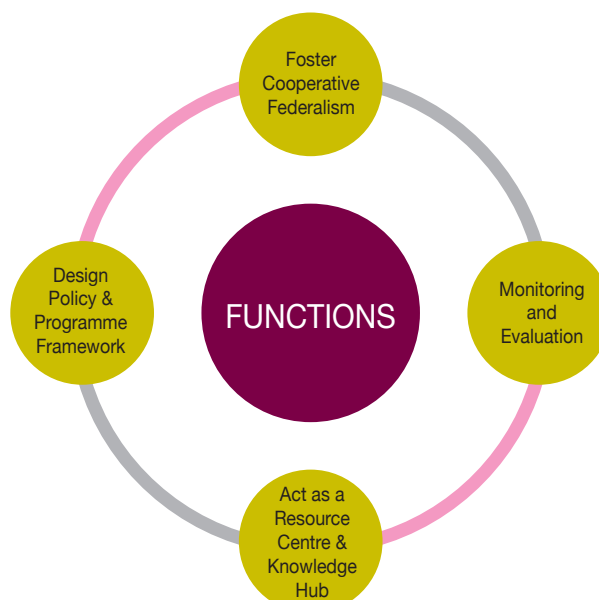
Founded on 1st January, 2015, the **National Institution for Transformation of India** or **NITI Aayog** has been created to serve as the think tank of the Government of India. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chair of the institution.

The institution plays a leadership role in policymaking in the central government, works closely with state governments, serves as a knowledge hub and monitors progress in the implementation of policies and programmes of the Government of India (see the accompanying chart). The institution provides the central and state governments with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum on key policy elements. These include matters of national and international importance on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country and from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.

As the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of India, NITI Aayog aims to evolve a shared vision of national development with the active involvement of States. Through consultative and other mechanisms, it endeavours to inform of the best practices developed in one or more states or in other parts of the world to all states for possible adoption. It fosters cooperative federalism through structured support and policy guidance to the states on a continuous basis.

The institution designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitors their progress and their efficacy regularly. It uses the lessons learnt from monitoring and feedback to make innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections. Also, NITI Aayog actively monitors and evaluates the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the prospects of success of the latter.

The Aayog publishes policy research papers on contemporary issues, brings out books on best practices, prepares model laws to help states reform their policies and organizes workshops and conferences. For providing directional and policy inputs it serves as a repository of research on good governance and helps disseminate this research to stakeholders.



NITI Aayog's entire gamut of activities is divided into two main hubs - Team India Hub and Knowledge and Innovation Hub. The two hubs are at the core of NITI's efficient functioning. Team India Hub carries out the mandate of fostering 'Cooperative Federalism' and 'Designing Policy and Programme Frameworks'. It provides requisite coordination and support framework to NITI Aayog in its engagement with the States. Knowledge & Innovation Hub ensures fulfilling the mandate of maintaining a State-of-the-Art Resource Centre; to be a repository of research of good governance and best practices and their dissemination to stakeholders; and to provide advice and encourage partnerships across key stakeholders including colleges, universities, think tanks and non-governmental organizations at home and abroad.

Team India Hub consists of 6 subject matter verticals and Knowledge and Innovation Hub 10 verticals. The list of verticals is as below:

1. Administration
2. HRD, Governing Council Secretariat & Coordination
3. Agriculture & Allied Sectors
4. Data Management & Analysis
5. Governance and Research
6. Industry
7. Infrastructure-Energy, International Cooperation, General Administration & Accounts
8. Infrastructure- Connectivity
9. Natural Resources & Environment
10. Project Appraisal, Public Private Partnership and PIB
11. Rural Development
12. State Coordination & Decentralized Planning
13. Science & Technology
14. Social Sector – I (Skill Development, Labour & Employment, Urban Development)
15. Social Sector – II (Health & Nutrition, Women & Child Development)
16. Social Justice and Empowerment

## ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT UNITS

In 2016-17, the second year since NITI Aayog's establishment, the institution has undertaken several crucial initiatives to equip itself with the right manpower to function as the country's premier policy think-tank. Crucial among these efforts are the formulation of guidelines to recruit Research Assistants/Research Associates/Section Supervisors, with expertise in relevant sectors, as short-term consultants. NITI has also drawn up guidelines for engaging Consultant/Sr. Consultants for carrying out specialized tasks given to NITI Aayog. Four Consultants whose work includes, and is not limited to, drafting the Vision Document, Strategy and Action Agenda have also been hired. One Consultant has been engaged in order to design and implement a portfolio of policy initiatives as part of Governance and Research efforts.

This apart, the institution has also undertaken all necessary procedures to hire nine Sr. Consultants/Consultants and twelve Research Assistants. The Administration vertical of NITI issued advertisements, invited applications online, screened, shortlisted and interviewed applicants to identify suitable candidates to fill these positions. NITI has also engaged experts to provide knowledge support for its activities, as and when needed.

Young Professionals hired by NITI Aayog receive unparalleled exposure to public policy, planning, while also providing high quality professional inputs through research in Economics, Finance, Education, Public Health, Social Sciences, Engineering, Urban Planning and Infrastructure. The internship scheme initiated by NITI Aayog in 2016 provides an opportunity to Undergraduate/ Graduate/Post-Graduate students and Research Scholars to get acquainted with the Government's functioning by placing them in various divisions. The interns work on research papers in areas relevant to NITI's work and also supplement analysis work in various divisions.

In December 2016, NITI Aayog also launched a programme to associate with distinguished scholars and experts as 'NITI Non-Resident Fellows' and 'NITI Non-Resident Senior Fellows'. The objective is to involve the best minds from across sectors to engage with policy making efforts of the Government of India, while interacting with and providing guidance in key research work taking place in the think-tank, without any disruption to their regular activities. That apart, recruitment Rules for GCS posts are now being revised based on recommendations of the Task Force Report.

#### **OFFICES ATTACHED TO THE NITI AAYOG**

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) has been constituted on 18th September, 2015 by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and notified as an attached office under the aegis of NITI Aayog for fulfilling the mandate of evaluation and monitoring assigned to NITI Aayog.

The Government of India established the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) in 1962. It is a Central Autonomous Organization attached to NITI Aayog, Ministry of Planning. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr. Arvind Panagariya serves as the President of its General Council, CEO, Shri Amitabh Kant is the Chairperson of the Executive Council and Adviser Dr. Yogesh Suri has been given additional charge as the Director General of NILERD. The primary objectives of this Institution are research, data collection, and education and training in all aspects of Human Capital Planning and Human Resource Development.

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**POLICY-MAKING &  
PROGRAMMING**

## 1. Closure of Sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) asked NITI Aayog to undertake a thorough analysis of sick CPSEs and make recommendations on their future direction. Accordingly, the Aayog launched a two-layer process whereby a committee headed by the CEO undertook a detailed analysis of the sick CPSEs with the assistance of the National Institute for Public Finance and Policy. This committee reported its findings to a committee headed by the Vice Chairman. A report was prepared with the recommendations and sent to the PMO. A decision was then made by the Cabinet to close several sick CPSEs. The process of closure is now under way.

## 2. Strategic Disinvestment of CPSEs

The budget announcement 2016-17 had mandated that the NITI Aayog identify CPSEs for strategic disinvestment. The task inter alia included:

- (i) Identification of CPSEs for strategic sale
- (ii) Advice on number of shares to be transferred
- (iii) Recommendation on mode of sale
- (iv) Suggestion on the methods of valuation

To perform this role, NITI Aayog constituted a Committee under Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The Committee submitted its recommendations in two tranches in May and August, 2016. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved seventeen of the Committee's recommendations for 'in-principle' strategic disinvestment in October, 2016. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is in the process of implementing the recommendations on a case-by-case basis. The Committee is now deliberating on the third tranche of recommendations.

In March, 2016, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to review the status of 74 sick/loss-making and non-performing CPSEs. The Committee finalised its report in May, 2016 and its recommendation are in the process of being implemented in consultation with the concerned administrative ministries. In July, 2016, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog to monitor the revival packages of all CPSEs. The work of this Committee is under progress.

The steps towards Strategic Disinvestment of CPSEs are the first of their kind being taken after 13 years by the Government. NITI Aayog's work on CPSEs has covered more than half of the 235 operational CPSEs and is the most comprehensive review of the working of CPSEs, with a view to inject them with greater efficient, in recent times.

### 3. Atal Innovation Mission

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India formally launched the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) - subsuming the Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) - on 16th January, 2016 as part of the Start-up India Action Plan. The mission was established at the NITI Aayog in keeping with the Hon'ble Finance Minister's announcement in the Budget Speech 2015-16. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for establishment of AIM and SETU in NITI Aayog with appropriate manpower on 24th February, 2016. A Mission Directorate has since been created at NITI Aayog with CEO, NITI Aayog, as the Mission Director. Four Managers have since been appointed, between September and November 2016, to enable the operation of all mission activities. As per the directions of the Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) that held its first meeting on January 8, 2016, the Mission Directorate initiated the implementation of the following identified key initiatives in consultations with key stakeholders and after studying relevant international best practices.

- a. Grand Challenges: to find ultra-low cost solutions to India's most pressing problems
- b. Establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs)
- c. Establishing Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)
- d. Scaling-up Established Incubation Centres (EICs)

The MHLC in its second meeting held on April 19, 2016 under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog approved the guidelines for three of the four key initiatives - establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), setting up Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) and scaling up of established Incubation Centres.

Applications for ATLs and AICs, from both brown-field and green-field, were invited in May 2016. Various schools, higher academic institutions / universities, individuals and corporates were encouraged to apply through wide dissemination and publicity in the media. In all 13,005 applications were received from schools for establishment of ATLs; 3658 applications from entities (academic institutes, corporates, and individuals) for establishment of AICs and 232 applications were received from established incubation centres (EIC) (brown-field AICs) for scale up support.

Two inter-ministerial Screening-cum-Selection Committees (SSCs) were constituted for selection of AICs/EICs and ATLs under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DST and Secretary (School Education), MHRD respectively. In order to select the ATLs and AICs by a transparent and merit-based process, screening and selection procedures were developed by the AIM team and approved by the respective SSC.

**Establishing Atal Tinkering Labs:** After an initial screening, 595 schools were invited at six cities around the country in the first week of November for the final round of the selection procedure. Each invited school was asked to identify two challenges in their local areas and propose solutions. These solutions were judged by an independent panel of judges in each of the six centers. Based on the marks in this round, 257 top schools were awarded the ATL grant in December, 2016 in the first phase and financial grants are being rolled out currently to these schools.

**Establishing Atal Incubation Centres:** An extensive screening process was undertaken for the AICs, based on objective parameters approved by SSC. The Inter-Ministerial group, by way of video-conferencing, interviewed more than 60 shortlisted applicants. The selected applicants based on the recommendation of the Inter-ministerial group would be considered by the SSC in the final round.

**Scaling up support to Established Incubation Centres:** For the programme to offer scale up support to established incubation centres, 17 of the top existing incubators from around the country were invited to make presentations to the SSC on EICs and based on their presentations, six of the top applicants have been selected for receiving this grant. Detailed MoA is being worked out for the scale up support to EICs.

**Atal Grand Challenges:** Appropriate areas for conducting the Grand Challenges to enable efficient, scalable, cost-effective, world-class solutions to India's challenges are currently being evaluated. Since the identification of Grand Challenge Awards is a complex task, it has been decided that the AGCs will be launched in a phase-wise manner. For instance, two challenges will begin with two problem statements will first be launched. One of these could be completed within a short timespan (about 2 years) and the other may be a long-term effort (about 4 years). Subsequently other identified challenges will be launched after adequate time gap to benefit from the experience of first phase. Government of India ought to be the first buyer of the appropriate solution citizens emanating from the challenges so that they may be rolled out across India for the benefit of citizens. There is the need to formulate a full-proof procedure in consultation with line ministries to ensure this.

#### **4. Reforms in the Medical Council of India Act, Homeopathy Central Council Act & Indian Medicine Central Council Act**

During the review of health sector in March, 2016 Hon'ble PM constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog comprising Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, CEO, NITI Aayog and Secretary, Health, to examine all options for reforms in the Medical Council of India and to suggest a way forward. The Committee sought views and suggestions of various experts including eminent physicians and surgeons; former Secretaries to the Government of India, Department of Health and Family welfare; public health

experts; President/Vice-President and other Members of the MCI; representatives of the State Governments; and lawyers.

Thereafter, the draft 'National Medical Commission Bill' was prepared by the Committee. This bill was also placed in public domain to seek views of public and other stakeholders. Around 14,500 suggestions/opinions were received from public, experts (including those who were invited by the Committee), private medical Universities, advocacy groups, MCI and the States. After extensive deliberations, the Committee finalized the draft National Medical Commission Bill for replacing the Medical Council of India with the proposed National Medical Commission, to be sent to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

In order to reform the Homeopathic Central Council and Indian Medicine Central Council, on similar lines, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and comprising Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, CEO, NITI Aayog and Secretary, AYUSH has been constituted. The mandate of the Commission is to examine the legal provisions, modalities and workings of the Homeopathy Central Council Act and Indian Medicine Central Council Act and suggest necessary reforms. Currently, consultations with stakeholders on the subject are underway.

## **5. Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor**

A high level Committee Chaired by the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, with the Chairman, Railway Board, Foreign Secretary, Secretary, DEA and Secretary, DIPPP as Members has been navigating the first of its kind high-speed railway project being done jointly with Japan. The Committee works closely with its Japanese counterpart. The two committees together referred to as the Joint Committee have met four times, once in Mumbai, once in Tokyo and twice at the NITI Aayog in New Delhi. The joint Committee has ensured that the project stays on the tight schedule and progresses smoothly.

## **6. Digital Payments Movement in India**

Promoting digital payment options is an integral part of the Government of India's strategy to weed out black money and corruption from public life by facilitating the maximum of Government-Citizen Transactions on the digital platform. To enable this, a Committee of Secretaries was constituted under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog on Friday, 25th November, 2016 to identify and operationalize in the earliest possible time frame user-friendly digital payment options in all sectors of the economy.

NITI Aayog also constituted a Committee of Chief Ministers on Digital Payments on 30th November, 2016 with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, as the Convener to promote transparency, financial inclusion and a healthy financial ecosystem



nationwide. The Committee was also tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that citizens from across the country, including small towns and small businessmen, adopt of digital payments systems.

The aim of the Committee of Secretaries was to identify digital payment systems relevant to different sectors of the economy and to coordinate efforts to increase their accessibility and ease of use. The Committee of Chief Ministers also aimed to identify global best practices for implementing an economy primarily based on digital payments and to examine the possibility of adopting these global standards in the Indian context.

The Committee is now working to evolve an action plan to reach out to the public at large with the objective of creating awareness and helping public at large understand the benefits of switching over to a digital economy. It will also prepare a roadmap for the administrative machinery in the States to facilitate the adoption of digital payment methods.

An action plan covering advocacy, awareness and co-ordination of handholding efforts covering public, micro enterprises and other stakeholders has already been devised. Appropriate material for an Information, Education and Communication campaign has been developed to ensure use of digital payments down to the grassroots.

Presentations/ interactions were organized by NITI Aayog for training and capacity building of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, representatives of State/UTs, Trade and Industry Bodies as well as all other stakeholders. CEO, NITI Aayog held interactions with Chief Secretaries and all District Collectors to address local issues and ensure that the movement reaches every panchayat and taluk.

That apart, NITI Aayog is playing a key role in organizing DigiDhan Melas for 100 days in 100 cities across India. The Mela's were launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on December 25th, coinciding with Christmas and will go on until April 14th, Ambedkar Jayanti. The Melas are aimed at ensuring that citizens are trained to use of various safe, user-friendly digital payment methods. They also promote Digital Payment methods through the draw of lots for NITI Aayog's two major incentives scheme 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' and 'DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana'. The schemes were launched, on studying international best practices, by NITI to incentivize digital payment methods over the use of cash. In addition, another scheme was launched to provide central assistance of Rs. 50 crore by the Centre to the States and UTs for bringing 5 crore Jan Dhan accounts to digital platform.

## **7. Holistic Development of Islands**

NITI Aayog has initiated the process to develop identified islands for maritime trade, shipping, fisheries, eco-tourism, under-sea mining, oil and gas and other socio-economic activities. It also aims to replace the use of diesel by promoting non-conventional energy sources such as Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Tidal Energy, Ocean Thermal Energy etc. in the islands.

NITI Aayog, in consultation with concerned Central Ministries / Departments, UT Administration and other stakeholders, has short-listed 10 islands for holistic development in the first phase viz. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis, & Little Andaman in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Minicoy, Bangaram, Tinnakara, Cheriya & Suheli in Lakshadweep. The institution has been mandated to steer the process of holistic development of the identified islands as unique models of sustainable development and prepare a comprehensive development plan for each island with a focus on sustainability.

Request for Qualification cum Request for Proposal (RFQ-cum-RFP) for selection of consultants for 'Preparation of Concept Development Plans and Detailed Master Plans for Holistic Development of identified 10 Islands' has been issued and process for selection of a consultant is underway.

## 8. Coastal Employment Zones

Following a presentation by the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of Labour and several senior bureaucrats on 18th June, 2016 on the subject of Coastal Employment Zones (CEZs), NITI Aayog held an interactive session with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and a team of CEOs on 7th December, 2016. The Vice Chairman presented NITI's vision for CEZs along with a comparative analysis of the growth paths taken by countries that have successfully led manufacturing sector employment creation and exports, such as China and South Korea. The presentation was very well received by the CEOs of various companies and a number of crucial inputs have been received on making CEZs a successful model in India.

It is NITI's vision that any firm that would like to be part of the CEZs will benefit from a 10-year tax holiday, along with world-class infrastructure and ease of doing business, on employing 20,000 people. India would follow the successful Shenzhen agglomeration model for the development of CEZs in the country. NITI Aayog teams led by the Vice Chairman have also visited the States of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh to explore possible locations for the CEZs and both the Governments of both states have expressed keen interest in supporting the initiative. Further discussion on this important initiative is underway at the level of the Central Government.

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**COMPETITIVE  
CO-OPERATIVE  
FEDERALISM**



NITI Aayog has been constituted to actualize the important goal of cooperative federalism and to enable good governance in India, to build strong states that will make a strong nation. In a truly federal state, several objectives that ought to be achieved may carry political ramifications throughout the country. It is impossible for any federal government to achieve the national objectives without active cooperation from state governments. It is, therefore, crucial that the Centre and State governments work together as equals. Two key aspects of Cooperative Federalism are:

(i) Joint development of the National Development Agenda by the Centre and the States,

(ii) Advocacy of State perspectives with Central Ministries.

In keeping with this, NITI Aayog has been mandated the task of evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States. These priorities ought to reflect the national objectives and foster cooperative federalism through structured support to States on a continuous basis. NITI Aayog ought also to help states develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government. The aim is to progress from a stage when the Centre decided development policies to a truly federal government wherein States are equal stakeholders in the planning process.

The policy of the Government to involve State governments is reflected in changes in the interaction processes of the NITI Aayog. Consistent with its mandate, NITI in 2016-17 has undertaken several crucial initiatives to ensure that States are equal partners in the policy making and implementing process. This section will discuss in detail each of the initiatives:

## 1. Reforms in Agriculture

### a. Model Land Leasing Law

Taking note of increasing incidents of leasing in and out of land and suboptimal use of land with lesser number of cultivators, NITI Aayog has formulated a Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016 to both recognize the rights of the tenant and safeguard interest of landowners. A dedicated cell for land reforms was also set up in NITI. The Model Act on Agricultural land leasing has been published and circulated to States for facilitating them to enact their agricultural land leasing laws. Based on the model act, Madhya Pradesh has enacted separate land leasing law and Uttar Pradesh has modified their land leasing laws. Some States, including Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, are already at an advance stage of formulating legislations to enact their land leasing laws for agriculture.

### b. Reforms of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act

A status note on the implementation of agriculture market reforms by Indian States was prepared by NITI Aayog for circulation among States, followed by a discussion on 21st October, 2016 on three critical reforms –

- (i) Agricultural marketing reforms
- (ii) Felling and transit laws for tree produce grown at private land
- (iii) Agricultural land leasing

Three crucial reforms pertaining to marketing in agriculture have been recommended by NITI Aayog with a focus on liberalising markets, de-notification of fruits and vegetables, and creation of IT enabled national market.

### c. Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index

NITI Aayog has developed the first ever ‘Agriculture Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index’ to sensitise states about the need to undertake reforms in the three key areas of Agriculture Market Reforms, Land Lease Reforms and Forestry on Private Land (Felling and Transit of Trees). The index carries a score with a minimum value “0” implying no reforms and maximum value “100” implying complete reforms in the selected areas.

States and UTs have been ranked in terms of the score of the index. The indicators aim to reveal the position of each State with respect to ease of doing agri-business, opportunities for farmers to benefit from modern trade & commerce, and options for sale of her/his produce. They also represent competitiveness, efficiency and transparency in agriculture markets.

As per NITI Aayog’s index, Maharashtra ranks highest in implementation of various agricultural reforms. The State has implemented most of the marketing reforms and offers the best environment for undertaking agri-business among all the States and UTs. Gujarat ranks second with a score of 71.50 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Almost two third States have not been able to reach even the halfway mark of reforms score, in the year 2016-17. Major States like U.P., Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and J&K are part of this group. The index, therefore, aims to induce a healthy competition between States and percolate best practices in implementing farmer-friendly reforms.

## 2. Indices Measuring States’ Performance in Health, Education and Water Management

In 2016-17, NITI Aayog has undertaken the crucial task developing three major indices that will drive competitive, cooperative federalism in India. The institution is establishing an outcome-based monitoring framework in the critical economic and social development sectors of Healthcare, Education and Water. The primary objective of this framework is to determine the implementation of crucial policy by States through a review of their performance with respect to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in each of these sectors. Each State will be requested to submit their respective KPI datasets for review and validation of the given inputs by NITI.

#### a. Performance on Health Outcomes Index

A 'Performance on Health Outcomes' index to assess the quality of healthcare services provided by the States has been spearheaded by NITI Aayog, along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The index aims to nudge States towards transformative action in the Health sector. NITI has also developed guidelines for the exercise indicating features of the index, measures and methods of data. This index, and guidelines for its use, has been formulated with technical inputs from domestic and international experts in health and economics, including academicians and development partners, seeking feedback from States through multiple iterations and pre-testing the indicators in two States prior to its finalization. The index will capture the annual incremental improvements by States, rather than focus on historical achievements of each State. This initiative is envisioned to bring about much-required improvements in social sector outcomes, which have not kept pace with the economic growth in this country. It will be used to propel action in the States to improve health outcomes and improve data collection systems. Monitorable indicators that form a part of the Sustainable Development Goal in Health have been included in order to align these initiatives. The index will also aid in the monitoring of health performance at the State level, thereby enabling transparency in the system.

#### b. School Education Quality Index for Improving Learning Outcomes Measurement

NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has conceptualized and designed the School Education Quality Index (SEQI). SEQI is a composite index that will report annual improvements of States on key domains of education quality. The larger vision of the index is to shift the focus of States towards outcomes, provide objective benchmarks for continuous annual improvements and encourage state-led innovations to improve quality.

Currently 60 per cent of the SEQI score is based on learning outcomes. Therefore, the availability of high quality learning data is critical. NITI has devised a survey to generate the required data for SEQI with the following features:

- Representation of all children (government, private and out of school children)
- Generating a reliable score at Primary, Upper-primary and Secondary grades
- Calculating percentage of children with basic literacy and numeracy competencies in early grades
- Recording performance of marginalised sections (SCs/STs) and compare them with the general category
- Compares previous cycles (Cycle 3/ Cycle 4) of National Achievement Survey

NITI Aayog plans to host a technical meeting with experts and organisations to discuss key questions related to assessment design and operations. The expected outcome is to generate an outline of the assessment system that could either be operationalised through the existing measurement exercises (for e.g., National Achievement Survey by NCERT) or measured independently.

### c. Water Management Index

In view of the criticality of sustainable management of water resources for India, NITI Aayog is developing a Composite Water Management Index, with pro-active engagement of States and Union Territories. The Index is being developed in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments, the States and other stakeholders. For this purpose, a set of 33 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) covering irrigation status, drinking water and other water-related sectors have been identified. Critical areas such as source augmentation, major and medium irrigation, watershed development, participatory irrigation practices, sustainable on-farm water use practices, rural drinking water, urban water supply and sanitation, flood management, and policy & governance have been accorded high priority.

## 3. Conference of Chief Secretaries and Planning Secretaries of States/Union Territories

NITI Aayog organized the National Conference of Chief Secretaries and Planning Secretaries of States and Union Territories on 27th July, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The conference was intended to, and succeeded in, gathering critical inputs from states of key matters of collaboration between the States and the Centre. The strategic areas discussed at the conference were the proposal of merger of 'Plan' and 'Non-plan' classification, delivering Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), NITI's technical support initiative for States like Development Support Services for States (DSSS), creating good jobs and double-digit growth, best practices from States, etc. The conference saw active participation from all States and Union Territories and enabled gathering inputs on key policy issues.



## 4. Capacity Building of Urban Local Bodies

The Government of India has initiated urban rejuvenation missions – Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart City with the objective of improving availability of basic urban infrastructure in order to improve quality of life of citizens. However, as widely recognized, one of the key limitations in realizing the vision of urban transformation is the capacity constraints of urban local bodies to implement the program. NITI Aayog under its Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise launched a capacity building programme called the 'Urban Management Programme' in April, 2016 with the objective of building capacities of Urban Local Bodies, parastatal bodies and State government officials. The programme covered seven States, namely Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP, Delhi and Assam.



The three critical areas of that the programme covered are:

- (i) Urban planning and governance
- (ii) Water, waste water and solid waste management
- (iii) Public-Private financing (PPP)

The programme was inaugurated by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and the High Commissioner to India of Singapore. In keeping with the programme guidelines, three knowledge-sharing workshops were organized in which experts from Singapore interacted with the concerned officials from all state departments. In November, 2016, a field visit to Singapore was organized for state participants and in January this year three advisory sessions were held in New Delhi. The closing ceremony for the programme was held on 20th January, 2017 chaired by NITI Aayog Member, Dr. Bibek Debroy. The closing ceremony saw the presentation of three strategic baseline frameworks by participating States to address key identified challenges in the urban sector. These frameworks are to be discussed with other States in March, 2017.

The background consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes. A large, dark red shape is positioned in the upper right, while a large, gold shape is on the left. These shapes overlap to create various shades of red and gold. The text 'THINK-TANK FUNCTIONS' is centered in the middle of the composition, overlapping both the red and gold areas.

**THINK-TANK  
FUNCTIONS**

## 1. Vision Document of India

The era of five-year plans in India ends with the close of 12th Plan period at the end March, 2017. The country is now geared to implement a well thought-out long-term Vision, in keeping with our national goals and priorities. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has delegated the important task India of formulating the 15-year Vision Document of India to the premier policy think-tank, NITI Aayog.

NITI initiated the exercise to draft the Vision document early in 2016. The Vision aligns itself with India's national priorities, which subsume the Sustainable Development Goals, also anchored at NITI for India. Complementing the 15-year vision will be a seven-year strategy and three-year action agenda to ensure implementation of the Vision.

The 7-year strategy aims to convert the long-term vision into implementable policy as a part of "National Development Agenda" with a mid-term review after 3 years, in March, 2020. The 3-year Action agenda, coming into effect from 2017-18 to 2019-20, strategically aligns India's goals with available resources, by predicting flow of finances during the 14th Finance Commission award period. This will ensure the government's goals are translated into action by 2020.

NITI Aayog has undertaken numerous, intensive consultations with national and international experts from across the spectrum. Thinkers and policy makers from every sector – health, nutrition, education, agriculture, urban management, rural development, governance, environment, women and child development, social justice, defence, environment, energy to name a few – have been are being consulted by NITI Aayog to draft a comprehensive Vision for the country. Many leading scholars have also provided written inputs to aid the process.

As an initial effort at making the drafting of the vision an inclusive exercise, a special Gram Sabha was held across the country (except in poll-bound States) on January 26th, Republic Day, 2017. The Gram Sabha focused on gathering citizens priorities for their Panchayat and for their country, 15 years hence.

## 2. Roundtable on the Roadmap for Economic Policy in India

On 27th December, 2016, NITI Aayog organized a roundtable with economists and experts on the theme 'Economic Policy – The Road Ahead', under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

During the session, participants shared their views on issues of critical importance to the Indian economy such as agriculture, skill development and job creation, taxation and tariff related matters, education, digital technology, housing, tourism, banking, governance reform, data driven policy, and future steps for growth.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister called for innovative approaches towards governance in the fields of skill development and tourism. Noting that the budget cycle has an effect on the real economy, he said that authorization of expenditures in our existing budget calendar coincides

with the onset of the monsoon. This he said, results in government programmes being relatively inactive in the pre-monsoon months, which are otherwise productive. With this in view, he advanced the date of budget presentation so that expenditure is authorized by the time the new financial year begins.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of State for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Shri Arvind Panagariya, and senior officers from the Union Government and NITI Aayog. It was also attended by economists and experts including Prof. Pravin Krishna, Prof. Sukhpal Singh, Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma, Shri Neelkanth Mishra, Shri Surjit Bhalla, Dr. Pulak Ghosh, Dr. Govinda Rao, Shri Madhav Chavan, Dr. N.K. Singh, Shri Vivek Dehejia, Shri Pramath Sinha, Shri Sumit Bose, and Shri T.N. Ninan.

### **3. NITI Lectures: Transforming India**

As the government's premier think-tank, NITI Aayog views knowledge building & transfer as the enabler of real transformation in States. To build knowledge systems for States and the Centre, NITI Aayog launched the 'NITI Lectures: Transforming India' series, with full support of the Prime Minister on 26th August, 2016.

The lecture series is aimed at addressing the top policy making team of the Government of India, including members of the cabinet and several top layers of the bureaucracy. It aims to bring cutting edge ideas in development policy to Indian policy makers and public, so as to promote the cause of transformation of India into a prosperous modern economy. Fully sharing the Prime Minister's vision of a transformational change for India, rather than incremental change, NITI Aayog believes that this transformation must be driven by well thought out policies and programmes. This lecture series, therefore, is of critical importance in lending the right direction to India's growth story. This is also a crucial step towards realizing NITI Aayog's role as India's premier policy think-tank.

In 2016, NITI Aayog held two lectures in the series, which brought together top policy makers from across the globe, academics, experts and administrators of global repute to India, for the benefit of policy makers in States and the Centre. The lectures enabled an atmosphere of immense learning and exchange of ideas from global experiences in development and governance.

The Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Shri Tharman Shanmugaratnam, delivered the first lecture on the topic: India and the Global Economy. On 16th November, 2016, Bill Gates, Co-Founder, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, delivered the second lecture in the series under the theme: 'Technology and Transformation'.

Outlining the global shifts that impact the nation's development, both lectures discussed India's many advantages, its potential to address existing challenges and the opportunities that lay ahead by learning from international best practices in using technology and innovation as levers for the country's transformation.

## 4. State Forward - A Compendium of Best Practices from Our States

Cooperative federalism is not just Centre-state cooperation, but also state-state cooperation where there is competition among the state governments in terms of their economic growth. To enable such healthy competition, convergence of best practices amongst the states is imperative. As a premier think-tank of the Government, NITI is developing a state-of-the-art resource centre that will be a repository of research on good governance and best practices of sustainable and equitable development. This compendium on best practices across States is additive to the compilation.

By virtue of the sheer size of the Indian subcontinent, the GDP of some states in India far exceeds the GDP of some of the countries in the world. However, for India to achieve a sustainable growth rate of over 9 per cent, most States need to grow at 12-13 per cent. And one of the enabling factors in this effort is the ability to replicate innovative approaches and best project strategies that some States have successfully implemented.

It is remarkable that modern implementation processes, cutting-edge technology, effective Research & Development and efforts at decentralized monitoring, among others, in several States often go unnoticed. This compendium exhaustively lists out some these best practices. NITI Aayog will periodically update this compilation to showcase the best case studies among States.

A bottom-up approach has been adopted even in developing the compendium, where States' representatives were contacted to identify best practices of the model project examples within their States. Each contact person responsible for the implementation of the project has been identified in the case study. A team of over 60 members, comprising of Senior Officials, Advisers, Officers on Special Duty, Research Officers, and Young Professionals identified and vetted the case studies with the most compelling prospects in other States.

NITI Aayog is consistently monitoring the adoption and implementation of projects across States. The intention of promoting learning across sectors and divisions will strengthen cooperative federalism and augment decentralization. This will contribute in evolving a shared vision of national development priorities with the active involvement of States, in light of the national objectives.

## 5. Global Conference on Strengthening Arbitration & Enforcement in India

NITI Aayog, along with key departments of the Government of India and the Judiciary launched the Global Conference on Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement in India - a major initiative to change the face of dispute resolution in the country. The first-of-its-kind initiative in India was organized by NITI from 21st to 23rd October, 2016 along with the Ministry of Law & Justice, DIPP, National Legal Services Authority, International Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development to make India the centre of arbitration.

For the first time, six leading international arbitral institutions (HKIAC, ICC, KLRCA, LCIA, PCA and SIAC) and all major industry associations (FICCI, PHD Chamber, CII and ASSOCHAM) came together to drive this initiative. The Conference provided impetus to commercial arbitration in India, which is fast gaining pace across the world, for faster, more efficient dispute resolution outside the courtroom.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India inaugurated the three-day global Conference on 21st October and Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India delivered the valedictory address. The Conference was guided by Patron-in-Chief, Shri T.S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India. Shri Arun Jaitely, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology, in addition to the best minds from Indian and international legal bodies, corporate houses and the legal fraternity were present at the Conference. Chief Justices of six countries too participated at the first ever Global Conference on Arbitration in India and share their thoughts. The global conference has served as a platform for discussing critical issues, sharing experiences on the best international practices and creating a roadmap to strengthen arbitration and its enforcement in India.

India has already undertaken major structural reforms to facilitate ease of doing business recently, including legal reforms to revamp the existing arbitration framework. The Parliament has recently passed an Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Moreover, the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 has been passed to fast track commercial dispute resolution. Building over these reforms, this initiative by Government and Judiciary has aided in improving the institutional capacity necessary to create a vibrant ecosystem to make India the next big hub for international commercial arbitration.

The three-day conference had 7 intensive brainstorming technical sessions. These dwelled on different facets to strengthen institutional arbitration and ensure a facilitative judiciary to encourage Indian and foreign parties to arbitrate in India. More than 1000 experts and Government functionaries participated in the Conference besides 1200 students and faculty from various law colleges.

## 6. Let's Play - An Action Plan for Revitalising Sports in India

India is the second most populous nation in the world and has the lowest rank in terms of medals per capita. It is disappointing that a country that has world-class talent in various disciplines has not been able to produce champions in the area of sports. Compared to previous years, 2016 witnessed large participation in Olympics. However, India has been able to bag only two medals. Our performance in Olympics over the past 60 years has shown limited improvement in terms of medals won, peaking only in the London 2012 Olympics. This had been achieved on account of increased investment towards constructing sporting facilities, owing to the recent international events such as Common Wealth Games. However, the country still does not harbour a conducive environment for sports to hone the talent of Indian sportspersons, and bring them at par with their global counterparts. Efforts need to be undertaken at every level, right from the household, neighbourhood to schools, regional academies, states and national level. These efforts need to be aimed at radically increasing the level of sporting activities, filling the gaps in the system and monitoring for lags.

In this context, NITI Aayog formulated a 20-point action plan highlighting some key areas for improvement. These action points have been divided to a short-term vision (4 to 8 years) and medium to long-term vision (8 to 15 years). The action points identify initiatives to be taken in order to achieve a target of 50 medals in the 2024 Summer Olympics.

## 7. Output-Outcome Framework

The various Verticals of NITI Aayog collaborated with 68 Ministries and Departments to develop an Output-Outcome Framework. From the year 2017-18 onwards, it has been decided that outputs and outcomes of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes will be made available along with financial outlays as a part of the Budget documents to increase the transparency and understanding of the Government's development agenda. This exercise will help to bring the focus on outputs and outcomes of Government schemes as opposed to merely tracking outlays.

The image features a large, stylized graphic of the letters 'A' and 'O'. The letter 'A' is a vibrant blue and occupies the lower half of the frame. The letter 'O' is a magenta color and is positioned in the upper right, partially overlapping the 'A'. A dark blue horizontal bar is superimposed over the middle of the 'O'.

**OTHER SECTORAL  
ACHIEVEMENTS**



## AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture Vertical is working to develop plans and policies for development agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, land resources and governance as well as food processing for the farmers' welfare. The significant activities and achievements of the year 2016-2017 are as under:

### 1. Task Force on Agriculture Development

The Task Force on Agriculture Development was constituted on 16th March, 2015 in pursuance of a decision taken during the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog on 8th February, 2015 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Task Force was headed by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. All States also constituted similar Task Forces. NITI's Task Force held wide consultations with farmers and farmers' representatives, scientists, activists and experts and developed occasional papers including one on "Raising Agricultural Productivity and Making Farming Remunerative for Farmers". The Task Force held discussions with all the States in regional meetings held in Gandhinagar, Bengaluru and New Delhi and also received inputs from States through their Task Force Reports and discussions. The Task Force report was finalised and submitted on 31st May, 2016.

### 2. Task Force on Development and Use of Technology for Agriculture Insurance

On the direction of Hon'ble PM, a Task Force on Development and Use of Technology for Agriculture Insurance was constituted by NITI Aayog vide O.M. No. Q-11018/01/2015-agri. dated 30th June, 2016. The Task Force was serviced by the Agriculture Vertical. To streamline the discussions, five sub groups (i) Remote Sensing & Drones; (ii) Decision Support Systems, Crop Modelling & Integrated Approaches; (iii) IT/ICT in insurance; (iv) Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE); and (v) Technologies for livestock and aquaculture insurance were set up. Each Sub-group had several discussion meetings together with experts in their respective fields. In all, more than 100 experts from professional research agencies, insurance industry, banks and government contributed to these discussions. The Task Force has submitted the report to NITI Aayog on 18th January, 2017.

#### Box 1: Terms of Reference of Task Force on Development and Use of Technology for Agriculture Insurance

- (a) To assess and analyse the availability and use of technology, globally and in India for insurance related to crop, livestock and aquaculture
- (b) To assess the capability of technologies in estimation of losses to crops, livestock and aquaculture
- (c) To evaluate the capability of the technologies in damaged area estimation under crop, aquaculture and population of livestock due to natural calamities or other hazards
- (d) To suggest appropriate and cost effective technologies for quick estimation of damage to crops, livestock and aquaculture, both in terms of spread and severity

For effective implementation of the PMFBY, several technological options have been proposed such as remote sensing technologies (satellite and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)), smart-phones, digital photography, new statistical techniques and modelling approaches and IT/ICTs. Currently, there is modest use of IT/ICT in the insurance sector for enrolment and other operational issues. However, the evidence base for the various technologies under diverse agro-ecological regions of the country is too limited to support their nationwide implementation in crop insurance program. The comparative evaluation of different technologies has not been done so far. Often States, researchers and insurance players have diverse views on their use.



Final Meeting and Report Submission to Member, NITI Aayog by the Task Force on 18/01/2017

#### BOX 2: Recommendations to States for agriculture marketing reforms

- (a) Immediate need to amend existing regulations in order to liberalize markets. Farmer should be given the freedom to decide to whom, where and how he wants to sell his produce.
- (b) Special treatment of fruits and vegetables from other farm produce as they are perishable and produced in small quantities.

The recommended reforms place importance on IT in marketing for the creation of a 'national market' for agriculture, so that farmers across the country may benefit from interconnected markets, through the use of appropriate technology.

#### BOX 3: Indicators of "Agriculture Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index"

- (a) Implementation of 7 reforms as proposed in Model APMC Act, 2002 like e-NAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables, single licence throughout state; single levy in the State; direct sale by producers and direct marketing, electronic trading etc.
- (b) Relaxation in restrictions related to lease in and lease out of agricultural land, change in laws to recognise tenants and safeguard land owners' liberalisation.
- (c) Freedom given to farmers for felling and transit of trees grown on private land. This represents an opportunity to diversify farm businesses.

### 3. Working Group on Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections

A Working Group (W.G.) on Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections was constituted vide O.M. No. Q-11018/02/2016-Agri dated 29th July, 2016 to assess the demand and supply scenarios and make projections for the next 15 years aligning with the time frame of the 15 - year vision document being prepared by NITI Aayog. Five Sub-groups were set up to address the various sectors covered under the ToRs of the working group. The Working Group has held three consultations in the past and interim report is likely to be submitted the end of March, 2017.

#### BOX 4: Terms of Reference of Working Group on Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections

- (a) To study and analyse the trends in agricultural sector, agricultural productivity, investment 'in' and 'for' agriculture and farmers' income and suggest policy initiatives and other interventions required to increase these;
- (b) To examine the changing preference and consumption habit of consumers for food and related items;
- (c) To assess the demand and supply of fertilizers, seeds, credit, feed & fodder and other inputs for 2019-20, 2023-24 and 2032-33 and suggest measures to meet the demand and judicious management of inputs to achieve higher use efficiency;
- (d) To assess the extent of farm mechanization and suggest strategies for its promotion, also covering all farm implements and machines/ equipment;
- (e) To review the performance of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare during 12th Plan with reference to their targets of production and suggest modifications to improve the schemes, if to be continued; and to analyse the priority in the expenditure on agriculture and allied sectors by the States and the Central Government to suggest ways to augment it;
- (f) To estimate the requirements of rice, wheat, maize, other coarse cereals, pulses, food-grains oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute, fruits, vegetables, flowers and animal products viz. milk, meat, egg, fish and wool etc. including their demand for export, domestic use and make the supply projections for the Year(s) & terminal Year 2019-20, 2023-24 and 2032-33.

#### 4. Work on Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes Pertaining to Agriculture

This has been done keeping in mind the assessment of measureable outcomes for each scheme over the medium term up to the Year 2019-20. A normative increase of 5%-10% over the Budgetary Allocation of 2016-17 has also been factored in following the projections up to the year 2019-20. The Physical Outputs within the Output-Outcome Framework are indicated on a year-on-year basis in line with the financial resources projected for 2017-18 to 2019-20. In order

to carry out the evaluation work for each scheme, a definite road map has been suggested for the continuation of schemes under the MoA&FW and MoFPI beyond the 14th Finance Commission.

**(a) Productivity Enhancement**

Strategies recommended for Soil health card induced fertilizer application, increase in seed replacement and higher investment in irrigation to cover more area under micro-irrigation etc.

**(a) Profit Maximization**

Strategies to reduce wastages strategies for storages, additional storage facilities, remunerative price-procurement strategy, credit support to Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACs), PACs activation, implementation of Market Intervention Scheme, Short Term Credit to Farmers, Strategies to increase activities of high value commodities, Dairy Co-operatives, Chilling Plants, Milk collection and Disease Surveillance etc.

**(a) Policy Initiatives**

Strategies to increase operational holdings-plan to enact State Agricultural Land Leasing Act, reforms of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, price intelligence for perishables and plan to encourage group formation (FPOs)/Contract Farming etc.

## **5. Pilot on Pulses in Bihar**

A collaborative project on pulses has been implemented with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Bihar for ensuring nutrition security at the household level. The joint meeting with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (B&MGF) was organised on 20th January, 2016 at New Delhi and a Concept Paper was developed. This was followed by a meeting between Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and the co-chair of BMGF in February, 2016. The pilot has been implemented for lentils and peas in Samastipur district of Bihar comprising about 1000 marginal and small farmers. Linkages with NCDEX were also established for trading of the produce. The final results of the pilot will be available after the harvest of the crop in March-April, 2017. Pilots to be conducted during the summer have also been planned in a meeting held on 8th February, 2017 which was chaired by Member (Agriculture), NITI Aayog. The crops identified for the summer pilots are green gram and black gram.

## **6. Roadmap for Apiculture**

A meeting was held at NITI Aayog to discuss the issues, needs and opportunities in beekeeping, involving stakeholders from scientific as well as administrative departments chaired by Professor Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog has also given his suggestions. Post the discussions with scientific experts, regulatory authorities and administrative experts in the area of bee-keeping, action points for a workable solution for the sector were developed.

## 7. Bundelkhand Package

The progress on the Bundelkhand Package was reviewed in a meeting held on 4th May, 2016 under the chairmanship Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in the presence of all Members of Parliament of the Bundelkhand Region and Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, River Linking and Ganga Rejuvenation. Subsequently, CEO, NITI Aayog chaired the meeting of Empowered Committee of Bundelkhand Package and reviewed the implementation of Drought Mitigation Strategies in Bundelkhand Region with the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Empowered Committee also drew the roadmap for enhancing the drinking water availability in the region through piped water supply linked with a perennial source of water. The EC also suggested the State to implement desilting of ponds, reservoirs and renovation of natural water storage bodies on priority to facilitate maximum water.

## 8. Miscellaneous Matters

The vertical addressed issues related to the mid-term appraisal of the Agriculture Sector during the 12th Five Year Plan period, reviewing the situation pertaining to the demand and supply of onions in the country. It suggested a road-map for the promotion of bamboo-based industries with special attention to the NE region and schematic interventions required for development of Bamboo Cultivations in the NE States. Other issues addressed include soil health management and innovative nutrient reduction technologies, use of Bio-fertilisers for area expansion under Organic Farming and documentation of best practices adopted in States to augment the production from Agriculture and its allied sectors. Further, action plans prepared by line Departments in compliance with recommendations from the Group of Secretaries were also reviewed. Additional matters that were examined include Village Adoption Programme (Khusali) for the promotion of Food Processing Technologies implemented by the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM), Sonapat, MoFPI; appraisal of research and demonstration activities taken up by the agency "Crop Life India" for agricultural development in India as well as discussions held on the recent issue of burning of agricultural biomass in Punjab and Haryana along with possible mitigation measures.

### Publications:

1. NITI Aayog. 2016. Enhancing Technology Use in Agriculture Insurance. Report of the Task Force on Development and Use of Technology for Agriculture Insurance. Pp. 24.
2. NITI Aayog, 2016. Report of the Expert Committee on Land leasing and Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016. Pp.47

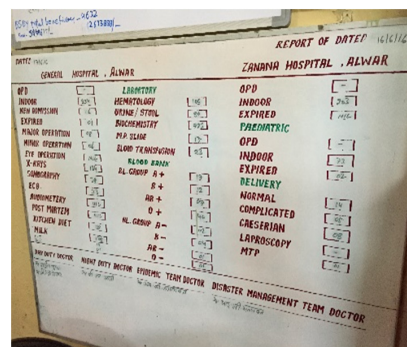
## Health, Nutrition, Women & Child Development

While India has made rapid strides on Health and Nutrition outcomes over the last decade; the outcomes have not kept pace with the level of economic development over the same period. On the health side we have made considerable progress on Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate and Total Fertility Rate front but the inter-State variation in achievements remain a matter of concern. On Nutrition, we have registered a decline in the proportion of underweight children; but we have been unable to make a significant impact on wasting and anaemia levels. Therefore, the Health & Nutrition Vertical has a key role in accelerating action in these two critical sectors and it has been our endeavour to bring these issues centre stage.

- To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies in the sector of Health & Family Welfare and Nutrition with the active involvement of States in the light of national objectives.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded Think Tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions in the sector of Health & Family Welfare and Nutrition.
- To maintain a state-of-the-art Resource Centre in the sector of Health & Family Welfare and Nutrition, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holder.

Major achievements of the vertical in 2016-17 are as follows:

1. **Tracking the performance of district hospitals:** In a recent review of the health sector by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, it was decided that an online portal for tracking the performance of government hospitals based on outcome metrics be created and NITI was mandated to create the framework. It has been felt that despite large funding allocation for District Hospitals, as well as their critical role in healthcare provision, there is no comprehensive system to assess their performance based upon their outcomes. In order to undertake this exercise, consultations with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, State Governments and WHO have taken place. The draft framework has been designed to carry out a holistic assessment of hospitals. It includes selected indicators based on which performance of district hospitals would be measured.



2. **Developing model concession agreements for the provision of prevention and treatment services for non-communicable diseases at the district level on PPP mode**

NITI Aayog has been mandated to develop model concession agreements for the provision of prevention and treatment services for Non-Communicable diseases namely Cardiac Sciences, Oncology, and Pulmonary Sciences at the district level on PPP mode. As part of the exercise, consultation with stakeholders such as Industry, MoHFW and States have been carried out.

Working Groups comprising representation from Industry, MoHFW and States have been constituted to provide inputs on developing the model concession agreements.

### 3. Study tour to Indonesia to study best practices in the provision and access of family planning services and methods

H&FW Vertical visited Indonesia to learn from their initiatives and best practices in the provision of family planning services and methods. The objective of the study tour was to learn from, and understand the method mix of contraception and family planning best practices in Indonesia and transfer the lessons learned for customized adaptation in India.

During the study tour, the team visited BkkBN Office to study the Indonesian Family Planning system, strategies adopted and method mix. The team also studied the implication of FP integration in the NHIP.



The team visited Lombok and studied the FP services in the West Lombok district of Lombok. The team met District Working Group constituted under FP programmes to promote FP through advocacy, IEC etc. The visit to Kediri Public Health Centre in West Lombok district was made to understand the type of FP services provided at the Public Health Facility level.

It is felt that there is a need to expand FP method mix from five to seven as available in other countries. However, the efficacy of the two methods (Injectable and Implants) over the others needs to be studied before bringing them into the Indian Public Health system.

- Various committees of Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Health Research and Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- EFC/SFC pertaining to Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Health Research, and Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- Scientific Advisory Groups of Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Public Health Foundation of India, etc.

### 4. National nutrition strategy

The National Nutrition Strategy for States/ Districts was drafted by NITI Aayog in consultation with M/o WCD and M/o H&FW. The strategy has been finalised.

### 5. Revamp of MatratvaSehyogYojana (MSY)

The Government of India has decided to universalise the Matritva Sahyog Yojana and rename it as MA\_NAVJAT. It has been decided that the financial assistance of Rs. 6000 will now be provided in three instalments. NITI Aayog has been given the mandate to monitor the scheme every three months for an initial period of two years. In addition, a detailed evaluation will be undertaken six months post the roll-out, examining the need for mid-course corrections, if any.

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The Human Resources Development (HRD) Vertical, restructured as HRD Vertical in the Team India Hub of NITI Aayog, deals with issues related to Education, Sports and Youth Affairs and Culture. However, education related to agriculture and allied sectors, medicine and public health is not in under the purview of the HRD Vertical. The HRD Vertical covers (a) pre-primary, elementary, secondary, senior secondary, higher, technical and teacher education; (b) formal and non-formal education including adult literacy; (c) areas of special focus such as education for girls, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and also Children with Special Needs; (d) Youth Affairs and Sports; and (e) Culture

### Proposals Examined/Appraised

During the year 2016-17, the HRD Vertical actively participated in activities related to the 12th Plan schemes. The Vertical examined proposals for approval of Standing Finance Committee/ Expenditure Finance Committee/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (SFC/EFC/CCEA), Draft Cabinet Notes as well as Notes for the Cabinet.

### Appraisal of SFC/EFC/draft cabinet note/note for cabinet/supplementary notes for cabinet proposals

#### Higher Education with a Brief Background:

1. Amendment in the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 for incorporation of IIITDM Kurnool. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 provides the status of Institutes of National Importance to the IIITs. The Government has approved the creation of a new IIIT at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh as embodied in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. Due to the addition of a new IIIT, an amendment has to be made in the IIIT Act, 2014. The proposal was supported.
2. Creation of National Testing Service (NTS) for conducting all entrance/fellowship examinations for Higher Education. Admissions to Higher Educational Institutions such as IITs/ NITs/IISERs/Central Universities and Professional Colleges are based on performance in various entrance examinations, as each hold their own exams, run by various agencies such as CBSE, AICTE etc. It has been estimated that over 40 lakh students appear for these exams. Since these bodies are not mandated to conduct entrance examinations, a lot of pressure is thrust upon them. Therefore, it was proposed that a National Testing Service (NTS) would be established as a Society under the Indian Societies Act as an independent, autonomous, self-reliant and self-sustained organization to conduct all entrance examinations and fellowship tests for higher education institutions.
3. Establishment of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Jammu and operationalizing it from a temporary campus starting 2016-17. Over the years, IIMs have developed a reputation



for providing quality management education with linkages to the best management practices and promoting cross functional education in the country. The proposal was supported.

4. Establishment of National Academic Depository (NAD). This would be established as an online store house of academic awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark-sheets etc.) in a digital format. It will be available online, 24x7, displaying academic records, validating their authenticity as well as providing easy storage and retrieval facilities. The NAD shall comprise of two inter-operable depositories that will store digital records of academic rewards. The Proposal was supported.

5. Establishment of Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) for creating capital assets in Higher Education Institutions. The setting up of a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with an initial capital base of Rs. 1000 crore was announced in the Union Budget 2016-17. The HEFA is envisioned as a not-for-profit organisation that will leverage funds from the market and supplement them with donations and CSR funds. These funds will be used to finance improvements in infrastructure in our top institutions and will be serviced through internal accruals. The proposal was supported.

6. Establishment of an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur (Odisha) and operationalizing it from a temporary/transit campus starting academic year 2016-17 declared as Institutes of National Importance, IISERs carry out multi-disciplinary study and research in basic sciences and science education.

7. Initiation of Third Phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP). The proposal was supported in view of the requirement for more capacity building measures in postgraduate and doctoral programmes.

**Other proposals examined:**

1. Cabinet Note for Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of United States of America in the field of Higher Education.
2. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and the UK on Newton Vivekananda programme.
3. Revised Cost Estimates for the establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology- Jabalpur & Kancheepuram.
4. Implementation of the scheme for Impacting Research Innovation and Technology

**School Education:**

1. Supported a proposal on the creation of a single non-lapsable corpus fund for Secondary and Higher Secondary education from the proceeds of 1% Cess for secondary and higher education, levied under Section 136 of Finance Act, 2007.

2. Supported a proposal on the Establishment of a second Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in each of the 12 tea garden districts of the State of Assam, under the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), an autonomous body fully funded by the MHRD.

**Participation in meetings & contribution in Policy Issues:**

During the year, the officers of the Vertical participated in meetings of Project Approval Boards (PABs) of MHRD such as SSA, MDMS, RMSA, Teacher Education, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), RUSA for finalization of State Higher Education Plans (SHEP), National Initiative for Design Innovation, National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP).

The officers of the Vertical represented NITI Aayog in various meetings organized by institutions like Council of Advisory Boards of Education (CABE), National University of Educational Planning the Administration (NUEPA), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), etc. They also participated in meetings and working groups for the 75th NSSO survey and in the 64th Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) meeting.

The HRD Vertical took various initiatives on policy issues during the year including analysing the progress of major flagship programmes (viz. SSA, MDMS, RMSA, Autonomous Colleges, UGC, AICTE Review) and deliberating on outstanding issues in school and higher education for the preparation of folders for PM's Domestic visits. NITI Aayog has conducted regional workshops in New Delhi, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Bhopal covering all the States/UTs for furnishing the requisite data for the School Education Quality Index (SEQI).

**Other significant activities of the vertical:**

1. SEQI has been developed in consultation with MHRD, State Education Departments and educationists from India and abroad.
2. For "Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat" six MoUs were signed between various States/UTs between (i) Govt. of Maharashtra and Govt. of Odisha; (ii) Govt. of Goa and Govt. of Jharkhand; (iii) Govt. of Punjab and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh; (iv) Govt. of Haryana and Govt. of Telangana; (v) UT of Chandigarh and UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli; and (vi) Govt. of Puducherry and UT of Daman and Diu.
3. Framework preparation for 10 Private and 10 Public World Class Institutions of Higher Education in terms of autonomy and research has been undertaken by the Vertical.
4. The vertical has been associated with Departmental Action Plans for Departments of School Education and Literacy, Higher Education (MHRD), Departments of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) and Ministry of Culture.

**Miscellaneous Activities:**

The Education Vertical coordinated with other Social Sector Verticals in the formulation and finalization of the Human Resource Development Chapter of the Mid Term Appraisal document of the 12th Five Year Plan.

**YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

To harness the “Yuva Shakti” in nation-building, various programmes/schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in line with the 12th Plan.

During the period 2016-17, officials of the Vertical attended the meetings of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on different issues. A booklet called “Let’s Play- Target 50 Olympic Medals” an action plan for revitalizing sports in India has been developed and disseminated to different stakeholders. The Let’s Play Booklet is a 20 Point Action Plan that highlights key areas in the field of sports that require improvement. These Action Points have been divided into a short term vision (4 to 8 years) and a medium to long term vision (8 to 15 years). The action points identify the initiatives required to be undertaken by the country to achieve a target of 50 medals in the 2024 Summer Olympics.

**CULTURE**

The government through its network of institutions and grants-in-aid schemes has been supporting the preservation, popularization and promotion of cultural heritage. This is done through museums, archives, libraries, performing arts and organizing a variety of events and festivals. The HRD Vertical coordinates with the Ministry of Culture in these areas.

The Vertical examined EFC/SFC proposals on:

- (i) The proposal for in-principle approval of NITI Aayog for a comprehensive scheme for conservation, preparation of reference media, digitization and microfilming of records of National Archives of India;
- (ii) A proposal under the Standing Finance Committee to consider the release of Rs. 100 Crore to the Government of Gujarat for Construction of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Statue of Unity) in Kevadia Region of Gujarat
- (iii) Supported a proposal for Setting up of Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Science City in Patna

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT UNIT**

The Skill Development and Employment (SDE) unit in Social Sector (I) Vertical handles the issues pertaining to skill development, employment, labour regulations, social protection and wages. The unit closely collaborates with Ministry of Labour and Employment and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on various policies and programmes. The Unit also engages with international bodies and experts to identify contemporary issues and develop partnership opportunities.

The major activities undertaken by the unit are detailed below.

1. **Compendium of Best Practices:** To harness the demographic advantage that India enjoys, the National Skill Development Mission 2015 was launched to strengthen the skill ecosystem as well as to make India the Skill Capital of the world. The successful implementation requires active participation of states and the private sector. Many innovative measures have been taken by States, Private Sector and Civil Society to improve access, outreach, quality, relevance, industry engagement and financial resources. In 2015, the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development had recommended compilation of such best practices for States to adapt or replicate. In accordance with this recommendation, NITI Aayog has collected 40 best practices from States, the Private Sector and Civil Society for wider dissemination and replication. The compendium is being published.

2. **Appraisals of Cabinet Notes/SFCs and EFCs:** The unit has received a number of Cabinet Notes/EFC/SFC for various programmes/interventions by Ministry of Labour and Employment and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The notes were appraised and comments were sent with the approval of the competent authority to the Ministries. The important schemes/proposals appraised included:

- Restructuring and continuation of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 2016-20
- Note for Committee of Secretaries on issues pertaining to Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Automatic enrolment of employees/workers in the informal sector in the NPS along with the facility to opt out – proposal from PFRDA
- Convergence of Central Skill Development Schemes/ programmes, Institutes under MSDE
- Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana
- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme
- Skill Development in 34 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism
- Setting up of Central autonomous bodies called National Board for Skill Certification
- Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)
- Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion Programme (SANKALP)
- Setting up 1500 multi skill training institutes
- National Entrepreneurship Award
- Upgradation of Advanced Training Institutes located at Kanpur, Mumbai, Bhubaneshwar and Chennai into Centers of Excellence

- Entrepreneurship education and training- Udhyamita
- Setting up of Advanced Training Institutes for women
- ISO 2990 certification of Industrial Training Institutes
- Amendment to Payment of Wages Act, 1936

3. **Research Work:** The Unit also prepared policy papers in the areas of Growth and Job Creation, Labour laws in Coastal Economic Zones, Transition from Informal to Formal Sector as well as a concept paper on Skill Development Indicators/Index.

4. **Miscellaneous:** The SDE Unit is looking after the work relating to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD). The process for selection of Director General NILERD was completed during the year. The Unit was also involved in the promotion of awareness creation on digital mode of payments in the Ministry of Labour & Employment and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

## MANAGING URBANIZATION

NITI Aayog's Managing Urbanization (MU) Vertical has a critical role in strengthening India's urban transformation by engaging key stakeholders, think-tanks and institutions including policy makers for designing suitable policy and pragmatic intervention based on real time data. The Vertical has a key role in evolving a shared vision of urban transformation, amongst Governments at Central, State and Municipal levels. The Vertical represents NITI Aayog in various committees of Ministry of Urban Development and National Institute of Urban Affairs.

The major activities undertaken during the year are detailed below:

1. **Capacity Building of Urban Local Bodies:** The Government of India has initiated Urban Rejuvenation Missions – Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart City with the objective of improving availability of basic urban infrastructure in order to improve quality of life of citizens. However, as widely recognized, one of the key limitations in realizing the vision of urban transformation is the capacity constraints of urban local bodies for implementing the program. NITI Aayog under its Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise launched a capacity building programme “Urban Management Programme” in April, 2016 with the objective of building capacities of ULBs, parastatal bodies and State government officials. The programme covered seven States, namely Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP, Delhi and Assam. The three critical areas of the programme included (i) urban planning and governance (ii) water, waste water and solid waste management (iii) public financing (PPP). The programme was inaugurated by the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and High Commissioner of Singapore to India. Under the programme, three knowledge sharing workshops were organized wherein experts from Singapore interacted with officials from states. During November, 2016, a field visit was organized for participants from states to Singapore and three advisory sessions were held in New Delhi in January, 2017. The closing ceremony for the programme was held on 20th January, 2017 chaired by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog wherein the participants presented three strategic baseline frameworks for addressing the key challenges in the urban sector. These frameworks are to be discussed with other States during March, 2017.

2. **Appraisal of Cabinet Notes/EFC/SFC/Metro Rail DPRs:** In 2016-17, the Managing Urbanization vertical completed appraisal of proposals for key initiatives of the Ministry of Urban Development. The following proposals, in the form of Cabinet Notes/EFC/SFC/Metro Rail DPRs, were appraised during the year:

- Transfer of Land from Delhi Development Authority to Land and Development Office, Ministry of Urban development for the purpose of second Diplomatic Enclave in Sector-24, Dwarka Project
- Setting up of Institute of Urban Transport (IUT) as an autonomous Organization under the Ministry of Urban Development

- Metro Rail Bill, 2016
- Metro Rail policy, 2016
- Restructuring of National Institute of Urban Affairs
- Detailed Projects Reports of Metro Projects of Kochi, Bhopal, Indore, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Khozikode and Kanpur

3. **Note on Smart Villages:** A note to develop Model Smart Villages was prepared which highlighted that various existing programmes can be converged for the development of smart villages.

4. **Guidelines for selection of sites, locations for projects/institutions through a challenge method:** The draft guidelines for selection of sites, locations for various projects/institutions through a challenge method were developed by NITI Aayog. The modified guidelines were presented by the Cabinet Secretariat to the PMO. NITI Aayog has sent the guidelines to States.

5. **Urban Transformation Index:** Currently, different schemes/programmes are being run by various Ministries and Departments but we do not have an integrated picture of the extent of urban transformation taking place across states. Hence, NITI Aayog felt the need to develop an “Urban Transformation Index (UTI)” which would capture the outcome of various urban rejuvenation programmes. Managing urbanization vertical has prepared a draft Concept Note on “Urban Transformation Index (UTI)” for discussion.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### 1. **Dashboard on Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM):**

To monitor the achievements of ‘Housing for All’ by 2022 in rural and urban areas and DAY-NRLM, NITI Aayog has developed a dashboard for fast-tracking the progress made under both schemes.

### 2. **Support for Developing Water Sources in Arsenic/Fluoride Affected Areas of the Country:**

As on December, 2015, the country had 13,431 habitations comprising 1.05 crore people affected with arsenic and fluoride contamination of water. On the recommendations of NITI Aayog and Ministry of Finance, Government of India released Rs. 1,000 crore, in March, 2016 as one time assistance towards installation of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) in 19 arsenic/fluoride affected States. Assistance was also provided for surface water projects in Rajasthan

and West Bengal for ensuring last mile connectivity in arsenic/fluoride affected villages.

### **3. Analysis of Drinking Water Schemes completed under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP):**

As per the direction of the Prime Minister's Office, 6 teams were constituted in NITI Aayog to study the 50 completed schemes under NRDWP for the States of Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The performance of these schemes was analysed and submitted to the Prime Minister's Office in November, 2016.

## **ENERGY & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **Power**

1. Examination of proposals of projects and other policy issues related to the Power Sector and Atomic Energy (Electricity Generation).
2. Creation, updating & monitoring NITI Aayog's online dashboard for the Energy Sector.
3. Participation in G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group meetings held in China and Germany.
4. As per the Statement of Intent signed between NITI-IEEJ (Institute of Energy Economic, Japan) the joint study of projects, namely clean coal technology in India and Renewable Integration has been completed.
5. The meeting of the 19th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India by Central Electricity Authority under the Chairmanship of Central Electricity Authority was attended by officers of the Vertical.
6. Officers of the Vertical attended the meetings of the Empowered Committee on Transmission system under the Chairmanship of Member (Power System), Central Electricity Authority.
7. Provided inputs related to the Power Sector for the India Energy Portal.
8. The officers of the vertical examined the Note for the cabinet regarding revised cost estimate of 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan and Standard Bidding Document. They also reviewed Guidelines 2016 for Ultra Mega Power Projects based on Imported coal, Guidelines for allocation of power from central sector generating station to states/UTs, in-principal approval for Tarapur Maharashtra site for locating 300 MW Advanced Heavy Water Reactor as well as in principal approval for Nuclear Power Programme for construction of 10 indigenous 700 MW PHWR. The proposals for PIB with respect to Arun – III HEP (900MW) in Nepal and a World Bank Loan proposal pertaining to UP Power Sector Transmission improvement projects, Govt. of UP, were also examined.



9. A committee has been constituted for formulation of GIS based Energy map for India under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Energy). First meeting of this Committee has been convened on 21st December, 2016.
10. Provided inputs regarding the targets/achievements of power sector schemes (Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana & Integrated Power Development Scheme) under level-2 infrastructure for Prime Minister's review.
11. Helped with preparation of State Action Plan for Renewable Energy for Punjab.
12. The officers of the Vertical attended meetings of the Steering Committee on the Demand Side Management scheme of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
13. The Officers in the Vertical participated in the Performance Review Meetings of the power sector.
14. The Vertical examined the status of implementation of major ongoing projects (Power and Atomic Energy Sector).

#### **Coal**

1. Estimated sectoral and total coal demand for Annual Plan 2016-17 for the Ministry of Coal by undertaking Inter-Ministerial discussions and initiated the process for assessment of coal demand for the year 2017-18.
2. A Joint study being carried out by NITI Aayog and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) is under way.
3. Representation at Inter-Ministerial Committee on strategies and policies related to emerging issues for coal and lignite sector development, for example, Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC), Clean Coal Technologies, Coal Gasification etc.
4. Maintaining of data base for coal and lignite sector and co-ordination with other Verticals of NITI Aayog for exchange of information.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

NITI Aayog's Infrastructure Connectivity vertical is mandated to provide an integrated approach to the transport sector by promoting an efficient, sustainable, environmentally friendly and regionally balanced transportation system. Some of the important activities undertaken by the Vertical in the year 2016-17 are as follows:

### **1. Appraisal document of the 12th plan**

The Infrastructure Connectivity Vertical contributed to the preparation of the appraisal document of the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) by authoring the section on transport as part

of the infrastructure chapter. A performance assessment of the first four years of the current plan period was made in terms of physical and investment targets set out in the 12th Plan. The appraisal also lays out priorities for the future.

## **2. Performance review meetings chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister**

The Infrastructure Connectivity vertical has anchored the infrastructure performance review meetings chaired by the Hon'ble PM since these meetings were introduced in July, 2014. These meetings have served as a forum for setting the priorities for infrastructure development in the country and as a platform for cohesive decision making. Thus far, two meetings have been held during 2016-17. In May, 2016, the annual targets for various infrastructure sectors were fixed. The vertical is responsible for collecting data from the respective ministries, analysing it and assisting the CEO with finalizing the presentation made to the Hon'ble PM. With the help of these meetings, it has been possible to provide focussed attention to the infrastructure sector.

## **3. Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail (mahsr) corridor project**

The Governments of India and Japan inked a Memorandum of Cooperation on 12th December, 2015 on cooperation and assistance in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor project. This collaboration was based on the recommendation of the Empowered Committee for Innovative Collaborations led by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman. The Committee recommended this project due to the availability of low-cost funding, apart from a commitment for technology transfer and local manufacturing. Government of India accepted the recommendation of adopting Shinkansen technology for the project.

In January, 2016, the PMO constituted a 'High Level Joint Committee on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project' to be led by NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman to accelerate the execution of this project. The Joint Committee interacted with its Japanese counterpart for taking the next step in the project on 14th February, 2016 in Mumbai. A working group with Adviser, Infrastructure Connectivity as a member has been formed at the official level to hold detailed discussions with the Japanese team. In 2016-17, three meetings of the Joint Committee (JCM) on MAHSR were held with the Japanese counterparts. The second JCM was held in Tokyo on 16.5.2016 which was also accompanied by a Joint Indo-Japan Industry Networking meeting on MAHSR. The third JCM was held on 7.10.2016 in New Delhi and the 4th was held on 17.2.2017 in New Delhi.

To promote Transfer of Technology and Make in India initiative in MAHHSR a Task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Senior Economic Adviser DIPP, Ministry of Railways, NITI Aayog. The Task force had a meeting on 20th January and identified avenues for cooperation.

#### 4. Port ecosystem efficiency

CEO, NITI Aayog chaired two meetings on the theme of Port ecosystem on 09th August, 2016 and 30th January, 2017 with various stakeholders including Ministry of shipping, Department of Custom and Central Excise, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Railways and Industry players. In the first meeting, aggressive targets were set for various parameters such as target time for export and import, import customs, railways and CSF. Notable achievements were reported in timings of cutting down delays in customs processing, loading of railway rakes in JNPT and documentation. In the meeting on 30.1.2017, target times for port ecosystem efficiency parameters for 2017-18 were set.

#### 5. Regional transport issues

Infrastructure Connectivity vertical has been involved with the issues of regional transport, especially in the North East region, where large investments, approximately to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crore per annum are being made to improve rail and road infrastructure. A status report on the same titled 'Transport Infrastructure Development of North Eastern States' was prepared by the vertical in 2016. This report provides a detailed analysis of the on-going transport projects in the region and the way forward for accelerating them. This report also suggests new projects which can be taken up to improve connectivity between North eastern states and countries in the region.

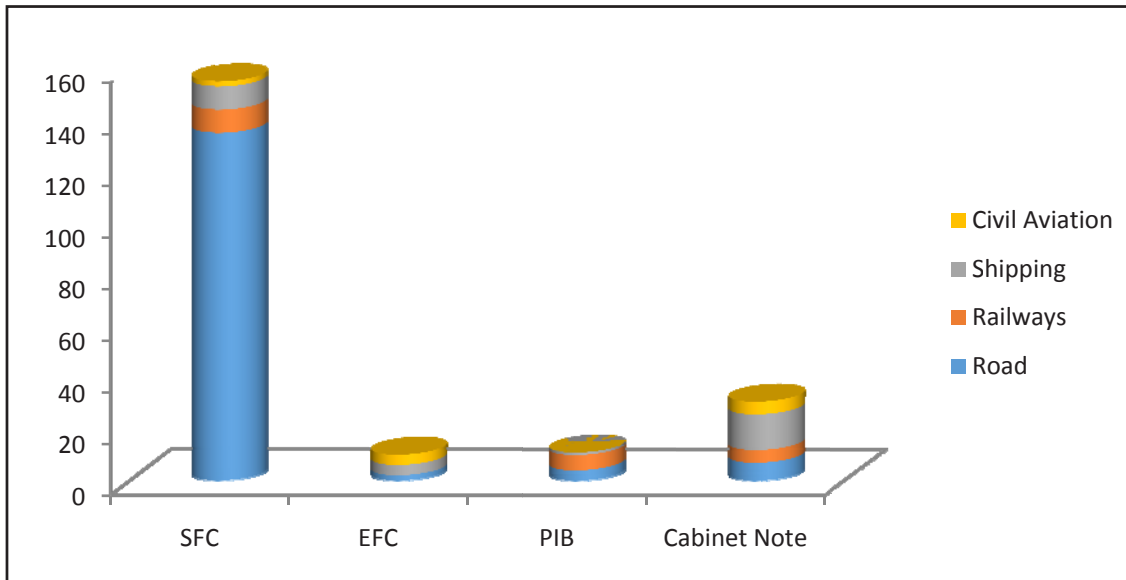
#### 6. Removing bottlenecks for on-going projects

During the year, Infrastructure Connectivity vertical helped with removing bottlenecks for some critical transport projects. These include two rail-cum-road bridges over river Ganga in Bihar and an international rail connectivity project between Agartala in Tripura and Akhaura in Bangladesh.

#### 7. Appraisal of investment proposals

During the year, investment proposals received from Ministries of Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, and Civil Aviation were examined in association with the Project Appraisal and Management Vertical (PAMD) before these were considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), Public Investment Board (PIB) and Expanded Board of Railways (EBR) as shown in the table below. A Total of 8 Inter-Ministerial High Powered Committee on SARDP-NE have been appraised.

**Figure 1:** Number of EFC, SFC, EBR, PIB and Cabinet notes examined by the Infrastructure Connectivity vertical for various sectors, during the year 2016-17



#### 8. Contribution to policy making: cabinet notes

The Infrastructure Connectivity vertical has played a key role in policy making in the transport sector through its inputs to the inter-ministerial decision making process. The cabinet notes examined during the year are presented below:

Sector	Roads	Civil Aviation	Railways	Shipping	Total
Cabinet Notes	07	05	05	14	31

**SOME OF THE SALIENT POLICY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRIES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY VERTICAL DURING THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

##### A. Regulatory Reform Bill

The vertical has worked on a Regulatory Reform Bill for which a major stakeholders' consultation meeting was held in May, 2016. The aim of this Bill is to provide a uniform approach to common issues of regulatory bodies. A draft has been sent to various ministries for their comments and a final Bill will be drafted after receiving comments from all the stakeholders.

##### B. Rail Development Authority (RDA)

The vertical examined the Cabinet Note for setting up of the RDA and made suggestions which will form the basis of creation of a regulator for the railway sector.

**C. Road Transport and Highways and Rural Roads**

During 2016-17, NITI Aayog engaged with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Rural Development for policy discussions to improve the project deliverables in the highway and rural roads sectors. Some important policy and investment decisions which were decided in consultation with NITI Aayog include Chardham connectivity and improving rural road connectivity in the LWE areas under the PMGSY scheme.

**D. Sagarmala and Coastal Development**

NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman was appointed as a member of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee which was constituted on 13th May, 2015. The Vice Chairman has provided thought leadership on coastal employment zones to scale up manufacturing and exports from the country. The views of NITI Aayog have been included in the National Perspective Plan on Ports as part of the Sagarmala initiative. In 2016-17, two meetings of the Steering Committee on Sagarmala were held where NITI was represented by the CEO and one meeting of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee was held where the Vice Chairman expressed his vision for coastal employment zones.

**E. Railway Investment and Policy Proposals**

A number of themes were analysed and inputs provided to the Ministry of Railways related to investments and policy frameworks which include formation of a holding company for Railway PSUs; financial restructuring proposal of Konkan Railway Corporation (KRCL), draft metro rail bill and formation of Rail India Development Fund (RIDF). Besides, the vertical has supported PAMD and Extended Board of Railways by examining a number of critical projects of doubling, new lines and electrification.

**F. Civil Aviation**

In this area, a number of investment and policy inputs were provided to the ministry in areas such as national civil aviation policy, revival and development of 50 un-served air strips and on draft RFP documents for Navi Mumbai airport.

**G. NITI's Role in Improving the R&D Ecosystem in the Railways**

Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog in his capacity as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Experts has been engaging with the Ministry of Railways to improve the R&D ecosystem for Indian Railways. He has chaired a number of meetings with outside experts and DG, RDSO and other officers of the Ministry of Railways on implementing SRESTHA (Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement) and made several recommendations to the Ministry of Railways for the implementation of SRESTHA.

#### **H. NITI's Inputs to the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)**

Dr. Manoj Singh, Adviser (Transport and Infrastructure Connectivity) was invited by the 4th FFC headed by Justice M L Mehta (Retd.) to assist the FFC as an expert adviser. The deliberations of the Committee were held during the period June – September, 2016 and the FFC could make its recommendations within the mandated date of 8th September, 2016.

#### **I. NITI's Inputs to the Committee on Taxi Policy set up by MoRTH**

Adviser (Transport and Infrastructure Connectivity) was invited to be a member of the Committee on Taxi Policy set up at the behest of the Delhi High Court. Based on inputs provided by NITI and other stakeholders, MoRTH has come out with a taxi policy which is helping states in framing policy for regulating shared taxis, app based aggregators and other new entrants in the urban mobility sphere.

#### **J. Transformative Mobility Workshop**

NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), USA is holding a high level working session on transformative mobility solutions on 27th-28th February, 2017 at New Delhi. This high-level meeting will bring together a diverse group of mobility experts from government, industry, and civil society to identify and explore emerging technologies and business models that can allow India to “leapfrog” traditional approaches to passenger mobility. It is expected that this workshop will identify strategies that can accelerate the development of transformative solutions, enabling India to emerge as a global leader in passenger mobility.

#### **K. Assessment of new technology in public transport**

NITI Aayog has been involved in making technical assessment of new and emerging technologies in the area of transport and mobility. In this direction, a meeting was chaired by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog on 20th October, 2016 to assess the Personal Rapid Transport (PRT) technology. This was with a view to assist the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and NHAI in order to review the technology options for a pilot project of PRT. Presentations were made by three prospective bidders following which NITI Aayog made a comparative assessment of the technologies with clear recommendations for the future course of action.

#### **L. Inter-Ministerial meeting on Bharatmala programme**

CEO, NITI Aayog chaired an inter-ministerial meeting on Bharatmala which is an ambitious programme for road development in the country on 2nd January, 2017. Issues related to size of the programme, delegation to NHAI and other elements were discussed in detail and NITI has submitted a set of recommendations to the Prime Minister's Office.

#### **M. Promoting Make in India in the area of Metro projects**

A meeting was chaired by CEO NITI on 5th December, 2016 on promoting Make in India for

procurement of rolling stock for metros. As the implementation of metro projects increases in various cities of the country, the rolling stock required for metro systems is also set to grow. At this juncture, it is important to promote indigenisation of rolling stock for metro rail systems. A number of decisions were taken in this meeting to promote local manufacture of metro coaches in India in the presence of many stakeholders including Ministry of Railways, MoUD, DIPP and a number of metro companies. It is expected that there will be positive impact on local production of metro coaches in India as a result of the decision taken in the inter-ministerial meeting.

**N. High Level Roundtable on Intelligent Transportation System by International Road Federation**

International Road Federation (IRF) has launched a series of roundtables on Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in India with a view to foster sustainable mobility with better road safety and less congestion. NITI Aayog was invited to be a member of this Roundtable.

**O. Implementation of Key High Technology Driven Rail Infrastructure Projects through foreign railway entity/country on Government to Government (G to G) cooperation route.**

Member, Dr. Bibek Debroy chaired a meeting on this theme and resolved issues related to the implementation of this scheme. The Prime Minister's Office had requested the Member to make his intervention in the interest of an early resolution of this matter.

**P. Sharing Indian Experience of Quality Infrastructure Development at International Forum**

Adviser (Transport and Infrastructure Connectivity) was invited to a seminar on the topic "Quality Infrastructure and the Multilateral Development Banks" held on December 15th 2016. It was organised by a Washington DC based think tank named Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) supported by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of the Government of Japan.

**Q. Promoting Road Safety Education**

Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog chaired two meetings on 19.09.2016 and 24.01.2017 with experts and stakeholders for promoting road safety education in school curriculum. Institutions which participated included NHAI, MoRTH, NCERT, MoHRD, DAVP, SCERTs, Prominent NGOs like IRF, Piramal Foundation etc. As an outcome of the first meeting NCERT has taken the initiative to collate all the best material available on Road Safety Education from various SCERTs. Pr. Adviser has also written to NCC and NSS to include Road safety education as part of their certifications. This will be followed up by the Vertical in the coming days.

## INDUSTRY

The Industry Vertical deals with policy issues relating to the manufacturing sector.

NITI Aayog – IDFC Enterprise Survey on Business Regulatory Environment in India is one of the major initiatives of NITI Aayog. Towards this end, NITI Aayog in collaboration with IDFC Foundation is conducting an Enterprise Survey of Manufacturing Firms, including Start-Ups across all States and Union Territories. The primary objective of this Survey is to assess the Business Regulatory Environment in each State and UT and identify policy and regulatory hurdles faced by businesses in the States/UTs. The Survey will bring out a comprehensive analysis and report on State-level performance. It will complement the Government's 'Make in India' initiative by providing impetus for State-level reforms that will make it easier to do business in India, while fostering competitive and cooperative federalism.

In order to finalize the scope and methodology of the Enterprise Survey, a Group under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog was constituted in June, 2015. IMRB International had completed the survey in all the States and UTs by October, 2016. The project involved a survey of 3100 enterprises and 178 Start-ups. The outcome analysis of the survey will be made available shortly.

A specific initiative by NITI Aayog was to take measures to correct the information disseminated about innovation ecosystem parameters reported in international rankings. The Global Innovation Index (GII), co-published by World-Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as a Knowledge Partner since inception, has been ranking world economies including India since 2007 according to their innovation capabilities and outcomes using 82 indicators among a host of other important parameters. GII in 2015 ranked India at the 81st position. To understand the relevant parameters and data reporting issues, NITI Aayog jointly with CII and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), organized the Global Innovation Index – India Roundtable on 31st January, 2017 in the capital. Eleven Ministries/Departments have appropriately improved the data reporting concerning GII. As a result, in 2016, India's rank on the Global innovation Index (GII) stands at 66th position.

The Vertical has also taken up inter-ministerial issues to address problems faced by various manufacturing sectors including:

- (a) 'Disability factors' in Indian steel industry and the way forward;
- (b) Issues relating to Make in India initiatives in Defence Sector;
- (c) Developing metal recycling industry.

A committee under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog was constituted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to look into the issues relating to the growth of the e-commerce sector. The deliberations on this issue are in progress.



The officers were involved in Inter-Ministerial Committee/Empowered Committee/Apex Committee of Department of Industrial policy and Promotion for effective implementation of various schemes like Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDPP) and Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS). The vertical also provides support to the recently constituted Board of Trustees of National Industrial Corridor Development Authority (NICDA).

The CCEA considered the Package of Incentives for Industrial Units in North Eastern States & Special Category States and discontinuation of Freight Subsidy Scheme, 2013. CCEA inter alia approved the constitution of a Committee under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog to examine and suggest a roadmap for a new industrial policy for North Eastern and Himalayan States. The Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted in December, 2016.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of CEO NITI Aayog for preparing the roadmap for Coastal Economic Zones (CEZ) and for steering the development of the related CEZs has been constituted in February 2017. NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for the Committee.

The Industry Vertical represents NITI Aayog in the following Committees and Development Councils:

- Review Committee on Public Procurement Policy constituted by MSME
- Scheme Steering Committee (SSC) for Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)
- Steering Committee of MSE- Cluster Development Programme (CDP)
- Project Appraisal and Monitoring Committee (PAMC) North East Region (NER) Textile Promotion Scheme by Ministry of Textiles
- Project Scrutiny Committee for Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)
- Project Scrutiny Committee for Integrated Textile Processing Development Scheme (IPDS)
- Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) on Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
- Empowered Committee constituted under Indian Leather Development Programme constituted by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on MOU constituted by Department of Public Enterprises
- Empowered Committee Chaired by Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion on Capital Investment Subsidy under North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007

- Apex Committee constituted for scheme on 'Enhancement of Competitiveness in the 'Indian Capital Goods Sector' by Department of Heavy Industry
- Project Approval and Monitoring Committee (PAMC) for Mega Clusters for Handloom and Handicraft Sector under chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles)
- Development Council for Automobiles and Allied industries (DCAAI) under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry
- Development Council for Machine Tools Industry
- Development Council for Textile Machinery Industry

Following Committees, which have CEO level participation of NITI Aayog, are serviced by the Industry Vertical:

- High Power Committee (HPC) on MOUs with CPSEs
- Apex Committee of Secretaries for recommendations on conferment/divestment of Navratna status to CPSE.

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The financial year 2015-16 witnessed three major announcements which brought about revolutionary structural changes in the Union-State finances of the Country: (i) the largest increase ever in the States' share of union tax proceeds from 32% to 42%, giving States more autonomy with more untied funds (ii) restructuring the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) (iii) doing away with the Plan & Non-Plan distinction in the budgeting exercise with effect from 2017-18. These changes called for a complete realignment as the role of NITI shifted from the allocation function to outcome-based evaluation of programmes. To assess the impact of these changes, studies were undertaken relating to total transfers to states, impact on social sector etc.

### An analysis of change in central transfers to states

A study was undertaken in order to assess the impact of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) recommendations on central transfers to states. Devolution of shareable Central Taxes, Central Assistance to State & UT and Plan (CASP) and Finance Commission Grants were analysed.

Based on actual releases for 2014-15 & 2015-16, 26 States have gained in terms of total transfers. In absolute terms, Kerala, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal are among the largest gainers.

The analysis has clarified doubts among stakeholders that States might curtail their social sector expenditure in response to increased untied transfers from the Union Government.

Stakeholders were apprehensive that the quantum of total transfer actually being released to States would reduce due to discontinuation of discretionary Plan transfers like Normal Central Assistance, Special Central Assistance, Backward Region Grant Funds etc. However, analysis revealed that most of states except three, have received higher amount in transfers in FY2015-16 in comparison to FY 2014-15.

Since the magnitude of untied funds to the states had increased there was uncertainty about the prioritization of states' expenditure on social sectors. Analysis of social sector expenditure of the States in FY 2015-16 (RE) over FY 2014-15 (actual) revealed that all states have registered a positive change in their absolute social sector expenditure. However, three States namely, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have experienced negative growth in social sector expenditure as a % of GSDP.

#### **Analysis & preparation of technical brief on state finances**

On the basis of data received from states and their State Budget Documents this Vertical maintains a database and prepares technical briefs on state finances.

#### **Assessment of study commissioned by NITI on state finances of Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal**

As an initiative to provide structured support to states, a study is being commissioned for three States, namely Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal as their financial indicators were found to be worrisome. The study aims to provide solutions for optimal utilization of the states' fiscal space and better management of their finances.

The study allows NITI to examine the extent and cause(s) of fiscal stress in these States and suggest policy implications to reduce the mounting revenue and fiscal deficits of poor performing state government(s). The first draft of these reports has been assessed and the final reports are expected by April-June, 2017.

#### **Technical comments on reports of various Cabinet Note Committees/Commissions/Proposals/Projects**

During the year, various issues and cabinet notes including those related to financing of Schemes/ Programmes, Public Financial Management System (PFMS), Management of Public Expenditure especially doing away with the distinction between Plan and Non-Plan, were examined.

#### **New Initiatives**

Design of a new mechanism for intergovernmental fiscal transfers to States through Centrally Sponsored Schemes along the lines of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been taken up. The idea is to develop a two-window intergovernmental transfer mechanism where allocation to sub-national governments will take into account their need, backwardness and introduce

competition by linking allocation to measurable outcomes. With a significant amount of Plan transfers to States and UTs being routed through CSS and CSS interventions, especially in the social sector, this exercise is crucial for a more outcome oriented system.

#### **Allocation to States**

The Union Government is committed to assisting states for meeting the “spill over liabilities” of their area specific schemes and projects for which budgetary provisions have not been made. Post implementation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations, there is a requirement to prove for need-based assistance to States on account of varying socio-economic and geographical factors. In order to honour this commitment, on the basis of NITI’s recommendation, Rs.5,058 crore has already been released by the Ministry of Finance till January, 2017 to States from ‘Special Assistance’ provided under Demand No 32 of Union Expenditure Budget.

#### **Appraisal Document of 12th Five-Year Plan**

The Governing Council Secretariat of NITI Aayog has been engaged in coordinating the preparation of an Appraisal Document of the 12th Plan. It was decided that instead of mirroring the 12th Plan Chapters, the appraisal should be conducted along important themes like employment and skill development, physical infrastructure including energy and transport, human resources development, governance etc. The draft appraisal document has been prepared and submitted for approval of the competent authority.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Water resources**

The Water Resources Vertical under Natural Resources and Environment Vertical is involved with the formulation of policies, development of strategies and appraisal of programmes for sustainable management of water resources in the country. A brief on important initiatives undertaken by the Vertical during the year 2016-17 is given below:-

#### **1. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented as an umbrella scheme for Har Khet Ko Pani (Water to every farm) with improved water-use efficiency (Per Drop More Crop). The approved programme has four components namely (i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme (AIBP) for major and medium irrigation including National projects; (ii) Har Khet Ko Pani which includes command area development and water management (CAD&WM) works, surface minor irrigation, irrigation through groundwater and repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies; (iii) per drop more crop for promotion of micro irrigation and other related activities; and (iv) watershed development for rain water harvesting, effective management of

the run-off water, prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation and re-charging of the ground water table.

Under the AIBP component of PMKSY, focus is on faster completion of on-going projects. A total of 99 projects have been prioritized for implementation under this component of PMKSY. It is expected that an additional 76 lakh hectares will be under irrigation coverage following the completion of these projects. Of the 99 prioritized projects under AIBP, 23 projects are targeted for completion during 2016-17, 31 projects during 2017-18 and the remaining 45 projects by December, 2019. All the projects being taken up under AIBP would include CAD&WM works in order to ensure that the irrigation potential created gets utilised without any time lag. NITI Aayog provided all necessary support to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR) for planning the implementation of the prioritized projects under AIBP. Comments on the Operational Guidelines on Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) under PMKSY were also provided to the Ministry. The LTIF would facilitate availability of funds for early implementation of prioritized AIBP projects.

A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture), NITI Aayog to develop a comprehensive Roadmap for PMKSY. The completed Roadmap was shared with the concerned central Ministries/Departments, States and other stakeholders. The Roadmap would be useful for achieving the objective of Har Khet Ko Pani as it covers strategies for storage, conveyance and on-farm application of water.

A Council, headed by CEO, NITI Aayog, has been constituted to look into the overall implementation of projects under PMKSY and related policy matters. The Council held its first meeting on 25th October, 2016 in which the progress of various components of PMKSY was reviewed and recommendations were made for accelerating the pace of implementation of PMKSY projects.

## **2. Appraisal of Project/Programme**

The draft memorandum prepared by the MoWR, RD&GR for the Expenditure Finance Committee pertaining to the project “National Ground Water Management Improvement Scheme” was appraised and comments were provided to the Ministry. With an estimated cost of Rs. 6,000 crore, the project has been proposed to be implemented with assistance from the World Bank.

## **3. Appraisal of Notes for the Cabinet**

The Note for consideration by the Cabinet prepared by the MoWR, RD&GR on PMKSY –“Establishment of Mission for completion of prioritized irrigation projects and funding arrangements” was examined and comments were communicated to the Ministry. The Mission has been established to accelerate the pace of implementation of prioritized projects under PMKSY.

#### 4. Appraisal of legislations proposed by the MoWR, RD&GR

- (a) The Draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 prepared by the MoWR, RD&GR was examined and comments were communicated to the Ministry. The draft Bill provides for an overarching National legal framework with principles for protection, conservation, regulation and management of water as a vital and stressed natural resource, under which legislation and executive actions on water at all levels of Governance can take place.
- (b) The Draft model Bill for Conservation, Protection and Regulation of Groundwater, 2011 prepared by the MoWR, RD&GR was examined and comments were communicated to the Ministry. The objective of the Bill is to ensure sustainability of groundwater, equity among users, efficiency in groundwater use as a common pool resource through institutional structure and participatory processes.

#### 5. Appraisal Document - 12th Fiver Year Plan (Water Sector)

The exercise for appraisal of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) for Water Resources under the Chapter Environmental Sustainability was completed.

#### 6. Action Plans for implementing the recommendations made by the Group of Secretaries

Action Plans, along with timelines for implementing the recommendations made by the Group of Secretaries under themes such as Good Governance - challenges and opportunities; Employment Generation Strategies; Farmer Centric Issues in Agriculture and Allied Sectors; Education and Health - Universal Access and Quality; Innovative Budgeting; Accelerated Growth with inclusion and equity; Swachh Bharat and Ganga Rejuvenation; and Energy Conservation and Efficiency were finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

#### Land resources

The Land Resources Vertical under the Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Vertical is involved with the formulation of policies, development of strategies and appraisal of programmes for sustainable management of land resources in the country. A brief on important initiatives undertaken by the Vertical during the year 2016-17 is given below:-

##### 1. Appraisal Document - 12th Fiver Year Plan (Land Resources)

The exercise of appraisal of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) for Land Resources under the Chapter Environmental Sustainability was completed.

##### 2. Appraisal of Notes for the Cabinet

The Note prepared by the DoLR on Official Amendments to the Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was examined and comments were communicated to the DoLR.

### **3. Watershed Development**

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) aims at restoring ecological balance through development and sustainable management of degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. Expected outcomes include prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and re-charging of the ground water table. A total of 8,214 projects have been sanctioned under IWMP till March, 2015. Early completion of these projects, which would provide irrigation to about 27.31 lakh ha, has been recommended for the watershed development component of PMKSY in the road map prepared for PMKSY.

### **4. Action Plans for implementing the recommendations made by the Group of Secretaries**

Action Plans, along with timelines for implementing the recommendations made by the Group of Secretaries under themes such as Farmer Centric Issues in Agriculture and Allied Sectors; Employment Generation Strategies; Energy Conservation and Efficiency; Swachh Bharat and Ganga Rejuvenation; and Education and Health - Universal Access and Quality were finalized in consultation with the Department of Land Resources.

#### **Environment and forests**

The Environment and Forest Vertical is involved in the formulation of policies and development of strategies for sustainable management of forests; protection of wildlife and their habitats; and maintenance of a clean and healthy environment. It coordinates activities with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). During the year 2016-17, the following major activities were undertaken by the Vertical:-

#### **1. Mid Term Appraisal of the 12th Five Year Plan (Chapter 7 - Environmental Sustainability)**

The exercise for appraisal of the 12th Five Year Plan was completed by the Vertical for the section on Environmental Sustainability. Achievements made against the strategies envisaged in the 12th Plan were evaluated. Recommendations were made to achieve the Plan objectives set out for environmental sustainability. In addition, new initiatives taken up during the Plan period such as Namami Gange (Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission, a Programme under National Ganga River Basin Authority); PMKSY, system of online submission and monitoring of proposals for ensuring efficiency, transparency and accountability in the process of granting environmental, forest and wildlife clearances; amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act etc. were highlighted.

#### **2. Action Plans for implementing the recommendations made by the Group of Secretaries**

Action Plans along with timelines for implementing the recommendations made by the Group of Secretaries under themes such as (i) Good Governance - challenges and opportunities; (ii) Employment Generation Strategies; (iii) Farmer Centric Initiatives in Agriculture and Allied

Sectors; (iv) Accelerated Growth with Inclusion & Equity and (v) Swachh Bharat and Ganga Rejuvenation - People's participation and Sustainability were finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

### 3. Appraisal of Projects/Programmes:

- (a) The Project on "Situation analysis on Forest Fire Prevention and Management in the Country" with an estimated cost of about Rs. 7.00 crore proposed by MoEF&CC for implementation with financial assistance from World Bank was examined and observations were communicated to the Ministry. Under the project, a situational analysis study would be carried out across the country on the status of prevention, control and management of forest fires.
- (b) The Project on "Development of Modelling Approaches and Technical Capacity for Air Quality Management planning with application to Indian Cities" with an estimated cost of about Rs. 32.50 crore proposed by MoEF&CC for implementation with financial assistance from World Bank was examined and observations were sent to the Ministry.
- (c) Preliminary Project Report (PPR) for the three States / Union Territories namely Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry for extending financial assistance in line with Phase - I of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project prepared by MoEF&CC was examined and observations were sent to the Ministry.
- (d) In addition, the following proposals were examined and comments were submitted to the concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies:-
  - "Bio-diversity Conservation and Community Development Project" (estimated cost - Rs. 980.55 crore) submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh;
  - Phase- II of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project for Kerala and Karnataka (estimated cost Rs. 676.80 crore and 767.49 crore respectively) submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;
  - The project titled "Innovation in Green Growth Management" (estimated cost Rs. 1,600 crore) submitted by the Government of Uttarakhand;
  - The project titled "Biodiversity Conservation in Community Conserved Areas" (estimated cost Rs. 51.52 crore) submitted by the Government of Nagaland.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. **“Make In India” in body armour:** Several round of meetings with industries, research organizations and the concerned ministries/agencies were organized to identify their capabilities and capacities, strengths and weaknesses along with major issues of concerns and also the status of programmes being implemented by them in this field. Based on these discussions, a draft “Road map for “Make in India” in Body Armour has been prepared, which is under finalization.

2. **Financial & administrative reforms for scientific departments:** As per directions from the PMO, NITI Aayog took the lead to formulate mechanisms to provide for greater flexibility in financial and administrative rules for Scientific Departments and Ministries. This would provide an enabling environment for adoption of best practices in science management and to achieve the India’s vision of becoming the top 5 science faring nations by 2030. Accordingly, several meetings were organised with the Secretaries of all the Scientific Departments and suitable recommendations were forwarded to DST. Based on the recommendations of NITI Aayog, Department and Science & Technology has formulated a Cabinet note for financial and administrative reforms for effective functioning and delivery of Science and Technology in India, which is under Inter-Ministerial consultation.

3. **Methanol economy:** Methanol and DME have been emerged as potential substitutes of oil and natural gas as their technology has now matured and they can be produced indigenously. This will in turn lead to a lower import bill. In this direction, a Core Committee on Methanol Economy was constituted by NITI Aayog. In addition, three Expert groups on Methanol Economy for Production, Utilization and R&D were also constituted by DST on the advice of NITI Aayog. An International Conference on Methanol Economy was also organised by NITI Aayog during 6th-7th September, 2016 to provide a platform for Indian experts to interact with International experts on the latest developments in the Methanol Economy. More than 350 participants from Government, Research Institutions, Academia, Industries and International experts deliberated on the technological, economic and R&D related aspects associated with Methanol Economy. Draft reports on Production, Utilization have been prepared. Based on the recommendations of Expert Groups, a Road map for Methanol Economy is being prepared.

Further, Dr. V.K. Saraswat Chaired the Committee for working out the detailed contours of National Supercomputing Mission; Establishment of Semiconductor Wafer Fabrication facilities in India and the India Microprocessor Initiative. A number of meetings were also held under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Saraswat to discuss various issues including: Promotion of R&D through tax incentives and Cyber Security. In addition, Sr. Adviser (CIT&I) actively participated in the Inter-ministerial Committee for auction of spectrum during October, 2016 and the Steering Committee for IT modernisation of India Posts.

## STATES COORDINATION & DECENTRALIZED PLANNING

The States Coordination & Decentralized Planning division in NITI Aayog is entrusted with the responsibility of fostering cooperative federalism.

### 1. The Report of the Working Group on North Eastern States and Hill States

The Report of the “Working Group on North Eastern States and Hill States” was circulated to all the concerned Chief Secretaries of the North Eastern States and Hill States, Secretary of the Department of Expenditure (PF-I), M/O Finance, Secretary of the Department of Expenditure (PF-II), M/O Finance, Secretary, M/O DONER and concerned Advisers of the NITI Aayog.

### 2. National Conference on Good Practices in Social Sector Service Delivery

A Conference on Good Practices in Social Sector Service Delivery was organized on 23.05.2016 in New Delhi under the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The conference provided a knowledge sharing platform for State and UTs on implementation of good practices with respect to service delivery in the social sector. Representatives of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department Health and Education of States and UTs Governments, Academicians/ Research Institutes, subject experts as well as NGOs participated in the Conference and contributed to the deliberations.



### 3. Policy to provide institutional support to States

NITI Aayog has outlined a policy to provide Development Support Services to States (DSSS) for execution of infrastructure projects in the PPP mode and for transforming the Health and Education Sectors. The key objective of this policy is to support State Governments in the implementation of projects that are critical for the development of a state/region in a timely and cost effective manner.

### 4. Establishing an Outcome Monitoring Framework

NITI Aayog has also initiated an exercise for establishing an outcome monitoring framework in critical economic and social development sectors including Healthcare, Education and Water. The primary objective of this framework is to determine performance of various States by reviewing performance with respect to KPIs in each of these sectors. Each State would be

requested to submit their respective KPI datasets and NITI Aayog would review and validate such inputs as submitted.

#### **5. Human Development towards Bridging Inequalities' (HDBI) and Strengthening Capacities for Decentralized Planning (SCDP)**

Implementation of two UNDP projects namely, 'Human Development towards Bridging Inequalities' (HDBI) and Strengthening Capacities for Decentralized Planning (SCDP). A two day workshop on the theme "From Vision 2030 to Planning and Implementation for North Eastern States" was also held on 19th-20th December, 2016 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

#### **6. Implementation of Development Support Services for States (DSSS)**

The selection of consultant for infrastructure and social sector projects is in progress.

#### **7. Road Map for Development of North-Eastern and Eastern States**

A draft Road-map has been prepared in NITI Aayog for the development of North-Eastern States and similarly positioned Eastern States i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. The draft Road-map has been circulated to all concerned Central Ministries/ Departments and States for comments. To finalize the draft road map, assistance of the World Bank may be taken and all North Eastern States, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal have been requested to provide their consent before finalization of the Terms of Reference (ToR).

#### **8. Matters related to Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice and Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been handled.**

- 6 draft cabinet notes, 3EFC & SFC proposal, 2 proposals for Committee of non-plan expenditure and 1 Note on Committee of Secretaries related to these three ministries were examined and important inputs were provided to the concerned ministries.
- NITI Aayog contributed constructively in the deliberations and discharge of duties assigned to important committees including the High Level Committee (HLC) on disaster to provide Central Assistance to States affected by natural disasters, High Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) on Border Management, High Level Empowered Committee on Left Wing Extremism (LWE), Empowered

#### **Important proposals of the three Ministries are related to :**

- Management of International borders & Coastal borders.
- Strengthening of border guarding and creation of related infrastructure.
- Disaster Management
- Matter concerning Central Armed Police Forces.
- Issues pertaining to Centre-State relations on the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission.
- Strategic direction & guidance to the e-courts Mission Mode Project.
- Restructuring of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) into Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

Committee on Border Infrastructure, Technical Committee on Border Works, Inter State Zonal Council, Empowered Committee in the Department of Justice, Central Executive Committee (CEC) on Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and the Committee constituted the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog to examine the existing schemes of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as well as the proposal of MoPR on RGSA.

- Proposals relating to Setting up of Joint Venture and Setting up of a wholly owned subsidiary of Ministry of Defence.
- CCS proposal on Coastal Security-Fitment of automatic Identification System (Proprietary) Transponder for tracking of fishing vessels (below 20 Meter In length) up to IMBL (in the range of 25 NM) from shore.

- Progress made with respect to the recommendations of the Group of Secretaries concerning the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Home Affairs, Deptt. of Legislative Affairs, Deptt. of Justice and Deptt. Ex-Servicemen Welfare was monitored in NITI Aayog.

## 9. Special Plans

The financial and physical progress reports received from the State Governments of Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal under the Special Plans of KBK of Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal were scrutinized and recommendations of NITI Aayog were sent to the Ministry of Finance. Amounts of Rs. 367.93 crore and Rs. 1329.40 crore have so far been released to the State Governments of Odisha and Bihar respectively.

### Report on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (SBA) by the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers:

The Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan constituted by NITI Aayog had submitted its report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The major recommendations inter alia cover the following:-

- Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Strategy
- Education Strategy for Sustainable Swachh Bharat Mission
- Financial Requirements for the Swachh Bharat Mission
- Robust Institutional Mechanisms
- Measures for Technological Support
- Measures to Encourage Private Sector Participation and
- Sustainability of the Mission

The recommendations of the Sub-Group as approved by the Prime Minister were shared with the concerned Ministries for their implementation. Some of the recommendations i.e. (i) Swachh Bharat Cess (ii) Revised standard of IS 383:2016 Coarse and Fine Aggregates for Concrete-Specification permitting the use of recycled products of Construction & Demolition waste in Construction industry (iii) Compulsory procurement of 100% power produced from all

waste to energy plants and (iv) Market Development Assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost has already been implemented. Further, a review meeting to discuss the action plans of the Ministries/Departments for implementation of the recommendations was held under the Chairmanship of Member, NITI Aayog in the month of January, 2017.

#### **11. Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India**

The Task Force held consultations with different stakeholders during four meetings. Based on the work of the Task force and inputs provided by states, an occasional paper on 'Eliminating Poverty: Creating Jobs and Strengthening Social Programmes' was prepared and posted on the website of NITI Aayog. To discuss this paper with States & UTs, four Regional Consultation meetings were held in Hyderabad, Jaipur, Delhi and Patna on 13th April, 2016, 22nd April, 2016, 2nd May, 2016 and 6th May, 2016 respectively. On the basis of deliberations with states, the report of the Task Force was finalized and submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 11th July, 2016.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

The Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E) Vertical at NITI Aayog is providing inputs for formulation and strengthening of policies to safeguard and empower the interest of the socially, educationally and economically weaker sections. These sections include Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), Nomadic, Semi Nomadic & De-Notified Tribes (NT, SNT & DNTs), Safai Karmacharis, Minorities and other Vulnerable Groups such as Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Victims of Substance Abuse/ Drug Addicts, Beggars/ Destitutes and Transgender Persons. The Vertical also renders advice for formulation and implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Grants under Article 275(I) and Special Central Assistance to SCSP & TSP.

**Some major activities undertaken by the vertical in 2016-17 are:**

- (i) Suggestions for Revision of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006: The existing National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), which is comprehensive in many aspects, was announced in 2006. But there have been many visible changes in the approach and attitude towards the PwDs over the years. The present policy therefore, needs to be revised by taking into account recent development in the sector relating to PwDs. NITI Aayog had undertaken an exercise to identify gap areas in the National Policy for the Persons with Disabilities, 2006. Accordingly, a brief note with NITI Aayog's view on National Policy on PwDs was prepared and forwarded to the Department of Empowerment of PwDs in November, 2016, to consider a revision in the present Policy by taking into account, inter alia, the suggestions made in note.
- (ii) Barrier free infrastructure: One of the decisions taken in the meeting held on 08.03.2016 in NITI Aayog under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member was the "finalisation of immediately implementable measures in the area of accessibility, both physical and

digital in consultation with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.... and other stakeholders”. This matter was considered keeping in mind the ongoing initiatives under the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) launched by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). A booklet on “Comparison of Different Guidelines for Accessibility of Built Environment in India: A Brief Analysis and Recommendations” was received from one of the stakeholders which contained a comparison of four accessibility guidelines:

- a. Handbook on barrier free and accessibility, 2014, Central Public Works Department (CPWD)
- b. Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for PwDs and Elderly Persons, Ministry of Urban Development, 2015
- c. Part 3 of the draft National Building Code (NBC), 2015 circulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- d. ISO 21542: 2011, building construction-Accessibility and Usability of Built Environment

It was felt that while the Accessible India Campaign had galvanized the initiative by the Government to ensure an inclusive socio-economic environment for PwDs, there should be uniformity in standards and design of the barrier free environment. All barrier free infrastructures should have a universal design. Accordingly, the booklet was forwarded to the DEPwD in June, 2016, with suggestions for urgently resolving the issue of differences in standards and designs prescribed by different Government agencies.

- (iii) Another important task concerning the Vertical was the evaluation of functioning of TRIs by the National Institute for Labour Economics and Development (NILERD). Observations and recommendations of the Report were also considered by the Sub-Group on Revamping of TRIs while drafting its Report.
- (iv) Evaluation of the “Nai-Roshni Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women” being carried out through Development Monitoring and Evaluation Organisation (DMEO), as desired by the PMO was another important initiative.

**Comments/suggestions on major proposals furnished by the Vertical during 2016-17 include:**

- (i) Cabinet note on the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill 2016 with provisions for Transgender identity i.e. recognition of Transgender Persons before law.
- (ii) EFC proposal for setting up of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) under the aegis of DEPwD.
- (iii) EFC proposal for revision in the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes students: The Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme of the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment for Scheduled Caste (SC) students was reviewed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister on 11th September, 2015. In compliance to the decision taken in the meeting a Joint Team led by Adviser (SJE), NITI Aayog and

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment visited three states, namely, Maharashtra (13th-14th, October, 2015), Punjab (15th-16th, October, 2015) and Telangana (3rd-4th, November, 2015) to understand the implementation related issues of the Scheme. The Report of the Committee was submitted to PMO on January 14, 2016, with suggestions to be considered while revamping the scheme. The EFC proposal was examined and comments furnished to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

- (iv) SFC proposal for merger of schemes under Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP): The proposal was for merger of four schemes with the ongoing Central Sector Scheme IPOP i.e. Awareness Generation for the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens, Act, 2007; Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National Level; Setting up of Help Line for Senior Citizens at District Level; and Scheme for implementation of New National Policy on Senior Citizens.

In addition to the above, other proposals that were received by the Vertical and examined include SFC proposal for modification in the eligibility criteria under Credit Enhancement Guarantee scheme for Scheduled Castes; SFC proposal for modification in the eligibility criteria under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs; SFC proposal for revision in the scheme of Pre-Coaching for SC and OBCs students; SFC proposal for revision in the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and SFC proposal for new Central Sector Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-Living Devices to Senior Citizens belonging to the BPL Category.

During the year, the Vertical represented NITI Aayog in the Price Fixation Committee of TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited) for revision of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produces (MFPs). Other Committees in which the Vertical participated are - (i) Standing Committee for Tribal Welfare and National Council for Tribal Welfare; (ii) Central Monitoring Committee for Monitoring the implementation of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and other Rehabilitation Act-2013; (iii) Technical Advisory Committee for Nai-Manzil scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs; (iv) Selection Committee for selection of Coaching Institutions for Grant of Central Assistance under the scheme of Pre-Coaching for SC and OBC students; and (v) Project Approval Committee for sanction of Projects under Grant-in-Aid under Article 275(1) and under the scheme Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). The Vertical also represented NITI Aayog in the Research Advisory Committees (RAC) of the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, and Ministry of Tribal Affairs in addition to the Project Approval Committee of Multi Sectoral Development Programme /PMs 15 Point Programme of Ministry of Minority Affairs. Other important work being carried out following directions from the PMO is 'Review of Non-Divertability and Non-Lapsability of SCSP and TSP funds of Central Ministries / Departments'. The Vertical is also working on a Concept Paper on livelihood opportunities in LWE Areas.

## DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE

Efficient and independent evaluation is key effective implementation of policy/programmes. The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) was established as an attached office of the NITI Aayog, by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Organization and the Independent Evaluation Office by the Government, on 18th September, 2015. The office has been mandated to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Centre's programmes/initiatives, and identify necessary resources to strengthen service delivery.

To ensure that DMEO is able to function independently, it has been given separate budgetary allocations and manpower in addition to complete functional autonomy. The DMEO is responsible for:

- (i) Monitoring and evaluation of government programmes
- (ii) Helping Ministries design TORs for evaluation studies
- (iii) Monitoring implementation and progress of SDGs

The DMEO has its Head Office in New Delhi, along with a total of 15 Regional Development Monitoring and Evaluation Offices (RDMEOs) across India. The RDMEOs headed by a Director level officer conduct field surveys, collect data/ information for evaluation studies and help promote cooperative federalism through their interactions with the States/UT administrations.

### Monitoring implementation of government programmes:

During the year 2016-17, the following monitoring activities were carried out by the vertical:

1. **Departmental Action Plans:** The DMEO has identified 80 Ministries/Departments for monitoring Departmental Action Plans (DAPs) prepared by Ministries/Departments for implementing the recommendations of eight Groups of Secretaries on eight thematic areas. A web-based interactive Dashboard has been developed for online monitoring and updating of the Departmental Action Plans.
2. **Outcome-based review of sectors/schemes:** Since April, 2016, DMEO has been fixing outcome-based quarterly targets for the implementation of major infrastructure and social sectors schemes in 2016-17. NITI Aayog has conducted outcome-based performance reviews for the following sectors/ schemes: Power for All, Digital India, Ports, Urban & Rural Housing, Roads, Railways, Education, Health, PMGSY, NRLM and DeenDayalUadhayaAntodayaYojana.
3. **Sustainable Development Goals:** Ratified by 193 countries including India, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related Targets were resolved in September, 2015 in the UN General Assembly and came into effect on January 01, 2016. At the Centre, NITI Aayog's DMEO has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is responsible for evolving indicators related to the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.



The DMEO mapped the 17 Goals to their respective Nodal Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and the major government initiatives. The DMEO has requested all Chief Secretaries of States/UTs requesting to carry out similar mapping of the SDGs and related targets in respect of their respective Departments for faster implementation of SDGs. The department is also taking effort to create awareness and enable implementation of the SDGs. The office has also organized a number of regional consultations on the SDGs with various stakeholders.

**Evaluation studies completed:**

1. Report on the quick study of Nai Roshni, a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women, was finalized and also sent to the Ministry of Minority Affairs for taking corrective measures on the findings. The major study findings included:
  - a. Of the 27 NGOs selected for the study, only 8 NGOs (30%) had the requisite experience of the minimum period of three years to conduct training programme under the scheme.
  - b. Of the 1,335 beneficiaries in the selected States, majority of them (56%) rated the training programme as “very good”.

80% of the trained women had enriched their knowledge on sanitation and cleanliness and 31% of the trained women gathered more knowledge on social safety related activities such as registering police complaints on domestic violence against women and children and knowledge on RTI Act etc.



(Photos: Nai Roshni Programme being implemented)

2. A study of “The Role of Public Distribution System in the Shaping Household and Nutritional Security” was carried out to ascertain the effectiveness of the Targeted Public Distribution System. The Report was also issued to the Department of Food and Public Distribution for taking necessary action on the findings. The major study findings include:

- a. The proportion of households holding Below Poverty Line (BPL) or Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards increased from 36 per cent of all households to 42 per cent between 2004-05 and 2011-12. Much of this increase comes from expansion of the AAY programme.
- b. Every category of cardholders has recorded a growth in PDS use during the period under study. While almost all the BPL and AAY cardholders are seen to purchase PDS grains, as many as 32 per cent of the Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders also use the PDS.
- c. Exclusion errors in PDS targeting declined between 2004-05 and 2011-12 whilst inclusion errors increased. However, both types of errors remain high. This change can be attributed both to a decrease in the poverty levels as well as a slight increase in the number of cards being distributed to the whole population.

**Evaluation studies near completion:**

- i. The Evaluation Report on the Right to Education- Harmonized SSA is near finalization. Once approved, the report would be furnished to the Department of School Education and Literacy, the nodal Department for taking necessary action on the study findings and recommendations.
- ii. The Evaluation Report on the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojana (IGMSY) is near finalization. On approval, the Report would be sent to the nodal Ministry for taking necessary action on the study findings and recommendations.

**Evaluation studies in progress:**

- i. Field visits for collecting data/information from stakeholders, including programme beneficiaries, have been completed for the study on the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The information is being tabulated for analysis.
- ii. Field visits for collecting data/information from stakeholders have been completed for the study on the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and now the data entry is in progress.
- iii. Evaluation design for the study of the National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) is under preparation. The field visits for collection of data/information are expected to commence soon.
- iv. The Ministry of Finance has requested DMEO to conduct evaluation of four Multinational Development Banks-aided projects. An Evaluation Monitoring Committee headed by an outside expert has been formed and the work on the study designs is in progress. These are:

a.	Tamil Nadu Health System Project
b.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project & Additional Financing
c.	Second Elementary Education Project (SSA-II) & Additional Financing
d.	Madhya Pradesh State Roads Sector Project-II

## GOVERNANCE AND RESEARCH

### Grants-in-aid for research

In line with the NITI's mandate to position itself as a Knowledge and Innovation hub – an accumulator as well as disseminator of research and best practices – the Governance and Research division has formulated a new set of guidelines viz. 'Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2015' (RSNA-2015) in December, 2015. These outline funding provisions for research studies, seminars/ workshops/conferences, publications, NITI fellowships and use of NITI Logo Support for various events. The scheme aims to facilitate development of NITI Aayog as a state-of-the-art Resource Centre so that it can provide specialised inputs - strategic, functional and technical - to the Government on matters critical to the national development agenda. The guidelines of scheme are available on the NITI Aayog website.

During the year 2016-17 (up to December, 2016), Grants-in-aid of Rs. 72.02 lakh have been released - Rs.66.86 lakh on Research Studies and Rs.5.16 lakh on Seminars/Workshops/Conferences.

Proposals for funding 11 new research studies (Table 1.1) and grants-in-aid for three Seminars (Table 1.2) have also been approved in 2016-17. During the year, two ongoing Research Studies, as per the old guidelines, have been completed (listed at Table 1.3). The organizations permitted to use NITI Aayog Logo for specific events, are given in Table 1.4. All research study reports are uploaded on the NITI website. The concerned verticals in the NITI Aayog examine these reports and send them to their concerned Ministries/Departments for further action.

### Networking with other think tanks

NITI Aayog has 14 Chair Professor Units which are located at various universities/Institutions (Table 1.5). A review meeting was convened in June, 2016 to assess the works undertaken by these units. NITI has also launched 'Samavesh', an initiative to network and partner with knowledge and research institutions using a hub and spoke model. The brainstorming session on Samavesh was convened in December, 2016 under the chairmanship of Principal Adviser (Social Sector) wherein 20 reputed institutes/ think tanks across different sectors and Central Ministries had participated. In due course, Samavesh is expected to help NITI evolve as an apex think tank of the Government while the partner institutions can be developed as Centres of Excellence for specific thematic priorities and can further reach out and mentor similar institutions that would together help create a knowledge ecosphere in the country.

### Policy perspectives

The Governance and Research Vertical is also the nodal Vertical for seven Departments of Government of India viz. Personnel & Training, Public Grievances, Pensions, Food and Public Distribution, Consumer Affairs, Fertilizer and Chemicals & Petrochemicals. During the year 2016-17, the vertical examined a number of policy references from these Departments and has been represented in many Inter-Ministerial Committees.

During the year, fertilizer sector received a major thrust as CEO, NITI Aayog chaired Empowered Committees to look into the (a) revival of closed fertilizer plants at Barauni, Gorakhpur and Sindri; (b) working out modalities for pilot roll out for Direct Benefit Transfer in Fertilizers; (c) sorting out issues relating to techno-economic feasibility for selection of Coal Gasification Technology for Talcher Plant at Odisha; (d) Decanalisation of urea imports; (e) Examining proposals for relief/exemption from Central taxes to new fertilizer plants during the construction phase; and (f) issue of timely payment of subsidy to new fertilizer plants.

### Study on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Rural Fisherwomen SHGs through Enhanced Market Access

Microcredit, through Self Help Groups (SHGs), is an important component of the Indian financial system. In order to evaluate the performance of SHGs on socio-economic empowerment and livelihood of fisherwomen in Tamil Nadu (TN), a study was entrusted to Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Thoothukkudi. The study was carried out in 5 districts: Kancheepuram, Cuddalur, Pudukkottai, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari. For the study, a total sample of 2368 fisherwomen representing 148 SHGs from each of the five districts was collected.

#### KEY FINDINGS

- After becoming the member, 1035 fisherwomen got engaged in economic activities and their income levels improved.
- 100% respondents utilised the feature of loans and repayments to banks were largely timely.
- Respondents reported improvement in their socio-economic status, communication skills, self-confidence and business prospects.
- The improved contacts with public organisations also led to an increase in developmental activities in the region.
- There is need for training/capacity building of fisherwomen to update their knowledge, techniques, marketing and entrepreneurial skills, banking linkages, financial management, SHG orientation, communication, and leadership skills, among others.
- There is a need to assess the credit supply gap, recent loan repayment issues, and providing more formal and non-formal education to fisherwomen.

**Table 1.1: Research Studies approved during the year 2016-17**

Sl. No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	Catalysing Action for District Development Planning by consolidating local priorities-strengthening Decentralised District Development Planning	Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi
2.	A proposal on State Finance on Kerala	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode
3.	Proposal on State Finance of West Bengal	Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata
4.	Fiscal Scenario in Punjab: past trends, future prospectus and challenges	Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi
5.	Impact of public transport on pollution emissions	Centre for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (CSTEP), Bangalore, Karnataka
6	Impact of Power Sector Growth on Water Resources	Centre for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (CSTEP), Bangalore, Karnataka
7	Energy, Food & Water nexus-analysis in a Macroeconomic consistencyframework	Integrated Research & Action for Development (IRADE), New Delhi
8	Energy-water Nexus & efficient water cooling Technologies for thermal Power Plants in India: An Analysis within an Integrated Assessment Modelling Framework	Council on Energy, Environment & Water (CEEW), New Delhi
9	Integrated Modelling Study of Energy-Water-Food Nexus in India	The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi
10	Reassessment of National Parameters for Project Appraisal in India	Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi

Sl. No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
11	Mega Regional Trading Agreements	Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

**Table 1.2: Seminars approved during the year 2016-17**

Sl. No.	Title of the Seminar	Name of Institution
1.	National workshop on “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – Opportunities and Challenges for India”	Centre For Environment Education, Ahmedabad
2.	National Conference on “Organic Farming & National Food Security (NCOF-2016)”	ITM University, Gwalior
3.	National Seminar on “Technology, Innovation, Management and Entrepreneurship Development”	Madhav Institute of Technology & Science, Gwalior

**Table 1.3: Studies completed during the year 2016-17**

Sl. No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	An Evaluation of UGC Carrier Oriented Course on Employability of the Students in South India	Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
2.	Diagnostic Analysis of Elementary Education Scheme of Rural Punjab	GAD Institute of Development Studies, Amritsar

Table 1.4: NITI Logo Support for non-financial events

Sl.No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	Young India Women Entrepreneurship	Indian Business Chamber, New Delhi
2.	Transforming India 2030: Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals	Symbiosis International University, Pune

Table 1.5: Chair Professor Units of NITI Aayog

Sl.No.	Name of University/Institution	Name of chair professor unit
1.	Jadavpur University, Kolkata	Unit for Planning and Development
2.	University of Allahabad, Allahabad	Planning and Development Unit
3.	Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi	Development Planning Centre
4.	Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi	Plan and Policy Research Unit (PPRU)
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	SukhamoyChakravarti Chair professor Unit
6.	Punjabi University, Patiala	Planning and Development Chair
7.	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur	Planning and Development Chair
8.	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics Research, Pune	D.R. Gadgil Chair professor & Planning Development Unit
9.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	Planning Commission Chair & Unit in Planning and Development
10.	Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	Planning and Development Unit
11.	University of Mysore, Mysuru	Planning Commission Chair & Unit
12.	University of Madras, Chennai	Planning Commission Chair & Unit on Planning & Development
13.	M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	Centre for Research in Planning & Development
14.	Visva-Bharti, Shanti Niketan	A.K. Dasgupta Chair in Planning and Development

## Appraisal of Programmes/Schemes/Projects

One of the important functions of NITI Aayog involves appraisal of programmes/schemes/projects. The appraisal work is undertaken through two verticals namely, Project Appraisal Management Vertical (PAMD) and Public Private Partnership Appraisal Unit (PPPAU). The PAMD undertakes appraisal of public-funded programmes/schemes/projects while the PPPAU reviews Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects received from Central and State/UT Governments for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the Scheme for Financial Support to PPP in Infrastructure.

### Appraisal work undertaken during 2016-17

PAMD conducts comprehensive appraisal of programmes/schemes/projects costing above Rs.500 crore and prepares appraisal notes in consultation with the subject verticals of the NITI Aayog. The appraisal by PAMD facilitates decision-making in respect of programmes/schemes/projects considered by the Public Investment Board (PIB) and the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) depending upon the nature and size of proposals. The Vertical also appraises proposals of Ministry of Railways costing above Rs.500 crore which are considered by the Expanded Board of Railways (EBR). The timeframe for issue of appraisal note by PAMD is four weeks from the date of receipt of EFC/PIB/EBR memo.

During 2016-17 (upto December, 2016), 103 appraisal notes on EFC/PIB/EBR proposals involving outlay of Rs. 8,24,123.46 crore have been issued. The sectoral distribution of projects appraised during 2016-17 (upto December, 2016) is enclosed as Annexure. Information pertaining to key sectors is summarized in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Sector group-wise projects appraised during 2016-17 (Upto December 2016)**

S. No.	Sector Group	Number of Projects	Cost (Rs. Crore)	% of total cost
1	Agriculture	2	992.71	0.12
2	Energy	15	297808.24	36.14
3	Transport	42	97769.63	11.86
4	Industry	2	4254.00	0.52
5	S&T	0	0.00	0.00
6	Social Services	36	371241.83	45.05
7	Communication	1	2351.00	0.29
8	Others	5	49706.05	6.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>824123.46</b>	<b>100.00</b>



During 2016-17 (upto December, 2016), 51 PPP projects with a total cost of Rs.40,008 crore have been appraised by the PPPAU. This includes 41 central sector projects and 10 state sector projects. The sector-wise distribution of the PPP projects appraised are given in Table 2 and the state wise distribution of state sector projects are given in Table 3 below.

**Table 2: PPP Projects appraised in 2016-17 (Upto December, 2016)**

Sl.No.	Project Appraised	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
<b>A</b>	<b>Central Projects</b>		
1	Road	33	33,587
2	Port	6	2,972
3	Food Storage	1	65
4	Airport	1	0
	<b>Sub Total (A)</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36,624</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>State/UT Projects</b>		
1	Road	8	2,305
2	Convention Centre	1	1,035
3	Sewage	1	44
	<b>Sub Total (B)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,384</b>
	<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40,008</b>

**Table 3: State-wise PPP Projects appraised for Grant of VGF in 2016-17 (Upto December, 2016)**

Sl.No.	Project Appraised	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1	Rajasthan	3	287
2	Karnataka	2	1,416
3	Andhra Pradesh	1	505
4	HP	1	44
5	MP	1	67

Sl.No.	Project Appraised	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
6	UP	1	753
7	Maharashtra	1	313
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,384</b>

#### Initiatives to revive the construction sector

To address the issues ailing the construction sector, NITI Aayog had placed a proposal before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for its consideration suggesting various short-term and long-term measures. The CCEA chaired by the Prime Minister approved the proposals contained in the said CCEA note on August 31, 2016. NITI Aayog followed up the decisions of the CCEA with issue of instructions on the subject vide two separate office memoranda dated September 5, 2016 for necessary action by all the concerned Government Departments/ Ministries and PSUs. The first set of instructions titled 'Measures to revive the Construction Sector' were for immediate compliance and included: (a) switching over to provisions of amended Arbitration Act in pending arbitration cases filed under the pre-amended Act with the consent of the parties; (b) releasing 75% of the Arbitral amount against a Bank Guarantee, and (c) setting the process of taking refunds – working out the cost of capital (wherever so ordered by courts) in place. The second set of instructions were of long-term in nature and related to: (a) substitution of the existing item-rate contracts by the EPC (turnkey) contracts, (b) adoption of model bidding documents and model EPC contracts, and (c) setting up of Conciliation Committees/Councils to ensure speedy disposal of pending or new cases of disputes.

#### Revised guidelines on appraisal and approval

With Budget 2016-17, announcing the end of Plan and Non-Plan distinction with the Twelfth Five Year Plan, a comprehensive review of the existing guidelines for formulation, appraisal and approval of Public Funded Schemes and projects (except matters required to be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Security) was undertaken by the Department of Expenditure in consultation with NITI Aayog. Based on this review, a revised guidelines on "Appraisal and Approval of Public Funded Schemes and Projects" was issued by the Department of Expenditure vide its O.M.No.24(35)/PF-II/2012 dated August 5, 2016. Some of the major revisions made are summarized as under:

- The revised guidelines provides that no new scheme or sub-scheme would be initiated without prior "in principle" approval (IPA) of the Department of Expenditure, except the announcements made in the Budget Speech for any given year. So far as new project is concerned, IPA will be granted by the Financial Adviser concerned after examining project feasibility and availability of financial resources.
- The revised guidelines has also replaced guidelines regarding Standing Committee for fixing responsibility for Cost and Time Overrun in the Projects/Schemes issued by NITI

- Aayog vide O.M.No.O-14015/02/2015-PAMD dated March 29, 2016 by a mechanism of Revised Cost Committee chaired by the Financial Adviser and Joint Secretary in-charge of the programme Vertical and representative of the Chief Adviser Cost as members.
- In place of CEO, NITI Aayog, Adviser (PAMD), NITI Aayog has been made a member in EFC/PIB forums.
  - The representative of NITI Aayog has been made a member in SFC and DIB forums instead of an invitee as per earlier composition.
  - The hurdle rate for financial rate of return has been revised to 10% against 12%.

Sector-wise number and costs of EFC/PIB/EBR proposals appraised during 2016-17 (Upto December 2016)

S.No.	Sectors	Number of Projects	Cost (Rscore)
	<b>AGRICULTURE</b>		
1	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	2	992.71
	<b>ENERGY</b>		
2	Power	3	9066.43
3	Coal	-	-
4	Petroleum & Natural Gas	4	31563.31
5	New & Renewable Energy	8	257178.50
	<b>TRANSPORT</b>		
6	Railways	21	61353.42
7	Surface Transport	13	24028.40
8	Civil Aviation	2	1620.00
9	Shipping	6	10767.81
	<b>INDUSTRY</b>		
10	Industry	2	4254.00
11	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises	-	-
12	Steel & Mines	-	-
13	Petro Chemicals & Fertilisers	-	-
14	Textiles	-	-
15	Food Processing	-	-

S.No.	Sectors	Number of Projects	Cost (Rscore)
<b>SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>			
16	Bio-Technology	-	-
17	Science & Technology	-	-
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>			
18	HRD	9	20502.61
19	Culture	2	3497.34
20	Youth Affairs & Sports	-	-
21	Health	11	170016.59
22	Women & Child Development	2	110261.00
23	Labour	1	7552.07
24	Social Justice	2	7219.55
25	Urban Development	7	41010.51
26	Rural Development	1	10483.00
27	Minority Affairs		
28	Drinking Water Supply	1	699.16
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>			
29	Information & Broadcasting	-	-
30	Post	-	-
31	Information Technology	1	2351.00
<b>OTHERS</b>			
32	Home Affairs	2	35577.05
33	Environment & Forests	-	-
34	Water Resources	1	6000.00
35	Finance/Corporate Affairs	1	839.00
36	Planning Commission/NITI Aayog	-	-
37	External Affairs	1	7290.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>824123.46</b>

## POLICY ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

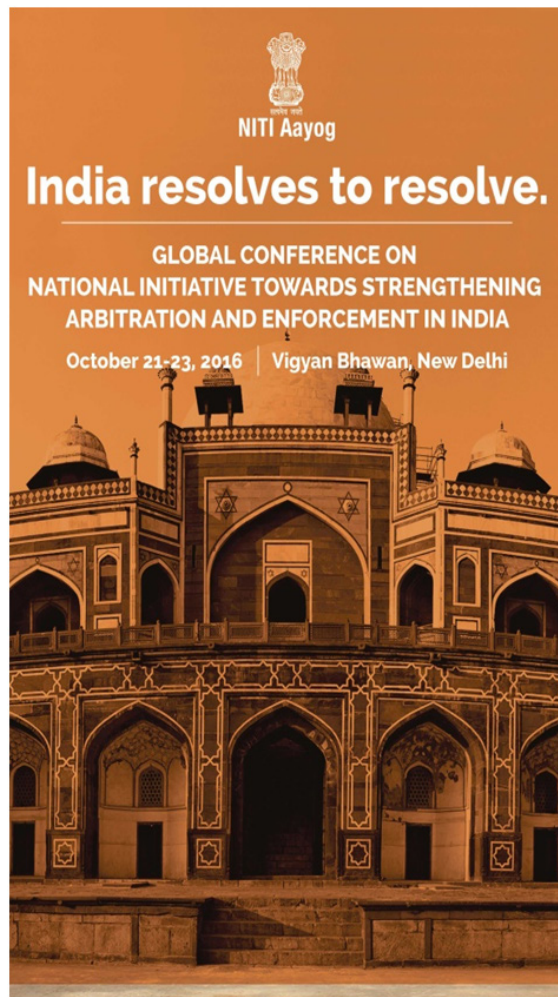
The Communications Vertical at NITI Aayog plays the vital role of undertaking advocacy related activities for key policies of the Government of India. Strategies and plans to ensure maximum outreach and awareness are formulated and executed by using all forms of media, including print, television, electronic and social. In 2016-17, NITI Aayog organized several important conferences/meetings/seminars/events to further key mandates of the premier policy think-tank of the Government:

### I. International Arbitration Conference

With a view of making India an Arbitration Hub, the finest minds from the international legal and policy making community were invited to a three-day global conference to discuss, debate and deliberate the larger theme of arbitration, as well as pave the way to strengthen it through global best practices. The International Conference on National Initiative towards Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement in India was inaugurated by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 21st-23rd October, 2016.

Towards this conference, the Vertical coordinated with the world's most renowned arbitral institutions to bring them together to organize the event. That apart, outreach was undertaken in partnership with national and international organizations to ensure maximum registrations for the landmark conference. Several tools, ranging from social media publicity, news stories to consultations with Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court were undertaken to ensure participation of all key stakeholders in the legal community.

During the event, live video bytes of key speakers, including the Hon'ble President of India, the Prime Minister of India, Chief Justices from six countries, among others, were shot and promoted on the social media handles of NITI Aayog with the hashtag #NITIforArbitration. Social media analysis of NITI Aayog's Twitter, Facebook and YouTube accounts reveals that social



media engagement at the conference enabled over 185 million people to be updated on the happenings during the three days. The hashtag, #NITIforArbitration trended for two of the three days of the conference.

## II. Atal Innovation Mission

To promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has been launched, whereby innovators are supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs. Financial assistance is provided to schools, organisations and individuals for:-

- i. Establishing tinkering laboratories in schools: Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)
- ii. Establishing new incubation centres: Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)
- iii. Scaling-up established incubation centres

The outreach and awareness activities to ensure a sufficient number of applications for both ATLs and AICs were undertaken entirely by the Communications Vertical. Stories in a variety of print and online publications to create awareness on the schemes, and on the impact/benefits of Tinkering Labs and Incubation Centre in inducing a culture of innovation in India, were enabled by the Vertical. Exclusive interviews by the CEO, NITI Aayog on AIM and the role of NITI Aayog in ensuring maximum reach of the labs to all schools, in various YourStory, VC Circle and Business World gave the initiative immense traction.

In order to engage directly with citizens, answer their questions, generate awareness and thereby ensure maximum applications to the Tinkering Labs and Incubation Centres, LIVE twitter chats with NITI Aayog were conducted for two days. On the 17th and 18th July, 2016, the NITI team

sat together to answer all queries of citizens on initiatives under the Atal Innovation Mission. This generated over 200 million impressions on NITI's social media handle; with 6000 global mentions and 3000 mentions in India. USA was the highest source of international conversations. The huge volume of the conversations around our hashtag #AIMtoInnovate also enabled us to trend on Twitter India on both days. The live session answered questions from hundreds of citizens across the country and helped spread the word among more and more schools and colleges. The communication efforts led NITI Aayog to receive applications from over 13,000 Government, Local Bodies and Private Schools across India for our Atal Tinkering Labs.

### III. Women Transforming India Awards 2016

To honour women working tirelessly to empower communities and to spread the work of lesser-known women change-makers across India, the first ever Women Transforming Contest was launched on 8th March, 2016, International Women's Day by the NITI Aayog's Communication Vertical in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations. Nearly 1000 entries were received from exceptional women who are breaking new grounds by empowering themselves and others. Out of the 1000 entries received, 25 women change-makers were chosen by a High-Powered Jury, comprising Ms. Chanda Kochhar and Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw among others, and put to Poll on myGov to select the top 12. The winners were honoured at the Women Transforming India Awards Ceremony on September 09, 2016.



The Chief Guest for the award ceremony was the Olympic Medal Winner, Ms. Sakshi Malik. Following the event, a Facebook LIVE session with Ms. Sakshi Malik, was conducted by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Facebook India, to spread the word of Women Transforming India and to acknowledge the immense work being undertaken by women across societies to build a better India. The LIVE session got over 1, 21,000 views. The campaign of Women Transforming India was also promoted by Facebook India by sharing videos and posts that were put up on NITI's social media handles.

#### IV. NITI Lecture Series: Transforming India

With a view to building knowledge systems for the States and the Centre, a NITI Lecture Series was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhawan on August 26, 2016, where the keynote address on "India in the Global Economy" was delivered by Shri Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore.



The second lecture in the NITI Lecture series was delivered by Mr. Bill Gates on Transferring Ideas to Transform India. The Communications Vertical played a key role in organizing the event attending by all officials of the Government of India, heads of PSUs etc. Both events were also LIVE streamed on the NITI Aayog website and press coverage was facilitated by the Communications Vertical. The vertical also designed, printed and distributed booklets of the inaugural lecture for maximum outreach.

#### V. Vision Document

With the end of the 12th five year plan in March 2017, NITI Aayog had been tasked with the key responsibility of drafting the 15-year Vision Document for India. NITI envisions the Vision as a united vision for India. Central to this effort, therefore, is the communication vertical's role in informing, educating and gathering citizens' inputs for India's Vision 2032.



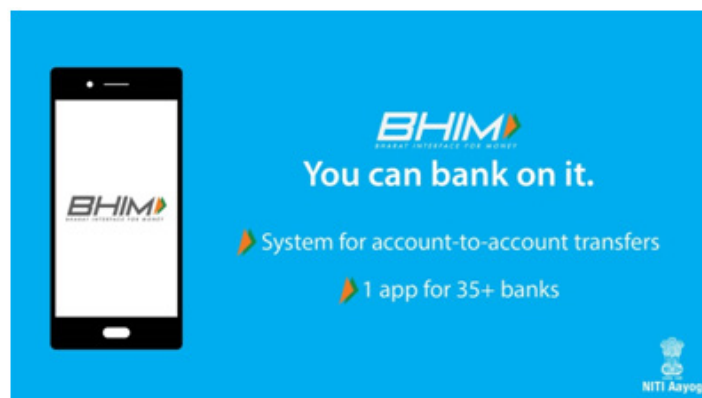


A communications strategy with a series of initiatives/activities to engage with citizens through various levels of government has been planned by the Vertical. From coordinating with Chief Ministers to gather their inputs from the Vision through short-video bytes, to organizing gram sabhas in lakhs of villages across India, the Vertical aims to engage with citizens at all levels to enable the formulation of an inclusive Vision for India, leaving no one behind. The first of these efforts came to fruition on 26th January, 2016, with Special Gram Sabhas across India on the citizens' Vision for their country and for their Gram Sabha, based on their priorities.

#### VI. Digital Payment Campaign:

After announcement of the Demonetization Policy by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016, NITI Aayog has been playing a pivotal role in making Digital Payments a mass movement in India. The CEO, NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant announced two key incentive schemes Lucky GrahakYojana and DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana Schemes on December 15, 2016. Soon after, from 25th December, 2016 onward, DigiDhan Melas to promote a less cash economy, and the use of various user-friendly digital payment methods, in every part of India was launched. The Melas will take place across 100 cities in 100 days.

The Communications Vertical has been playing a primary role in ensuring the country's transition to a less cash, digital payments economy. The campaign to enable this has been undertaken in two phases. First, the Communications Vertical promoted the five user-friendly methods digital payments (USSD, UPI, Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems, Debit/Credit Cards, E-Wallets) through a series of efforts including the making and promoting a series of nearly 20 training videos on the use, safety and ease of digital payments. The Vertical also collaborated with all Union Ministries and a wide range of stakeholders including software majors such as Google, NGOs etc to help spread the word to the grassroots. Besides online training videos, TV commercials and Radio spots were also produced by the Communication Vertical and were aired/broadcast across the country. Social Media channels of NITI Aayog were also employed to educate citizens about the varied benefits of a less cash economy. LIVE update from each day's DigiDhan Mela is put on NITIs social media for wider dissemination by coordinating with all States. A daily report with updates of each day's Mela is also sent to the PMO. Over 4.05 billion people have so far engaged with NITI Aayog's social media on the Melas.



The second phase of the campaign began with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's launch of the BHIM App at the DigiDhan Mela Delhi on December 30, 2016.

In this phase, the vertical promoted the BHIM App through various measures including TVCs, radio jingles, a downloads-based online media campaign and the use of social media channels.

#### VII. Budget Talks:

In continuation of the launch of the first Budget Talks with NITI Aayog last year, the Communications Vertical organized the Budget Talk with NITI's Vice Chairman, Dr. Arvind Panagariya, to engage directly with citizens across India on the implications of the Union Budget, 2017, to the common man. The talk received hundreds of query from a wide range of audiences across NITIs Twitter and Facebook pages. Several of them were answered by Dr. Panagariya through simultaneous Twitter and Facebook Live sessions on February 13, 2016. The videos have since been viewed by over 2 lakh people.



#### VIII. Activities of Charts, Maps & Equipment Unit:

The Charts, Maps & Equipment Unit is a Centralised Designing and Technical Support Unit of NITI Aayog.

This Unit provides technical and equipment support to all the Verticals/Divisions of NITI Aayog for day-to-day office work. Apart from designing work, there are meeting related works like arrangement of Power Point Presentations, Name Display Cards, Flashing of meeting schedules etc. The preparation of Identity Cards of officials attaining superannuation, calligraphic works and scanning etc. are also executed in the Communication Cell. This unit plays a significant role during Parliament Sessions as well as in the Meetings, Conferences and Seminars organised by NITI Aayog from time-to-time.

During 2016-17, Charts, Maps & Equipment Unit has undertaken the following works:

- Designing and printing of Bilingual Certificates of Hindi Pakhwara, Hindi Karyashala etc.
- Designing of cover pages of various publications brought out by various Verticals/Divisions of NITI Aayog.
- Designing of Parking Labels (Car/Scooter) for allowing vehicles in the premises of NITI Aayog.
- Preparation of Organization Chart of NITI Aayog and DMEO (Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office).

- Provision of technical and equipment support for various High Level Meetings organised by NITI Aayog within and outside NITI Aayog.
- Calligraphic Work on Invitation Cards of Offices of Vice Chairman and CEO etc.
- Preparation/ lamination of Identity Cards of superannuating officials
- Lamination of important official documents to preserve the documents (from I-Card Size to A3 Size)
- Scanning of official documents, photos etc. to get the soft copy of documents. The digitalized version of the documents are sent through various electronic modes.
- Display of meetings related information on the Display Screens.
- Print out (Colour & Black and White) of official documents like Annual Plan, various reports, handout of presentations etc. were provided to different divisions.
- Execution of bulk Photocopying/Duplicating works.
- Execution of Binding work for various Verticals/Divisions of NITI Aayog.
- Procurement/ maintenance of audio-video equipment installed in Committee Rooms of NITI Aayog.

## VOLUNTARY ACTION CELL

The NGO-Darpan (NGO-PS) Portal is a comprehensive e-governance application to electronically maintain data pertaining to all Non-Government Organisations/Voluntary Organisations in India in order to ensure transparency in functioning.

The application ensures that any NGO that intends to transact with any line ministry/department, has to first sign-up on NITI Aayog's NGO-Darpan portal. Upon furnishing required details, the NGO will be assigned a Unique Identity Number. The applicant NGO has the option to access the portal of the line Ministry/ Department through the link provided on the portal or directly. The functionality for obtaining the details of PAN and Aadhaar of the office-bearers/ trustees of the entities has been developed and is being implemented. The dynamic portal automatically updates itself as new NGOs sign up.

The following important steps/ actions have been taken during the year so as to provide scope to NGOs/VOs to operate in the system with greater transparency:

- (i) PAN number of the Entity/ Organization has been made mandatory for both existing and new NGOs since 21.04.2016.
- (ii) New fields have also been created in the portal to capture PAN and Aadhaar details of the Trustees/Office-bearers of the NGOs. A public notice has been issued, advising entities to submit the PAN and Aadhaar details of their office bearers as well.
- (iii) For the NGOs already registered on the NGO-Darpan, a new field has been created to add/update PAN number and also upload copy of PAN Card of the entity.

- (iv) A new Field for Best practices and source of funding during last three years from Central/ State Government/ District Authority/ National/ International Organisations (last three years) has been added. This information, as captured incrementally, will also become part of the NGO master profile page (NGO wise profile).
- (v) About 70,000 NGOs which existed earlier on the portal contacted through e-mail to furnish their organisation's PAN details.
- (vi) A State-wise list of all VOs/NGOs signed up (with PAN) is available on portal.
- (vii) As on 31.12.2016, 22,646 NGOs, have uploaded the PAN of the organization & 6,008 NGOs have uploaded the PAN and Aadhaar of their office bearers (at least three each).

A meeting was held on 27th September, 2016 under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog with the concerned Ministries/ Departments wherein the following major decisions were taken and Ministries/Departments have been advised to take necessary action accordingly:

- (i) Unique ID Number obtained from the NGO-DARPAN Portal to be made mandatory, without which no financial grants to NGOs shall be released; including cases of part-grants.
- (ii) Ministries/Departments that release funds to State Governments (rather than directly to NGOs), shall advise the respective States/UTs to require NGOs/VOs to register on NGO-Darpan and obtain their Unique ID.
- (iii) All Ministries/ Departments to develop IT applications for end-to-end processing of applications from the NGOs for sanction/ release of grants. The Applications shall not be processed in the manual mode w.e.f. 1st April, 2017.

The existing portal, earlier known as NGO-PS (Partnership System) Portal, was developed in 2008-09. Keeping in view the change in technology, a new NGO-Darpan portal is being designed and developed by NIC at NITI Aayog. The new Portal will have additional features / standards such as Class based coding, integration of web security features, fluid design (screen size compatible layout for small Mobile / Tablets etc.), integration of Online PAN verification services provided by NSDL and Aadhaar numbers of office bearers will be verified through Online Aadhaar verification service provided by UIDAI. In addition, features like OTP based login for identification and authorisation of NGOs, sending alerts / messages automatically by portal for some events have also been integrated.

## DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

### 1. Task force on elimination of poverty in India

In response to the decision taken in the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th February, 2015, the Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India was constituted by NITI Aayog on 16th March, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Terms of Reference of the Task Force of NITI Aayog are as follows:

- a) To coordinate and develop synergy with the Central Ministries and State Governments' Task Forces
- b) To develop working definition of poverty
- c) To prepare a roadmap for elimination of poverty
- d) To suggest strategies and anti-poverty programmes including reform of the existing ones
- e) To identify successful anti-poverty programmes from which all states and UTs can learn
- f) Any other relevant measures

The Task Force held consultations with different stakeholders over four meetings. Based on inputs received and work of the Task Force, an occasional paper titled 'Eliminating Poverty: Creating Jobs and Strengthening Social Programmes' was prepared and posted on official website of NITI Aayog. Regional consultations with States and UTs were held to discuss this paper. Meetings were held in Hyderabad, Jaipur, Delhi and Patna on 13th April, 2016, 22nd April, 2016, 2nd May, 2016 and 6th May, 2016 respectively. On the basis of deliberations with the States, the report of the Task Force was finalized and was submitted to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 11th July, 2016.

### 2. State statistics

The division supports NITI Aayog in creating an integrated State-level database on various indicators. Data have been provided in seven major categories viz. Demography, Economy, Education, Health, Household Assets and Amenities, State Finance and Miscellaneous. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Central Statistical Office (CSO), National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), District Information System for Education (DISE), various Ministries and Reserve Bank of India are the major sources of data for State Statistics. This data is updated from time to time, along with the provision of back-series of the existing data.

### 3. Miscellaneous activities

- a) Provided inputs for the President's Address to both houses of Parliament, Economic Survey, etc. and providing inputs to different Ministries on matters concerning the Vertical

- b) Preparing answers to Parliament Questions and attending to other Parliamentary matters.
- c) Provided inputs on the recommendations/observations of the Standing Committee on Finance (2015-16) and prepared background note for Standing Committee on Finance- Selection of Subjects for examination during 2016-17.
- d) All Matters relating to Advisory Committee of Development Planning Centre (DPC) of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) & Planning and Policy Research Unit (PPRU), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi. The Annual Report of the DPC of IEG for the year 2014-15 has been laid in Parliament during the Budget Session, 2016. Two meetings of the Advisory Committee of PPRU, ISI, Delhi to discuss the Annual Report 2015-16 & the budget proposal for the financial year 2016-17 of PPRU and their research activities were held on 26.04.2016 and 22.12.2016 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog.

**The vertical represents NITI Aayog in:**

- I. Governing Council of NSSO
- II. Governing Council of Indian Statistical Institute
- III. Advisory Committee on National Accounts of CSO
- IV. Governing Board of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi
- V. Advisory Committee of Planning and Policy Research Unit (PPRU)
- VI. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre

**The vertical represents NITI Aayog on the following Working Groups:**

- I. Working Group on 74th round of NSSO
- II. Working Group on Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

**Officers of the vertical have been associated with:**

- (i) Compiling data on Indian Economy: Primarily, the Vertical collects secondary data from Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Central Statistical Office (CSO), National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), District Information System for Education (DISE) and other agencies involved in official data collection;
- (ii) Estimating State-wise poverty ratios for urban and rural areas separately on the basis of Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) data obtained from large sample survey on Household Consumption Expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and analyze the changes in the poverty indices;
- (iii) Examining alternative poverty ratios and indices computed by various Committees, Expert Groups etc. as well as by international bodies;
- (iv) Nodal Vertical for Plan proposals for Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Registrar General of India;
- (v) Nodal Vertical for SAARC Development Goals.

## INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING & TOURISM

The Information and Broadcasting & Tourism (IB&T) Vertical examines and reviews plan schemes/ outcome and output budget of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I &B) and Ministry of Tourism, as well as, State matters relating to IB&T. The Vertical is engaged in interacting and co-coordinating with Ministries in the field of information & mass media, and tourism. The Vertical is also involved in various Committees, workshops and seminars relating to IB&T sectors.

It also monitors various policy issues related to IB&T sectors to make them more responsive to the present and future requirements of the country. The Vertical examines the infrastructural development issues concerning IB&T sectors forwarded by the States/ Central Ministries.

**Key activities undertaken in 2016-17 are indicated below:**

- Appraisal of SFC notes on National museum of Indian Cinema, infrastructure development relating to film sector, upgradation of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) to international standards and opening of their new regional centres and strengthening of broadcasting activities.
- Organising a workshop with Ministry of I&B and Ministry of Tourism on Digital Payments-platforms for different modes of cashless payment.
- Compiling the progress made by Ministry of I&B and Ministry of Tourism on Departmental Action Plan (DAP) on the recommendations of Groups of Secretaries on 8 thematic areas.
- Monitoring/reviewing plan schemes of Ministry of Tourism i.e. Swadesh Darshan and the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Schemes for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities to promote tourism in the country.
- Dealing with issues related to tourism sector raised by various States such as Himachal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh etc.
- Active engagement with an Advisory Group Committee set up by the Ministry of Tourism on firming up of methodology of Infrastructure gap assessment in tourism sector.

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE (HINDI) SECTION

In 2016-17, the Hindi Section continued its efforts to enable greater use of Hindi in official work, in view of the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Official Language Policy of the Union.

Besides translating various documents/papers, this Section is also responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Official Language Policy at NITI Aayog and its subordinate offices. Efforts are being made to promote the use of Hindi in noting and correspondence. The quarterly progress reports regarding progressive use of Hindi have been sent to the Department of Official Language. Quarterly progress reports received from the regional offices are also being reviewed regularly. The Hindi Section translated various documents such as Annual Report, Outcome Budget, Demand for Grants, material related important to Parliamentary Standing Committees, Parliament questions, content on NITIs website, notifications, MoU, forms/drafts and letters, among others. A number of measures have been taken for the promotion of progressive use of Hindi in NITI.

- 1. Implementation of section 3(3) of the official language act:** In pursuance of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India, all documents covered under section 3(3) of the Official Language Act, 1963 were issued both in English and Hindi.
- 2. Official language implementation committee:** The Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) at NITI periodically reviews the progress made in connection with the use of Hindi and recommends measures to be taken for the effective implementation of the Official Language Policy. Meetings of this committee are held regularly and it has been ensured that subordinate offices of the Aayog too convene OLIC meetings regularly.
- 3. Incentive scheme for original noting/drafting work in Hindi:** The incentive scheme for noting/drafting in Hindi introduced by the Department of Official Language was continued. The scheme carries two first prizes of Rs.2,000/- each, three second prizes of Rs.1,200/- each and five third prizes of Rs.600/- each.
- 4. Cash prize scheme for dictation in Hindi:** An incentive scheme for officers giving dictation in Hindi is under operation. Under this scheme, there is a provision of two cash prizes of Rs. 2,000/- each (one for Hindi speaking staff and the other for Non-Hindi speaking staff).
- 5. Hindi fortnight:** In order to encourage use of Hindi in official work at NITI, a message received from the Hon'ble Home Minister and an Appeal from Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Planning was circulated to the sections, officers of the NITI Aayog and its attached/subordinate including Hindi Essay writing, Hindi typing, Hindi translation, Hindi noting/drafting, extempore speech and knowledge of official language were organized. A Hindi dictation competition was also organized for the Multi-Tasking Staff of the Aayog. Winners of these competitions were awarded with cash prizes and certificates.



**6. Hindi workshops:** During the year, two Hindi workshops were organized on 9th and 14th September, 2016 to encourage the officials to undertake more work in Hindi, in which 13 officers/employees participated.

**7. Hindi Salahkar Samiti:** With a view to render advice for effective implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government, 3rd meeting of the Hindi Salahkar Samiti of NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State of Planning (Independent charge) was held on 23rd November, 2016.

**Inspections regarding progressive use of Hindi:** In order to oversee the implementation of the Official Language Policy, 11 Sections of different Verticals were inspected by officers of the Official Language Vertical of NITI Aayog during the year.

## VIGILANCE SECTION

The vigilance Section at NITI deals with all vigilance cases such as those pertaining to cases of corruption, malpractices and lack of integrity in respect of the officials and officers working in the institution. It is also responsible for issuance of vigilance status certificates to its officials. From 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, around 400 vigilance clearances were issued in respect of officials/officers of NITI. During this period, several RTIs were also dealt with by the Section. Some cases of disciplinary proceedings against officers were disposed off.

### Preventive Vigilance

A Vigilance awareness week was observed in NITI from 31st October, 2016 to 5th November, 2016. The theme of the event was 'Public participation in promoting integrity and eradicating corruption'. A pledge upholding the theme was delivered by Vice Chairman and banners/slogans were used to promote integrity in the public office. Important provisions of Conduct Rules and other issues concerning vigilance awareness were circulated to the employees with a view to create awareness among officials/officers of NITI regarding rules and regulations prescribed in the CCS Conduct Rules, 1964 and CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965.

### Prevention of Sexual Harassment

An Internal Complaints Committee has now been constituted at NITI in accordance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Act 2013.