

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



सत्यमेव जयते
NITI Aayog



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NITI AAYOG AN OVERVIEW



Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi
Chairman



Arvind Panagariya
Vice-Chairman



Dr. V K Saraswat
Member



Dr. Amitabh Kant
CEO



Rao Inderjit Singh
MoS for Planning



Prof. Ramesh Chand
Member



Dr. Bibek Debroy
Member

ADVISERS	VERTICAL	STATES
Yudhvir Singh Malik	Addl. Secretary (KIH) Steel, Heavy Industries & PE, Textiles, Corporate Affairs, MSME, DIPP, Defence, DRDO, Atomic Energy	Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh
Dr. C. Murali Krishna Kumar	Sr. Adviser (KIH), (Infra I), Digital & Rural Connectivity AIM, Digital India, Telecommunications, Deity, Posts, I&B, S&T, Space, Earth Sciences, Biotechnology, Atomic Energy (R&D), DSIR/CSIR	
Alok Kumar	Addl. Secretary (TIH & KIH) Infra (III), Physical Connectivity Civil Aviation, Shipping	Bihar
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Dr. Manoj Singh Adviser (KIH)	Railways, Roads & Highways Construction, Civil Aviation, Shipping	
Smt. Sunita Sanghi Adviser (KIH & TIH)	Skill Development, Employment, Managing Urbanisation	
Dr. Savita Sharma Adviser (KIH)	Data Management & Analysis MOSPI	
Dr. J.P. Mishra Adviser (KIH), (Agriculture)	RKVY, IWMP Agri & FW, AH&F, Land Res., Food Processing	
Dr. Yogesh Suri Adviser (KIH)	Governance & Research, Food & Public Distribution, Chemicals & Fertilisers, Personnel, Public Grievance, Pensions, AR	Gujarat, Uttarakhand
S.S. Ganapathi Adviser (KIH)	Rd(PMGSY)	
Srikara Naik Adviser (KIH)	SJ&E, Disability Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Minorities, Parliamentary Affairs, Planning	
U.K. Sharma Adviser (KIH)	Coordination, Project Monitoring E-Samiksha, PMG PRAGATI OCMS AIM, Digital India, DBT, Telecommunications, Deity, Posts, I&B	
Praveen Mahto Adviser	PIB/PPAC & Programme Appraisal Sectt.	
Anil Kumar Jain, Adviser (TIH & KIH)	Infra-II, Energy & Climate Change, Atomic Energy, Power, MNRE, P&NG, Coal, External Affairs, Overseas Indian Affairs	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP, Chhattishgarh
Ms. Alka Tiwari Adviser	Youth Affairs & Sports, Tourism, Culture, HRD (School, Education, Literacy, Higher Education)	Bihar, Jharkhand, H.P.
Alok Kumar-II Adviser (TIH)	Health, Nutrition, Women & Children) NHM, ICDS, BBBP, H&FW, Ayush, NACO, Health, Pharma, Medical Research, WCD	Assam, Kerala, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, WB
Jitendra Kumar Adviser, (TIH & KIH)	Natural Resources & Environment PMKSY, Green India Mission, Coordination of Port Led & Devl, Island Devl, E&F, WR, DONER, Mines	AR Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Goa, Nagaland, Union Territories

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF NITI AAYOG

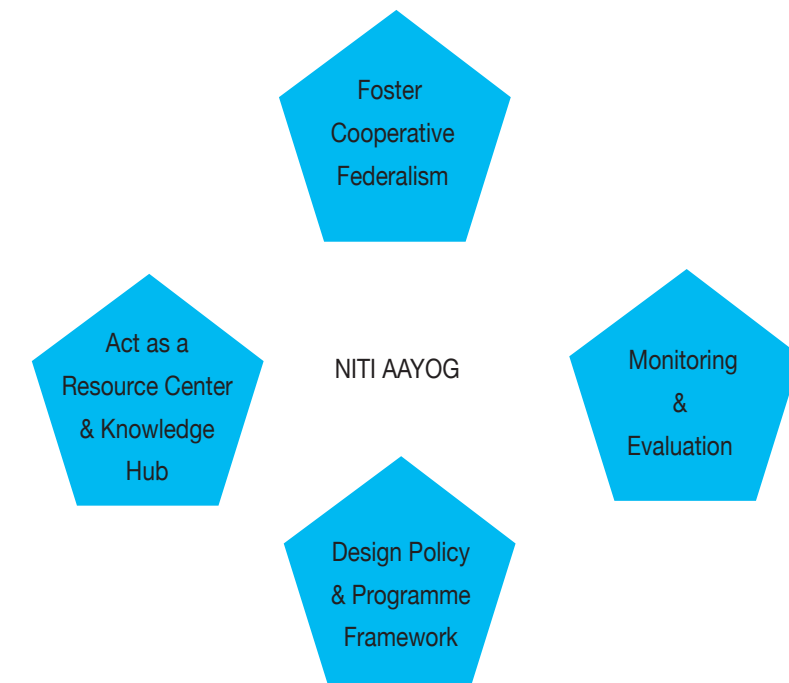
The Government has replaced Planning Commission with a new institution named NITI Aayog. This is consistent with the development of a mature institutional framework that provides for domain expertise, allowing us the chance to increase specificity of an institutional functioning. Specific to the planning process, there is a need to separate as well as energize the 'process' of governance from the 'strategy' of governance.

In the context of governance structures, the changed requirements of our country, point to the need for setting up an institution that serves as a Think-tank of the government – a directional and policy dynamo. The proposed institution has to provide governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy. This includes matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support. The institution has to be able to respond to the changing and more integrated world that India is part of.

After extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders including inter alia state governments, domain experts and relevant institutions, NITI Aayog has been designed to give life to these aspirations. The key objectives laid out in the Resolution, towards which NITI Aayog will work are placed at Annexure 1.2 of the Report.

NITI has been mandated to provide a critical, directional and strategic input in the development process through its commitment to cooperation, federalism, and promotion of citizen engagement, egalitarian access to opportunity, participative and adaptive governance and increasing use of technology. This, along with being an incubator of ideas of development, is the core mission of NITI Aayog.

The primary functions of NITI Aayog can be grouped under four broad categories. Revised entry 49 of Allocation of Business rules, 1961 (see Annexure 1.3) envisages the detailed functions to be carried out under each of these heads.



In order to architect this, NITI Aayog's entire gamut of activities is divided between two main hubs - Team India Hub and Knowledge and Innovation Hub – that are at the core of NITI's structure and 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 in sustainable and equitable development as well as help in their dissemination to stakeholders; and to provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international likeminded Think-tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions. Both Hubs are headed by the Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog.

Team India hub comprising 6 subject matter divisions of NITI Aayog and Knowledge and Innovation Hub comprises 10 subject matter divisions. The list of all verticals are:

Social Justice and Empowerment	Science & Technology
Data Management & Analysis	Natural resource & Environment
Rural Development	Social sector - I, II
Project Appraisal, Public Private Partnership Appraisal and Public Investment Board	State Coordination Division & Decentralised Planning
Agriculture & Allied Sectors	Industry
Infrastructure-connectivity	Administration
HRD, Governing Council Secretariat & Coordination	Infrastructure-Energy, International Cooperation, General Administration & Accounts
Governance and Research	

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT UNITS

The creation of an altogether new organization such as the NITI Aayog from the erstwhile Planning Commission entailed a mammoth restructuring process. In pursuance to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Task Force on Restructuring of NITI Aayog Secretariat and in order to right sizing the staff strength of NITI Aayog, it was reduced to 500 against the initial strength of 1255. The Team India and Knowledge and Innovation Hubs were constituted, and accordingly Verticals and Core Divisions were created.

The Administration in NITI Aayog functions in accordance with the service rules and extant Government of India instructions through the nodal Department, i.e. Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) on issues relating to personnel management of employees working in the NITI Aayog. The Administration is concerned with all aspects of service conditions of the Officers and Staff, viz. recruitment, promotion, postings, transfers, retirement, deputation, court cases relating to service matters, besides providing information under the RTI Act on these matters. It is also

entrusted with the responsibilities relating to Internship Scheme/Research Associate for Post Graduate/Research Students for acquainting them with the Planning Process.

NITI Aayog has finalized the guidelines for Young Professionals, Consultants and Sr. consultants for carrying out the specific tasks given to NITI Aayog. The Adm./Recruitment Cell initiated the process of selection of Young Professionals in NITI Aayog under the 'Young Professional Programme 2015'. After completion of shortlisting and interview process, offer letters were issued to selected candidates and further to the candidates from reserved list, to fill the 46 slots. From the YP Programme, NITI Aayog is facilitating the Young Professionals to have exposure to public policy, planning, development and the areas that are relevant to development and will provide high quality professional inputs in Economics, Finance, Education, Public health, Social Sciences, Engineering, Urban Planning and Infrastructure amongst others.

NITI Aayog engaged 5 consultants for (i) carrying out specific tasks/research on literature on a variety of economic and social issues, (ii) building the data and best practices sections of the NITI Website under the directions of Vice Chairman and Members (iii) research and policy work on transportation (such as roads, railways, shipping), with particular focus on the North East (iv) research and policy work in social sectors with particular focus on health, women, child development and poverty reduction (v) research and policy work in legal area such as reform of statutes and administrative law and (vi) technology development in Strategic Sectors/Energy Sector/Railways Engg./Communication/IT Environment, Techno-Commercial evaluation of Technology development Schemes etc. A proposal has also been processed to engage one (1) more consultant as Officer on Special Duty.

NITI Aayog initiated process of engaging one (1) Mission Director and Five (5) Managers in "Atal Innovation Mission" and "Self Employment and Talent Utilization" to promote a culture of innovations and entrepreneurship in India and to find ultra-low cost solutions to India's pressing & intractable problems.

NITI Aayog also initiated process of engaging one consultant in Governance & Public Service Delivery vertical for designing & implementation of a portfolio of policy initiatives, innovative projects & partnerships related to the area of Governance & Public Services Delivery.

OFFICES ATTACHED TO THE NITI AAYOG:

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

National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD), the only one of its kind, was established by the Government of India, in 1962. It is a Central Autonomous Organization under the NITI Aayog, Ministry of Planning, Government of India. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr. Arvind Panagariya is the President of its General Council. CEO, Mr. 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.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

NITI Aayog has been constituted to actualise 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 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 Government has also accepted the recommendation of the Report of the Fourteenth Finance Commission regarding increasing the share of the States in the divisible pool of the Union Taxes from 32 per cent to 42 per cent. This is the highest ever increase in the devolution of taxes to States so far. This would give the States greater autonomy in designing and financing schemes as per local priorities. The extra fiscal space available would also enable the States to create productive capital assets, particularly for filling developmental gaps in deficit regions.

The policy of the Government to involve State governments is reflected in changes in the interaction processes of the NITI Aayog.



FIRST MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The first meeting of the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog was held on 8th February, 2015 where the Hon'ble Prime Minister urged all Chief Ministers to work with the Centre to forge a model of cooperative federalism, whereby the Centre and the States – Team India – can come together to resolve differences, and chart a common course to progress and prosperity. In the spirit of cooperative federalism, therefore, the Governing Council had decided that the NITI Aayog would constitute three major Sub-Groups of Chief Ministers:

RATIONALISATION OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

In addition, it was also decided that the States will set up two Task Forces on Agriculture Development and Poverty Elimination, under the leadership of the NITI Aayog.

The reports of all the sub-groups have been submitted by the NITI Aayog to the Prime Ministers Office. The Sub-Group of Chief Ministers meet helped arrive at a consensus on many contentious issues, not only for the States represented in the Sub-Groups, but even the others through regional meetings, consultations, etc.

The second meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held on July 15, 2015 where the Prime Minister reiterated the vision that States should be the focus of all development efforts. In order to work towards a federal structure, based on a two-way flow of priorities and cooperative action, a series of meetings were held in NITI Aayog with groups of States to develop a strategy of working together. This exercise culminated in the conference – ‘Role of NITI Aayog: Consultation with the States’ – held on 30th November, 2015, with the Planning and Finance Secretaries of States chalking out the procedure for a structured engagements with the States.



SECOND MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The conference advocated the need for gradual shifting of the focus from Planning to Policy, in order to influence the behaviours of both public and private actors. This is important in the light of changed economic circumstances where the major share of investments today flow from the private sector.

It was also observed that most States had achieved sizes of economy larger than many countries. As a result, States needed to interact a great deal not only with the Central Government but also with international government and non-governmental bodies. To enable this, the Governing Council had suggested that NITI Aayog:

1. Serve as a repository of best practices for the States and for transfer of knowledge
2. Provide advocacy support to States in sorting their issues with Central ministries
3. Sort problems of States pertaining to Centrally Sponsored Schemes, particularly the need for transparent norms and timely releases of funds.

It was mutually decided that each year there would be at least two meetings, an annual conference in October or November, and a post budget meeting in April to discuss the requirements of the States from the Centre. Honouring the decisions of this conference, two working groups have also been set up, viz., i) Working Group on North Eastern States and Hill States and ii) Working Group on Central Sector Schemes.

SUB-GROUP OF CHIEF MINISTERS

1. Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS):

This Sub-Group of CMs was constituted on 9th March, 2015, under the Convenership of the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, with Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Lt. Governor of A & N Islands as Members and CEO, NITI Aayog as Coordinator.

The Sub-Group has submitted its report to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27th October, 2015 after having wider consultation with the Members of the Sub-Group as well as representatives of non- member States and Central Ministries.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-GROUP ON CSS

Existing CSS should be divided into Core and Optional Schemes. Focus of CSS should be on schemes that comprise the National Development Agenda where the Centre and States will work together in the spirit of Team India.

Amongst the core schemes, those for social protection and social inclusion should form the core of core and be the first charge on available funds for the National Development Agenda.

Funds for optional schemes would be allocated to States by the Ministry of Finance as a lump sum and States would be free to choose which optional schemes they wish to implement.

In any sector there should be one Umbrella scheme having the same funding pattern for all of its sub-components.

The recommendations of the Sub-Group on funding pattern are as follows:

Core Schemes:	(a) For 8 NE and 3 Himalayan States: Centre: State: 90:10
	(b) For other States: Centre: State: 60:40
	(c) For Union Territories without legislative: Centre 100%
Optional Schemes:	a) For 8 NE and 3 Himalayan States: Centre: State: 80:20
	b) For other States: Centre: State: 50:50
	(c) For Union Territories without legislative: Centre 100%
	(d) For Union Territories with legislative: Centre: UTs: 80:20
Core of the Core Schemes:	Existing Funding pattern of the core of the core schemes should continue.
	(a) Remuneration for ASHAs, Anganwadis and Contract Teachers to be protected. However, Central Assistance (CA) may be capped at existing level for the next 2 years in this regard.
	(b) Flexibility in Schemes and Institutional Mechanism: 25% allocation in a scheme should be flexi-fund, to be spent in accordance with Ministry of Finance guidelines in case of States and 30% in case of UTs.
	(c) Design of CSS should be broadly like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with a large number of admissible components in a scheme, and the States being free to choose components to suit their local needs.
	(d) The Ministry of Finance would make scheme wise allocation for Core Schemes. In each Core schemes, there would be transparent criteria for State allocation of funds. There would also be transparent criteria for the lump sum allocation to States for Optional schemes. These criteria to be evolved by NITI Aayog in consultation with State Governments and Central Ministries.
	(e) NITI Aayog to have concurrent jurisdiction in monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the States and Central Ministries.
	(f) Third Party evaluation by NITI Aayog.

2. Report submitted by the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan:

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on 2nd October, 2014 to fulfil the vision of cleaner India by October 2, 2019 as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. SBM is a concerted approach and one of the biggest ever drives to accelerate the efforts towards achieving universal sanitation coverage, improving cleanliness and eliminating open defecation in the country. The Swachh Bharat Mission has both Rural and Urban Components - Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

The Mission comprises components such as construction of individual household toilets, community & public toilets and solid & liquid waste management etc.

The Sub-Group on Swachh Bharat consists of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal as Members with Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as the Convener of the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group has submitted its report to the Prime Minister on 14th October, 2015, after wider consultation with the Members of the Sub-Group as well as representatives of non-member States and Central Ministries.

3. Report of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development:

The notification for the Sub Group was issued on 24th March 2015 with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Puducherry, Tripura and Tamil Nadu as Members and the Chief Minister of Punjab as the convener and CEO, NITI Aayog, as the coordinator of the Sub-Group.

The terms of reference of the Sub-group was pertaining to strengthening State Skill Development Missions for integrated delivery; improving private sector participation in various aspects of skill development; expanding outreach of skilling programmes, mobilizing local bodies, civil societies, Railways and Armed Forces to participate in skilling; career guidance and post training placement tracking and to suggest State level innovative measures for up-scaling of pilots, best practices, dissemination and replication by the other States/UTs and raising resources for financing.

The Sub-Group submitted their final Report in September 2015. The report has been presented to the PM and actionable points emerging from the recommendations of the Report which would be taken up for implementation among all stakeholders.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT

Strengthening the institutional delivery framework at the State level by strengthening the State Skill Development Missions.

Improving the access, outreach and quality of skill development programmes.

Improving the availability and quality of trainers.

Identifying alternative sources of funding to scale up skill development.

Ensuring active involvement of the private sector in all aspects of skill development including curriculum development, delivery mechanism, and certification.

Involving the Panchayati raj institutions in spreading the awareness about skill development

TASK FORCES

1. Task Force on Agriculture Development

A Task Force on Agriculture Development was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog to co-ordinate and develop synergy with the Central Ministries and State Governments Task Forces and recommend strategies for re-invigorating agriculture in all its aspects, formulate strategies for reforms, innovation and technology diffusion and identify successful experiments and programmes from which all State(s) and UTs may learn.



The Task Force on Agriculture has identified new initiatives to raise agricultural productivity. These include employing an integrated approach in resource allocation on crops; to make the share of horticulture and livestock coterminous with their contribution to the States agriculture (GSDP) and available resource GSDP; promotion of knowledge-based agriculture to find technological solutions with active involvement in the proves of technological innovations and adoption; development of an appropriate, farmer-centric institutional framework such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to support production systems and forward linkages; and promotion of agriculture-industry linkages.



Several persisting issues in the agriculture sector that demand far greater attention, have also been identified by the Task Force. These include achieving efficiency in fertilizer use (NPK Balance), improving soil health through soil analysis, ensuring use of soil health cards, soil health campaigns and addressing fertilizer subsidy; investment in electricity; research and extension; agricultural marketing and trade (a single national market); links to industry - food processing; land holding consolidation (land titles and land leasing & sales laws); credit and finance; concerns relating to small and marginal farmers; crop insurance and convergence of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which will include pooling of resources, both human and capital, transfer of productive and eco-friendly technologies and value addition through provision of backward and forward linkages.

The Report of the Task Force on Agriculture Development has a wide scope in order to include suggestions received during the presentation made before the Prime Minister on September 16, 2015 and the inputs received from the States and Union Territories. A total of 20 States and UTs have submitted their report to NITI Aayog. A discussion paper based on the work of Task Force – ‘Raising Agricultural Productivity & Making Farming Remunerative for Farmers’ – has been uploaded on NITI Aayog website. Three regional consultations with all States/UTs were held in February 2016 at Gandhinagar, Bengaluru and New Delhi. This report had been submitted in the end of April, 2016.



An Expert Group on Land Leasing has also been constituted to review existing Agricultural Tenancy Laws of State(s) to suggest appropriate amendments to legalize and liberalize land leasing for much needed occupational diversification and rapid Rural Transformation. The Expert Group was consulted with states, NGOs, academicians, legal experts and Farmers group to develop a Model Land Leasing Act. The Model Land Leasing Act has been submitted to Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog on 31st March 2016. Pilots on Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) in cotton in Maharashtra and pulses in Madhya Pradesh are also being contemplated.

2. Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India

Subsequent 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, a 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.

Based on the discussions held in first meeting of the Task Force on 7th April, 2015, a concept note and a background paper was circulated to all States/UTs by the NITI Aayog. So far, the Task Force has held three meetings on 7th April, 2015, 20th May, 2015 and 29th June, 2015 respectively.

The order mandating the formation of the Task Force notes that the State government would submit their respective Task Force report to NITI Aayog and after that the Task Force of the NITI Aayog would consider these reports and prepare its own report. So far, NITI Aayog has received the report from 16 States/UTs. Further, 11 States/UTs have informed about constitution of Task Force but are yet to submit their report. The remaining nine States/UTs are yet to inform NITI Aayog about the constitution of parallel Task Force in their State/UT.

Based on the work of the above Task Force and the inputs provided in the Reports of the Task Force constituted by the States, an occasional paper on 'Eliminating Poverty: Creating Jobs and Strengthening Social Programmes' has been prepared and posted on official website of NITI Aayog (www.niti.gov.in).

Further it has been decided that four regional consultation meetings will be organized for preparation of Task Force report on Elimination of Poverty in India at Hyderabad, Jaipur, Delhi and Patna on 13th April, 2016, 22nd April, 2016, 2nd May, 2016 and 6th May, 2016 respectively.

OUR WORK WITH THE STATES

1. Resolving pending Centre-State issues that delay development efforts in States

NITI Aayog took an unprecedented initiative to resolve the pending issues of State of Telangana with Central Ministries. This was done in view of its mandate to offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues and accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.

Twenty issues spread across ministries of Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Power, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Culture, Finance and Rural Development were identified by Telangana State. A note flagging these issues was sent by NITI Aayog to the concerned ministries and a meeting of the senior state and central government officials was held at NITI under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, Shri Arvind Panagariya to facilitate the resolution of pending issues of the State with various Central Ministries.

To the satisfaction of both sides involved, all issues were either resolved or brought much closer to resolution. It is important to note that both sides discussed matters in good faith, yielding ground where it was warranted and explaining satisfactorily when the outcome desired by the other side was not feasible.

Accordingly, Chief Ministers of all the States were also requested by the Vice Chairman to make use of intermediation by NITI Aayog for any pending issues requiring clearance or approval by the Central Government in order to speed up the implementation of the nation's development agenda.

Apart from that, a number of issues between states and central ministries pertaining to PMKSY were also resolved with the help of NITIs intervention.

2. Push for formula-based allocation of CSS funds to States by Central Ministries

In line with the recommendation of the Sub-Group of Chief Minister for Rationalizing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, NITI called for the creation of an objective and transparent formula to distribute Central funds to States, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). The Aayog wrote to Secretaries of Central Ministries/Departments calling for prompt action to develop an objective formula for distribution of CSS funds.

With the budget making exercise in full swing at the Union and many State Government Levels in February 2016,

NITI Aayog told the Secretaries of all nodal ministries suggesting that it would be entirely appropriate that State Governments have a broad appreciation of the quantum of Central funds that is committed to them scheme-wise, in order for them to plan better and also ensure speedier execution of CSS. Ministries have so far had the flexibility to swap funds between States depending on various criteria. The creation of a formula, however, will ensure transparency in allocation, while creating an objective and timely method for speedy action by States. With prior knowledge of funds that will be allotted to them under each CSS, States can allocate funds to corresponding sectors in their budgets accordingly, without having to wait for the release of the Union Budget.

The task of creating the formula has been entrusted to a three-member committee with the Secretary of the nodal Ministry implementing the CSS as the Chairman, and the Financial Adviser of the Ministry and Adviser of the NITI Aayog as its Members. NITI will give its inputs and recommendations based on consultation with all State Governments. The decision reflects NITI Aayog's commitment to cooperative federalism. Through this, the Aayog has ensured direct involvement of States in national policy making, cutting across party lines.

DECENTRALISED PLANNING

The States Coordination & Decentralised Planning division in the NITI Aayog is entrusted with the responsibility to foster cooperative federalism through structured support and initiatives and to develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.



1. Consultations with States on the 'Role of NITI Aayog'

The conference on The Role of NITI Aayog, organized on November 30th, 2015, advocated the need for gradual shifting of the focus from Planning to Policy so as to influence behaviours of actors - both public and private - in the light of the changed economic scenario with major share of investments coming from the private sector. As the majority of the States had achieved sizes of economy larger than many countries it was recognised that the States needed greater interaction not only nationally but also internationally.

The suggestions on the role to be played by NITI Aayog included: serving as a repository of best practices for the States and for transfer of knowledge, advocacy for issues raised by the States with the Central Ministries, sorting of problems of States related to Centrally Sponsored Schemes particularly the need for transparent norms and predictable and timely releases of funds. It was mutually decided that there would be at least two meetings, an annual conference in October-November and a post budget meeting in April every year to discuss the pairing of requirements of the States with the Centre.

As per the decisions taken in this conference two working groups have also been set up, viz., i) Working Group on North Eastern States and Hill States and ii) Working Group on Central Sector Schemes.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

- a. **Road Map for development of North-Eastern and Eastern States:** A draft Road-map has been prepared in-house in NITI Aayog for 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. The Road-map is expected to be finalized in consultation with the States and other stakeholders. It will include suitable strategies for sustainable development of North-Eastern and Eastern States. A proposal for assistance of World Bank for development of the road map has also been prepared by NITI Aayog and submitted to the Department of Economic Affairs.
- b. **Rationalization of NLCPR guidelines:** A Sub-Committee consisting of officers from the Ministry of DoNER and NITI Aayog submitted recommendations for simplifying the process of project approval under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) with focus on the following:
 - (i) Inter-State allocation of funds under NLCPR;
 - (ii) Retention of Projects;
 - (iii) Process for approval/vetting of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs);

- (iv) Release of funds in instalments;
- (v) Monitoring of projects through independent agencies.

These recommendations have been made for accelerating the pace of programme implementation under NLCPR.

- c. **Allocation for Sixth Schedule areas:** NITI Aayog has recommended Rs 1,000 crore from Demand No.37 of the Union Budget 2015-16 for Sixth Schedule areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. The allocation has been made as "One Time Assistance to areas covered under sixth schedule of The constitution".

2. Resource Book on Good Practices in Social Sector Service Delivery

The Resource Book published by NITI Aayog consists of 37 Case Studies. It covers innovative introductions in development practices across various sectors viz. Health, Education, Water & Sanitation, Financial Inclusion, Child protection, Environment, Food Security and Public Distribution, Infrastructure & Development, Local Governance, Social Security and Women Empowerment.

3. District level disaggregated data on 51 indicators for all the States/UTs

One of NITI Aayog's new roles is to come out with a repository of data from district upwards to monitor the development of States. For the first time, an extensive exercise to collate disaggregated data across the country was successfully undertaken. The extensive data, clustered into social infrastructure like health, school education, and then physical infrastructure like water, roads and electricity and Information Technology penetration has been published on the website of NITI Aayog. The sources for the data are Census 2011, District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS) and District Information System for Education (DISE). It covers the five key sectors of Health, Education, Water, Electricity and Telecommunication of all the States/UTs.

5. Port-led development

A concept note on Port-led development was prepared and circulated to the concerned Central Ministries/Departments for comments. The Concept Note has the focus on development of non-major ports, connectivity to hinterlands- road, rail and waterways, port-based Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in hinterlands, ship building and repair, coastal shipping, coastal tourism, community welfare etc. It is expected that promotion of port-led development will facilitate substantial growth in maritime trade providing employment opportunities for the people living in coastal areas.

6. Development of Islands

The Government of India has proposed that it would 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 use of diesel with promotion of non-conventional energy sources such as Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Tidal Energy, Ocean Thermal Energy etc in islands.

NITI Aayog has been actively involved in formulation of strategies for sustainable development of islands. It actively participated in the Inter-Ministerial consultations for finalizing the selection of Islands for holistic development. The NITI Aayog proposes to steer the holistic development of Islands on a sustainable basis for which the process of shortlisting of Islands is under way.

7. Assistance to Backward States by granting Special Assistance

States	Special Assistance Areas	Amount Released (Rs. Crore)
Bihar	Special Assistance Areas	1887.53
West Bengal	To boost Road, Education, Irrigation & Health sectors	836.77
Odisha	For taking up development activities in KBK districts of Odisha	132.00
Madhya Pradesh	For taking up development activities/water prioritise interventions in Bundelkhand region	405.58
Uttar Pradesh	For taking up development activities/water prioritise interventions in Bundelkhand region	264.84

8. Supported States for strengthening Decentralised Planning

Three states - Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha – have been supported by the NITI Aayog to strengthen the functioning of a Decentralized Plan Process in all levels of the State Government. This is being executed to the SCDP project of the NITI Aayog.

This has ensured support to the States in preparing future roadmaps for institution development of the District Planning Committees (DPCs) based on a participatory capacity assessment study.

A practitioners' manual, namely, "Manual for Social Audit: Facilitating Accountability in Social Sector Programmes" was published as aid to the trainers and practitioners. A Training Manual, namely, "Gender Inclusive Planning: Training Manual for Facilitators" was published for guiding capacity development. Trained 282 Master Facilitators and local resource persons to address gender and women's empowerment issues in planning and implementation at district/sub-district levels. About 150 journalists from print, broadcast, electronic and online media were sensitised on decentralised planning.

Apart from that, selected 10 village Panchayats in Odisha were supported through training and technical support to prepare Village Panchayat development plans to utilise resources devolved under the 14th Finance Commission award. Moreover, 65 Master Facilitators and 147 local social auditors were trained to conduct social audits indifferent flagship schemes.

9. Human Development Project

District Human Development Reports for 8 districts of Gujarat was prepared & released.

"Human Development: Performance of 30 Districts, Taluks and Urban Local Bodies in Karnataka, 2014 - a Snapshot", was prepared and released.

MDG report 2014 for Delhi based on primary and secondary data was prepared and released.

In the State of Gujarat six training modules on Human Development were prepared viz. 1. Human Development, 2. Health & Human Development, 3. Education & Human Development, 4. Gender & Human Development, 5. Poverty & Human Development, 6. Security & Human Development.

District Human Development Reports for three districts of Maharashtra were prepared and released.

POLICY MAKING ROLE

MODEL ACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASING

NITI Aayog organised a meeting of State Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Revenue Department on 24th August, 2015 to discuss the subject of Land Leasing & Land Titling. On the outcome of the meeting an Expert Group on Land Leasing has been constituted in Agriculture Vertical. The Expert Group on Land Leasing held consultations with different stakeholders. A national level consultation with states, experts, legal experts, farmers and farmer organizations and NGOs was also organised on 8th January, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan. The expert Group submitted its report and Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act to NITI Aayog on 31.03.2016. The Model Act has been made public on www.niti.gov.in.

Terms of Reference of Expert Group:

1. To review the existing agricultural tenancy laws of States including hill States and Scheduled Areas;
2. To examine the distinctive features of land system in erstwhile zamindari, ryotwari and mahalwari areas;
3. To suggest appropriate amendments, keeping in view the need to legalise and liberalise land leasing for much needed agricultural efficiency, equity, occupational diversification and rapid rural transformation;
4. To prepare a model agricultural land leasing act in consultation with states; and
5. Any other related matter.

KEY FEATURES OF THE MODEL AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASING ACT

1. Legalise land leasing to promote agricultural efficiency, equity and poverty reduction. This will also help in much needed productivity improvement in agriculture as well as occupational mobility of the people and rapid rural change.
2. Legalise land leasing in all areas to ensure complete security of land ownership right for land owners and security of tenure for tenants for the agreed lease period.
3. Allow automatic resumption of land after the agreed lease period without requiring any minimum area of land to be left with the tenant even after termination of tenancy, as laws of some states require.
4. Allow the terms and conditions of lease to be determined mutually by the land owner and the tenant without any fear on the part of the landowner of losing land right or undue expectation on the part of the tenant of acquiring occupancy right for continuous possession of leased land for any fixed period.
5. Facilitate all tenants including share croppers to access insurance bank credit and bank credit against pledging of expected output.
6. Incentivise tenants to make investment in land improvement and also entitle them to get back the unused value of investment at the time of termination of tenancy.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

The President of India, in his address to both Houses of the Parliament on June 9, 2014 expressed the Government's decision of developing a new "comprehensive National Energy Policy" (NEP) for India. Consequently, the Prime Minister's Office delegated the responsibility of formulating this new policy to NITI Aayog.

The last omnibus policy statement for the Indian energy sector, the "Integrated Energy Policy" was launched in 2008. The energy scenario of India has witnessed many transitions since then. In 2014, India was the world's fourth largest primary commercial energy consumer. Additionally, while global energy demand growth slowed down, India's demand grew at 7% in 2014, the highest amongst the leading economies of the world. This changing landscape signals the need for a new vision – and therefore, the new energy policy, which focusses on a market based approach for achieving India's energy sector objectives, began to be conceptualised.

In view of the fact that energy is handled by different Ministries that have the primary responsibility of setting their own sectoral agenda, an omnibus policy is required to achieve the goal of energy security through coordination between these sources. This is also expected to mainstream emerging energy technologies, and provide different energy choices to the consumer. The new energy policy focusses on the four key objectives of access at affordable prices, improved security and independence, greater sustainability, and economic growth. The NEP proposes actions to meet these objectives in such a way that India's economy is 'energy ready' by the year 2040, the medium term. It builds on the achievements of the 'Integrated Energy Policy', and sets the new agenda consistent with the redefined role of emerging developments in the world of energy.

Recognising the need to make the new policy as inclusive and collaborative as possible by taking key energy sector stakeholders on board, NITI Aayog initiated the process of policy development by conducting a consultation with key think-tanks working in the Indian energy space. Subsequently, to lay the foundation for conceptualising the new policy, Vice Chairman (VC), NITI Aayog met a group of eminent economists of India on 25th August, 2015. Following the same, a meeting between MOS (Power), MOS (Petroleum), MOS (Environment) and VC, NITI Aayog was held on 15th September, 2015. In October and November 2015, 9 Stakeholder workshops hosted by NITI and partner think-tanks on an identified equal number of salient themes were held, which witnessed wide participation of State Governments, Central Electricity Authority, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, line ministries, Public Sector Undertakings, the private sector and the academia. A draft version of the policy was then prepared in March 2016, and was circulated to the concerned line ministries for their comments. Following the same, two consultations were held with the MOS (Petroleum) and MOS (Power) respectively, in April and May 2016 in order to gather their views on the recommendations made by the policy.

Currently, the comments of the ministerial consultations are being incorporated into the draft policy by NITI Aayog. The revised version is intended to be circulated again to the different line ministries, and their specialised agencies, before it is made open to the public for their comments.

MAKE IN INDIA - STRATEGY FOR ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

The Government of India launched the Make in India initiative on 25th September, 2014 to project India as a preferred investment destination and a global manufacturing hub. The major objective behind the initiative was to renew focus on job creation, skill development, fostering innovation and high quality standards in the manufacturing sector. Out of the 25 sectors identified under this initiative. Electronics is one such sector.

1. The Electronics Industry is one of the fastest growing Industries in the world. But the share of India's Electronics Industry in the global market is insignificant. India is a major importer of Electronic products.
2. The Government of India has taken various initiatives in the past to attract investment into the Electronic Sector and boost the Electronics production. These initiatives include Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS), Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme, Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) Scheme, Electronics Development Fund (EDF) policy, Preferential Market Access (PMA) Scheme etc. While these schemes have been able to attract some investments which are largely aiming to meet domestic demand, they have not been able to attract major investments to place India as a global manufacturing hub for Electronics.
3. NITI Aayog after careful consideration of various options has recommended a shift in the strategy for electronics products. It advocates an export oriented strategy with import substitution to expand production of electronic goods in the short run. This Strategy will enable India to develop a competitive Electronic Industry in the long run and make a dent in the global market with rising real wages in China. This is India's last opportunity to go global and capture the global market.
4. The summary recommendations are listed in the following tables:

Summary Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Export Oriented Strategy

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
Tax	End Tax Uncertainty and Simplify Tax Regime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly establish in writing the tax liabilities applicable to producers of electronic products under different circumstances in full detail. Eliminate tax exemptions and simplify the tax system. Rollout GST..
Tariff	End Inverted Duty Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring all input tariffs down to the tariff applicable to the final product. Exports to be subjected to zero taxes: all tariffs and domestic taxes paid to be rebated back at the exit point. Impose Countervailing Duty (CVD) equivalent to all domestic indirect taxes on imports.
Coastal Economic Zones	Coastal Economic Zones (CEZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify CEZs ranging from 2 to 3 thousand square kilometers under Sagarmala Project for establishment of Electronics Export Clusters. Create Electronic-Industry Specific Zones and Clusters Within the CEZ.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide each zone to be provided with state of the art infrastructure. • Provide ease of doing business for trading across borders as per international standards along with relatively flexible labor and land-acquisition laws. • Provide liberal laws for development of urban spaces.
Investment	Investment Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ten-year tax holiday for a firm that invests a substantial sum and generates a large employment within CEZ. For this purpose an investment threshold of US\$ 1 billion with the employment of 20,000 may be considered.
FTA	Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert FTAs into opportunities. • Forge Free Trade Agreements to capture/access duty free market for electronic goods. • Export orientation to eventually enable signing of the Information Technology Agreement 2 (ITA-2).
Products	Low Value Added but High Volume Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not shun low value addition per unit. If produced on a large scale, low value addition per unit still translates in a large total value addition and large number of jobs (for example, iPhones in China).

Recommendation 2: Import Substitution Strategy

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
Tariff	End Inverted Duty Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending inverted duty structure to enhance production and to improve overall efficiency of the system. • All tariffs and domestic taxes levied on inputs whether sourced domestically or from abroad to be rebated back at the exit point. • Impose Countervailing Duty (CVD) equivalent to all domestic Indirect Taxes on imports.
Incentives	Investment Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing ten-year tax holiday to anyone investing about \$US 1 billion and creating around 15,000 jobs in Electronics Industry.
PMA	Preferential Market Access (PMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify Preferential Market Access Policy of DeitY to allow preference in Government Procurement, especially in the Area of Defense.
Fiscal Measures	Differential Taxation of Imports versus Domestic Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described in the text, these measures can attract challenges in the WTO.

ROAD MAP FOR POVERTY ELIMINATION

This paper was based on the work of the Task Force on Eliminating Poverty constituted by the NITI Aayog, Government of India in March 2015. The paper addressed two different aspects of the debate around poverty – how to measure, and how to combat poverty.

The paper notes that the measurement of poverty, conventionally done through a poverty line, is used in India only for tracking the incidence of poverty across time and space. The other potential uses of a poverty line – identifying who the poor are, and allocation of anti-poverty expenditure across states – are fulfilled through other means. The paper also examines the question of the level at which the poverty line should be set. It recommends further deliberation informed by the idea that the objective behind an official poverty line is to track progress in combating extreme poverty and not identification of the poor for purposes of distribution of government benefits.

On combating poverty, the paper recommends a two-pronged strategy – facilitating rapid and sustained employment intensive economic growth, and making anti-poverty programmes more effective. Sustained rapid growth works through two channels: first, by creating jobs that pay steadily rising real wages and, second, by generating additional revenues that allow the government to expand social expenditures at faster pace. Part of the increased growth can come through agriculture, by increasing productivity, facilitating remunerative prices to farmers, introducing measures aimed at ‘second green revolution’ in rain fed areas in general and eastern India in particular, reform of tenancy laws to help small and marginal farmers, and building safety nets to bring quick relief for farmers in times of natural disasters. But given that historically agriculture has not grown in India at rates exceeding 5 per cent per annum on a sustained basis while industry and services have seen much faster growth, in the longer run, the benefits of growth can be shared more equitably only by creating gainful employment opportunities in industry and services for landless workers and marginal farmers who wish to migrate to better paid jobs. India needs acceleration in the growth of organized labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, footwear, food processing, electronic and electrical appliances, other light manufactures, construction and retail trade. Among other things, the paper suggests that this can be achieved through the creation of a handful of Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) that can provide the focal point for the location of employment-intensive industries allowing them to exploit economies of scale and agglomeration.

Making anti-poverty programs such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), Midday Meal Scheme, MGNREGA and Housing for All more effective represents the second leg of the strategy to eliminate abject poverty. The paper provides numerous specific suggestions on how each of these important programs can be made more effective. The PDS related reforms suggested include biometric verification of PDS beneficiaries, option of cash transfer for beneficiaries of subsidies, increased information dissemination to bring behavioural change on nutrition and improvement in functioning of midday meal schemes. The MGNREGA modifications that were recommended in the paper include allowing the program to impart skills and improve quality of assets created, and better fiscal support to identified beneficiary regions. The Housing for All (Rural) program has progressed well overall but can be improved along several dimensions by better identification through the Socio-economic census, progress reporting and using prefabricated houses. Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, Mobile (JAM) trinity could play a vital role in widening the reach of Government to the vulnerable sections. Jan Dhan bank accounts under Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), biometric identity cards under Aadhar and accessibility to the accounts through mobile phones promise to eventually revolutionize the anti-poverty programmes by replacing the current cumbersome and leaky distribution of benefits under various schemes by the Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT).

Additionally, each Gram Panchayat may be asked to identify five poorest families in the village and endeavour to lift them out of poverty. Panchayat may ensure that these families get all government benefits. A modest cash transfer for a pre-specified time period may top these benefits. The eventual effort should be to ensure that the families become capable of earning and sustaining above-poverty level income within five to seven years.

APPRAISAL OF TWELFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (2012-17)

As a follow up of the decisions taken in the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, the exercise of appraisal of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) was undertaken in NITI Aayog. The appraisal broadly covers physical and financial targets vis-à-vis achievements for the first four financial years of the Plan (2012-16) and the financial targets (Budget estimates) for the terminal year (2016-17) of the Twelfth Plan.

1. Twelfth Five Year Plan document has 24 Chapters covering basically all the sectors of the economy. Breaking away from the past traditions, the Appraisal document is based on the following nine broad themes:

- i. The Economy & Policies: An Overview
- ii. Macroeconomic Factors
- iii. Employment and Skill Development
- iv. Governance
- v. Human Resource Development
- vi. Physical Infrastructure
- vii. Environmental Sustainability
- viii. Agriculture and Rural Transformation
- ix. Urban Transformation

2. The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) envisaged three scenarios termed as “strong inclusive growth”, “insufficient action” and “policy logjam”, pegging the average annual GDP growth rate under these at 8 per cent, 6 to 6.5 per cent, and 5 to 5.5 per cent, respectively. The performance in 2012-13 and 2013-14, in line with the projections based on the old GDP series, may be reasonably concluded as below the “policy logjam” scenario. In the later years, the economy recovered.

3. NITI Aayog had constituted three Sub-Groups of Chief Ministers on the following:

- i. Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes
- ii. Skill Development and
- iii. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The Reports of all the three Sub-Groups have been submitted to the Government and placed in public domain. In addition two Task Forces on (i) Agriculture Development and (ii) Elimination of Poverty in India, were also setup under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Similar Task Forces on Agriculture development have also been set up in the respective States. Based on the deliberations within the Task force and reports received from various

States, an occasional paper on ‘Raising Agricultural Productivity and Making Farming Remunerative for Farmers’ was prepared and placed in public domain.

4. The Appraisal has provided an opportunity for incorporating the shared Vision of National Development and important initiatives taking by the Government. The exercise is not confined to status but also suggests corrective actions and crystallises learnings on various themes covered. NITI Aayog, has taken a large number of steps to facilitate policy correction reflected in Appraisal document, a few of which are covered below:

- i. A draft road map for PMKSY has been prepared, which is under finalisation. Giving importance to the last mile connectivity to fully utilise irrigation potential already created 22 prioritised projects under AIBP were also inspected by the officers of NITI Aayog, Ministry and the concerned State Governments to ensure their early completion.
- ii. A study has been initiated with the World Bank’s assistance to develop a framework for the development and sustainable management of water resources in India.
- iii. A Consultation was held with the States and other stakeholders on the proposed amendments in the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act and its observations were forwarded to the Ministry.
- iv. A booklet was published covering details of islands prioritised for holistic development.
- v. NITI Aayog had constituted an Expert Group to prepare a model land leasing Act to enable the States to enact their own leasing Act based on the proposed model. The Expert Group has submitted its Report and action on it is under active consideration.
- vi. It has prepared a report – ‘India’s Renewable Electricity Roadmap 2030: Toward Accelerated Renewable Electricity Deployment’, which is expected to offer credible options for policy-makers.
- vii. A number of other initiatives like ease of doing business, island development, formulation of Water Index are in the pipeline.

5. The current financial year (2016-17) is the terminal year of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan, NITI Aayog has initiated consultations with Union Miniseries, State Governments, experts in the domain and academia, to formulate strategies and draw action plans with differing time horizons. Under this exercise the following inter-connected documents are proposed to be prepared.

- i. A vision document keeping in view the social goals set and/or proposed for 15 years.
- ii. A 7-year strategy from 2017-18 to 2023-24 to convert the long term vision into implementable policy and action as a part of the ‘National Development Agenda.’
- iii. A 3-year Action document for 2017-18 to 2019-20 aligned to the predictability of financial resources during the 14th Finance Commission Award period. This is also to help translate into actions the goals of the government to be achieved by 2019.

6. Accordingly, a series of interaction meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog as under:

- i. Meetings with two groups of eminent economists held on 7th and 10th June, 2016.
- ii. Meeting with business editors held on 10th June, 2016.
- iii. Meeting with agricultural experts held on 21st June, 2016.
- iv. Meeting with experts in science & technology, and innovation sector held on 21st June, 2016.

Besides, as Internal Security and Defence are also being covered in these documents, an interaction Meeting on experts in these sectors will be held shortly.

THE REGULATORY REFORM BILL 2016

The regulatory framework across various public utility industries lacks a consistent and coherent approach. This has led to lack of uniformity and predictability in powers and functions of regulators, their selection procedure, independence and accountability, budgetary allocation and mechanism for appealing against orders passed by regulators. The diverse sectoral approaches have resulted in an uneven regulatory environment and leads to considerable delays in setting up of regulatory institutions and process. The Regulator in port sector is mandated to set tariffs only whereas regulators in electricity sector have much wider powers of licensing, market development and imposing penalties apart from tariff fixation. The telecom and gas sector regulators are assigned to promote competition which is not part of the responsibilities of port or electricity regulators.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister stated in his budget speech of 2015-16 that there is a need to tackle the lack of common approach and philosophy in regulatory arrangements prevailing within the different public utility Industries. Accordingly, in June 2015, the Draft Regulatory Reform Bill was placed on the NITI Aayog website and comments were received during the stakeholders meeting which were incorporated in the Draft Regulatory Bill. Subsequently, a meeting was held during April, 2016 under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to discuss the provisions of the draft Regulatory Reform Bill for improvement. During discussions within NITI Aayog, it was felt that a focused discussion with regulators would be helpful in making improvements in the draft Regulatory Reform Bill. Presently, the Bill is ready for Inter-Ministerial Consultation, after cabinet approval the Bill will be placed in the Parliament for Legislative process.

SECTORAL OBJECTIVE & ACHIEVEMENTS

AGRICULTURE

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agriculture Vertical at the NITI Aayog works to develop plans and policies for the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, agricultural land polices and food processing for farmers' welfare. It works in close coordination with the of line departments of Central Ministries as well as States. The significant activities and achievements of the 2015-16 are:

1. THE TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

INITIATIVES

The Governing Council (GC) of NITI Aayog at its first meeting held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th February 2015 decided to constitute a Task Force on Agricultural Development at NITI Aayog to suggest measures to reinvigorate agriculture in the country. The GC also decided to constitute similar Task Forces in all the States and UTs. The NITI Taskforce on agricultural development was assigned the responsibility of coordinating with the State and UT Task Forces and central ministries. The Task Force on Agricultural Development was constituted on 16th March 2015 under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. All the States and some UTs also constituted similar Task Forces.

After consultations with farmers and farmers' representatives, scientists, activists and experts, NITI Aayog Task Force made a presentation to Hon'ble PM on 16.09.2015. An occasional paper was also published by the Task Force. This has been made public on our website: www.niti.gov.in

The primary objectives of the Task Force are to:

- A. Coordinate and develop synergy with the Central Ministries and State Governments Task Forces.
- B. Recommend strategies to re-invigorate Agriculture in all its aspects.
- C. Formulate strategies for reforms, innovation and technology diffusion.
- D. Identify successful experiments and programmes from which all States and UTs may learn.
- E. Suggest any other significant measures.

The Task Force worked to fully incorporate the tenents of cooperative federalism. While States were requested to provide inputs through their Task Force Reports, they were extensively consulted through regional meetings chaired by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in Gandhinagar, Bengaluru and New Delhi. The Task Force Report has been submitted to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st May, 2016. The regional meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to have consultations with States. The first regional consultation was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat to seek the views/suggestions of Central and Western States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Chhattisgarh, and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli. In the second meeting organised at Bengaluru and the southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Puducherry and UTs of A&N Island and Lakshadweep participated. The northern, eastern and north eastern States were consulted on 17th February, 2016 in the meeting held in New Delhi. The States overwhelmingly supported the five key areas identified in the Occasional Paper and made important suggestions related to inputs, technological interventions and policy reform. Those suggestions have been duly incorporated in the report of the Task Force at appropriate places.

2. CONTRIBUTION IN IMPLEMENTING BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEMES

- (i) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY): Improvements in the EFC and Cabinet notes suggested a convergence matrix for three components of PMKSY. Improved the operational guidelines of the scheme.
- (ii) Price Stabilisation Funds: Contributed in formulation of the programme on price stabilisation fund. Pulses and other commodities viz. potato and tomato were included under PSF along with onions on the suggestions of NITI Aayog.
- (iii) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana : NITI Aayog envisioned low premium for crop insurance, inclusion of non-loanee farmers and involve multiple insurance agencies in the PMFBY in place of only Agriculture Insurance Company. The suggestion was accepted.
- (iv) Agriculture Infrastructure Technology Fund (AITF) - National Agricultural Market (NAM): Based on the inputs of NITI Aayog, the scheme was revised and the NAM has been proposed to integrate 585 APMC mandis with alternate arrangements like Kisan Mandis in non-APMC States.
- (v) Organic Farming Mission for North Eastern States: Based on the recommendations of NITI Aayog, the scheme was realigned and shifted from DoNER to Ministry of Agriculture. Suggested special focus on Sikkim and establishment of a certification agency, and export promotion.
- (vi) Fisheries Development Aligning with Port Led Development: Infrastructure, farming development, quality control, new niches for export promotion, safety net for fishers, eco-friendly fishing practices, fishing tourism compliance of maritime norms and distress mitigation measures envisioned by the Aayog and shared with the stakeholders for integrated development of coastal and deep sea fisheries.
- (vii) Blue Revolution: Suggested measures for the holistic development of aquaculture resource as an emergence of highly productive areas including all round development within marine, brackish and fresh water fisheries to cater to the need of cheap animal protein besides the conservation of the natural eco-system.

3. OCCASIONAL PAPER BY TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

An occasional paper entitled 'Raising Agricultural Productivity and Making Farming Remunerative for Farmers' based on the work of the Task Force on Agricultural Development was prepared and uploaded on NITI Aayog's website (www.niti.gov.in) on 16th December, 2016 for public opinion. The paper received very wide coverage in the media. It was also extensively referred in the Economic Survey for the year 2015-16.

The Occasional paper dealt with five critical areas in Indian Agriculture:

1. Raising Productivity
2. Remunerative Prices to Farmers
3. Land Leasing, Land Records & Land Titles
4. Second Green Revolution - Focus on Eastern States
5. Responding to Farmers' Distress

The paper suggested important policy measures to address these areas for the welfare of the farmers as well as enhancing their income.

4. PRICE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

As an alternative to physical procurement by Government Agencies in vogue, the concept of Price Deficiency Payments was mooted by NITI Aayog. The consultations were held with the States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; and the Central Ministries viz Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, Food and Public Distribution for the implementation of a pilot for cotton in the State of Maharashtra, and pulses in the State of Madhya Pradesh in identified districts. It will help manage risk on price behavior and ensure incomes to the farmers.

5. BAMBOO DEVELOPMENT

Action Plan for Bamboo Development, particularly utilisation in the industry sector has been prepared and submitted to PMO. The Member (Agriculture) also led a team of NITI Aayog officials to Mizoram to discuss with the State about Bamboo development in North East. Based on the discussions, a concept note has been prepared by Mizoram for further consultations with other NE States.

6. BREEDER SEED AVAILABILITY

Seed is one of very critical inputs to enhance the productivity as suggested in the Occasional Paper by the Task Force. Over a period of last 4 years the breeder seed production has declined substantially. To sort out the issues, consultations were held with the Seed Corporations, State Agricultural Universities, National Seed Association, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, ICAR along with Private Seed Agencies and States and suggested development of road map on breeder seed production and varietal replacement.

7. PILOT ON PULSES IN BIHAR

The vertical entered into a collaboration project with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct pilots on pulses in Bihar to bring in nutrition security at household level. The joint meeting with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was organised on 20th January, 2016 at New Delhi and a Concept Paper was developed. This was followed by a meeting with Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog with Co-chair of BMGF in February, 2016. The identified crops for pilots are pigeonpea, chickpea, lentil and summer green gram. The preliminary work for survey of villages and development of baseline data has started.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

While India has made rapid strides in Health and Nutrition outcomes over the last decade, the outcomes have not kept pace with the level of economic development in the same period. In the health sector, we have made considerable progress on the IMR, MMR and TFR fronts but the inter-state variation in achievements remains a matter of concern. In Nutrition, we have registered a decline in the proportion of Underweight Children, but have been unable to make a significant dent in Wasting and Anaemia levels and the absolute level of malnutrition continues to remain high.

RESPONSIBILITIES

This vertical has the key role of accelerating action in the two critical sectors of Health and Nutrition in India. It endeavours to bring these two issues centre stage, engages policy makers and all the concerned stakeholders, and creates a much-needed sense of urgency in solving the myriad problems that have retarded progress in these sectors.

- 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 the stakeholder.

The vertical represents NITI Aayog in various committees of Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Health Research and Ministry of Women & Child Development. The vertical is engaged in EFC/SFC pertaining to Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Health Research, and Ministry of Women & Child Development. It is also representative of NITI Aayog in Scientific Advisory Groups of Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Public Health Foundation of India, etc.

INITIATIVES

1. Health Information Systems - Aadhar seeding of child records

The Health Division co-ordinated and implemented a Pilot project for the universal enrolment of children aged 0-6 years by concurrent birth registration and AADHAR enrolment. Each child was issued a birth certificate which was also seeded with the EID. The database was also mapped with that of the Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) for further linking. This was carried out in Tigaon situated in the district of Faridabad, Haryana. UNICEF was requested to document the learnings from the Pilot and the same were shared with the State Government of Haryana. It is our understanding that the pilot was successful and that it is now slated for a State-wide rollout. This would lay the technical platform for the convergence of Health and Nutrition Programs and Management Information System that would go beyond the facility level data to individual household level data.



2. Reforming the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and proposing a model for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

A roadmap for reform of CHGS and its expansion into a model for Universal Health Coverage was prepared and shared with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and with the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) for consideration.

The recommended reforms focussed on issues of health systems strengthening, governance and financing, comprehensive primary care and client participation. As a result, a Standing Committee for continuous reform of CGHS has been constituted in which Adviser (Health) NITI Aayog is a member. A version of the paper is available in the public domain¹.

3. Citizen engagement and participatory development- for bridging the gap between current performance and potential of the Health system in India

Various discussions on the issues of 'Health System in India: Bridging the Gap between Current Performance and Potential' were hosted by NITI on the MyGov portal. Inputs were received from citizens, academics, think-tanks, implementation organisations, health practitioners and health professionals on the questions of increasing resources for health and increasing efficiency of utilisation of current resources. A major proportion of comments (96%) emphasised on the need to strengthen the health systems rather than a vertical disease-based approach to bridge the gap between the current status and potential of India's health sector. The discussions and the summary of the content on the overall issue is available online^{2,3} and these are constantly utilised by NITI to suggest policy initiatives on various issues including the proposals seeking appraisal/approval of EFC/Cabinet.

4. Review of the Health Sector presented to the Prime Minister and works in progress

A complete review of the Health sector in India was presented to the Hon'ble PM wherein representatives of MoH&FW were present. Issues covered in the review included outcomes in Reproductive and Child Health, Non-communicable diseases and Communicable diseases as well as inputs with respect to human resources, infrastructure and financing for health. During the review, suggestions for short and medium term implementation were made, which led to far reaching decisions that would lead to restructuring of the sector.

Footnotes:

1. Sarwal R. Reforming Central Government Health Scheme into a 'Universal Health Coverage' model. Available at: <http://niti.gov.in/content/reforming-central-government-health-scheme-%E2%80%99universal-health-coverage%E2%80%99-model>
2. Available at: <https://www.mygov.in/home/8101/discuss/>
3. Available at: <https://blog.mygov.in/summary-of-ideas-posted-in-response-to-health-system-in-india-bridging-the-gap-between-current-performance-an-potential/>

DECISIONS OF THE OUTCOME-BASED REVIEW ON HEALTH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, NITI IS CURRENTLY:

- Reforming the Medical Council of India for addressing the gap in availability of doctors.
- Creating an online portal to track the performance of District hospitals through appropriate outcome indicators to serve as a framework to improve efficiency of public hospital functioning.
- Developing appropriate Public-Private Partnership mechanisms to augment and strengthening service delivery through ramping up of infrastructure and improving quality of care.
- Restructuring and expanding the scope of the Health Protection scheme (currently the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana)

5. To achieve the objective of “Kuposhan Mukta Bharat” promised in the Budget Speech, we worked closely with the Ministry of Women and Child to give shape to the contours of the National Nutrition Mission. In addition, NITI piloted the Inter-Ministerial Group to craft a National Nutrition Strategy to address the problems of the 200 high burden districts plagued by endemic malnourishment. In devising this strategy, NITI played a key role in ensuring the convergence of the key Ministries whose work has the most proximate impact on the nutrition outcomes. Moreover, we actively sought the experiences and best practices from the State Governments as well as Sectoral experts to ensure that the National Strategy takes into account the accumulated knowledge of all stakeholders. NITI also organised in partnership with UNICEF a Workshop on Cash Transfer for Children: Experiences of States in India to explore alternate approaches to service delivery and their effectiveness. The vertical has also been successful in shaping the policy debate on the universalisation of the Maternity Benefit Scheme and we were tasked with the responsibility of conducting a field evaluation of the pilots that were in operation.

NITI also effectively contributed and participated in the draft stage of preparation of the National Health Policy. In its policy advocacy role, members of the Division published articles in peer reviewed journals as well as op-ed pieces in newspapers, and blogs on the NITI Aayog website⁴⁻⁷.

Footnotes:

4. Debroy B, Kumar A. The road to universal health coverage in India. *Lancet* 2015; 12;386(10011):e56-7.
5. Kumar A, Jain N, Nandraj S, Furtado KM. NSSO 71st Round: Same Data, Multiple Interpretations. *Economic and Political Weekly* 2015; 50(46-47): 84-87
6. Kumar A, Furtado KM. Health spending in India: Increasing efficiency. February 2016. *Yojana* special Edition on Health
7. Health Division, NITI Aayog. Health system in India: Bridging the Gap between current performance and potential. Working Paper No. 1/2015. Available at: https://www.mygov.in/sites/default/files/master_image/Health_System_in_India.pdf

EDUCATION

The Human Resources Development (HRD) Division, restructured as Education Vertical in the Team India Hub of NITI Aayog, is concerned with all aspects of developmental planning in the field of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs, Arts and Culture. However, education related to agriculture and allied sectors, public health, and medical education are not the domain areas of HRD Division.

The HRD Division covers (a) pre-primary, elementary, secondary, senior secondary, higher, technical and teacher education; (b) formal and non-formal education including adult literacy; and (c) areas of special focus such as education for girls, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and also Children with Special Needs.

During the year 2015-16, the Education Vertical actively participated in the activities related to the continuation of the 12th Plan schemes. The Vertical examined proposals with respect to schemes of Department of School Education and Literacy, Department of Higher Education, Department of Sports and Department of Youth Affairs and Ministry of Culture.

MAJOR PROGRAMMES/SCHEMES OF THE VERTICAL			
SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) • Mid-Day Meal in Schools (MDMS) • Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) • Vocationalisation of Secondary Education • Teacher Education • ICT@Schools • Saakshar Bharat • National Bal Bhavan 	HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) • Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) • PMMM National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) • Scholarships • National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) • Book Promotion • Languages Development 	SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) • Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) • National Games • Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) • National Service Scheme (NSS) • Youth Hostels 	ART & CULTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) • Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) • Centre for Cultural Resources & Training (CCRT) • National Museums • Akademies • Public libraries • Memorials

MAJOR PROPOSALS EXAMINED

Higher Education:

1. Appraised the proposal on the Establishment of Consortium for Higher Education e-Resource. The proposal aimed to consolidate all the three consortia initiatives viz. (i) INDEST-AICTE Consortium (Technical Education Bureau, MHRD), (ii) UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium (UGC), (iii) N-LIST (National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology). NITI Aayog supported the proposal with the observation that there shall be alternative use of infrastructure in terms of physical, financial, and manpower that already exists in the three consortia.

2. Examined the proposal of setting up of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati and operationalising its transit campus from academic year 2015-16. The IISERs have been established with the vision of creation of research centres of the highest caliber in which teaching and education in basic sciences would be totally integrated with state-of-the-art research. These Institutions are devoted to under-graduate and post-graduate teaching in sciences and make an education and career in basic sciences more attractive by providing opportunities in integrative teaching and learning of sciences. It will cater to the needs of over 600 Students for BS-MS Dual Degree course, Ph.D., and Post-Doctoral programmes.

3. Appraised the proposal of establishing the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Andhra Pradesh, during XII and XIII Five Year Plan. The NITs are expected to be at par with other national level technical institutes and be able to fulfil the demand of high quality undergraduate and postgraduate level of education in engineering and technology. It will serve the needs of over 1400 students.

4. NITI supported the proposal to create Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds – the India Chapter of Massive Open Online Courses. It suggested that cataloguing of this should be done by NCERT, NUEPA, and CBSE for School Education and by UGC and different Central and State Universities including EMPC-IGNOU for higher education, to avoid duplication in e-content generation and to prevent wastage of resources.

Sports:

1. Proposal to set up National Sports University, Manipur: The proposed National Sports University, an independent autonomous institute, aims to serve national interests through different vocational sports education programmes and act as a world class centre for research in physical education, sports sciences and their practical application to improve India's sporting performance etc. The total intake capacity of the students will be 2481 when it is fully operational.

2. National Programme for the Development of Sports (Khelo India) by merging 3 components of RGKA, USIS and NSTSS: The proposal is for holding competitions as laid down under the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA); sanction of infrastructure for sports facilities under USIS; and identification and nurturing talented sportspersons under NSTSS component.

Culture:

1. The proposal for the re-development of National School of Drama (NSD) Campus was supported with some observations. It is imperative for the M/o Culture to look for alternative avenues to source funds for the re-development project of National School of Drama. Ministry of Culture also needs to estimate recurring costs to run the institute with the additional intake of 160 students and also by the introduction of the 2 year intensive courses in 8 new disciplines.

2. Execution of 1st Phase of e-Bhasha (Sahitya) Project through Sahitya Akademi. The proposal is aimed to make available digital vernacular content of classical literature of India in different languages. The proposal was supported considering the fact that India has a vast repository of literature and there is a felt need for it to be made globally available in digital form and also as digital heritage for our present as well as next generation. The project will also help in preservation and conservation of Indian literature.

Miscellaneous:

1. Establishment of Research Park for IIT Madras: The proposal was not found viable due to cost escalation and provision of grant-in-aid for repayment of loan and interest of the project.

2. Uchchar Avishkar Yojana (on Innovations, Research and R&D in partnership with Industry): The MHRD was advised to revise the proposal in view of its overlap with other schemes of the Ministry.

3. Technical Skills for Unemployed Youth - Skill Development in HEIs: The proposal was not found viable owing to the contemplation of a similar proposal by M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (National Skill Universities) for the purpose of skilling unemployed youth.

4. External Assistance from BRICS New Development Bank for the completion of buildings of seven new government polytechnics in Punjab: It was observed that the PPR by the State Government was submitted directly to D/o Economic Affairs (DEA), ignoring the Sectoral Ministry, which is in violation of DEA's Guidelines-2005, para-4 which inter-alia states, "PPRs for the State projects should be routed to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) through the Central Sectoral Ministry.

5. Proposal to revive and restore the glory of Viswa Bharti University, founded by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the Department has been asked to resubmit a revised proposal providing the progress report of the project and removing inconsistencies in the estimates.

Other Initiatives

The Education Vertical took various initiatives on policy issues during the year including analysing the progress of major flagship programmes (viz. SSA, MDMS, RMSA) and deliberating on outstanding issues in school education for the preparation of folders for PM's Domestic visits. It formulated changes in the guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) related to the Education Sector, particularly SSA and MDMS, on the proposed suggestions received from States/UTs in consultation with Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD. Revised guidelines were submitted to the MHRD. That apart, 60 officials of the NITI Aayog visited 60 districts to review progress of 'Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan' launched by the MHRD. Inputs from these visits led to increased pace of toilet construction in schools. The vertical also analysed reports and legislative Bills for the formulation of Concept Paper/Road Map on Setting up Foreign Educational Institution (FEI) Campuses in India, as per the directions of the PMO. A presentation for an outcome-based review of the Education Sector by CEO, NITI Aayog to the Hon'ble Prime Minister was also enabled by the vertical.



Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

NITI Aayog being the body entrusted with the task to effectively implement the Sustainable Development Goals, the Education vertical has proactively developed Action Points to meet targets of Goal 4 of the SDGs: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The target-wise recommendations are as follows:	
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education	(a) Target learning outcomes (b) Set timeline for the execution of intended learning standards (c) Implement system for assessment of schools (d) Greater use of ICTs for monitoring learning outcomes; share best practices across States to improve enrolment and retention
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education	a) Link one year of pre-primary education with primary schools
By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	(a) Increase access to vocational courses relevant to state needs (b) Expand existing Massive Open Online Courses (c) Encourage private investment in higher education/globalisation (d) Address regional disparities in GER (e) Strengthen accreditation mechanisms and monitor quality (f) Increase investments in R&D in HEIs
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	(a) Expand residential schools in EBBs, seasonal hostels, transport/escort facilities (b) Enrolment of all Out of School CWSN (c) Greater use of e-content in local languages (d) Convergence with flagship programmes for school infrastructure
By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	(a) Incentivise States/Districts to perform well on Saakshar Bharat mission (b) Continue focus on young adults, Out of School adolescents, especially females
By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries	(a) Rationalisation/deployment of school teachers (b) Fill vacancies (c) Set up biometric attendance mechanism to address teacher absenteeism (d) Engage with industry to provide instructors for vocational education.
By 2030, substantially expand the number of scholarships available globally to developing countries for enrolment in higher education	(a) Continue and strengthen scholarships/educational loans, etc.
By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles	(a) Strengthen school and teacher training curriculum components which instil sensitivity to current global issues (b) Set up ICT-enabled multi-purpose Adult Education and Skill Development Centres to offer adult learning programmes to meet local needs.

Appraisals, Draft Cabinet Notes and MoUs:

- Revised Framework for Implementation of Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) – proposal supported in view of international collaboration in higher education.
- Setting up of 5 New Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jammu and Kerala - proposal supported by NITI Aayog as it would cater to the needs of more than 4600 students.
- Establishment of 6 New Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) for expansion of professional education as envisioned in 12th Plan.
- Approval of establishment of National Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, and for amendment in the National Institute of Technology, Science Education & Research Act, 2007 (29 of 2007) for inclusion of NIT, Andhra Pradesh.
- Setting up of an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Tirupati and operationalising it from the temporary/transit campus from the academic year 2015-16.
- Establishment of National Ranking and Rating Agency (NRRRA) for ranking higher educational institutions. The proposal was supported as it would provide quality assurance through assessment and accreditation.
- Signing of MoU among BRICS countries for the establishment of BRICS Network University.
- Signing of MoU between the Government of Republic of India and Government of Australia on Cooperation in the fields of Education, Training and Research.

The Vertical also examined (i) proposals sent by NGOs and trusts for funding research studies/evaluation studies, (ii) Research Reports on education submitted by various researchers to SER Division, and (iii) appraisal notes of grants-in-aid committees. The proposals examined for Youth Affairs are (1) The setting up of a National Sports University in Manipur, (2) The Youth Hostel Scheme (3) Revision of National Service Scheme and conversion from its CSS Status to Central Sector Scheme (4) National Young Leaders Programme and (5) Merging of 8 schemes of Youth Affairs to form an umbrella scheme called “Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram”.

Pertaining to the promotion of Art and Culture, it also examined the Standing Finance Committee proposals on (1) Execution of 1st Phase of e-Bhasha (Sahitya) project through Sahitya Akademi, (2) Re-development project of National School of Drama (NSD) Campus, (3) Assistance to State Governments, institutions and organisations for documentation and dissemination of research results in the field of Anthropology, (4) Continuation of on-going Scheme from XI to XII Plan.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT UNIT

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Skill Development & Employment Unit deals with issues of Skill Development, job creation, labour reforms and social safety net. The Unit closely works with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment in coordinating, formulating, processing, appraisal, analysis and monitoring of various schemes, programmes and projects with major focus on making India the skill capital of the world and improving labour market conditions both for employer and employee. The Unit collaborates with international bodies and experts to identify critical issues and come out with suggestions for making improvements and necessary mid-course corrections in the initiatives. These are reflected in the research work of the Division.

INITIATIVES

1. Strengthening the Skill Development Ecosystem: To harness the demographic advantage Government of India has initiated Skill India Mission which would facilitate India in becoming the Skill Capital of the world. This requires active participation by the states. The challenges of skill development are known. Both the central and the state governments have taken steps to address those challenges. However, the progress varies across states. With the objective of creating a pool of skilled manpower with speed, scale, standard and sustainability, NITI Aayog constituted a Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Puducherry, Tripura and Tamil Nadu as Members and the Chief Minister of Punjab as the convener and CEO, NITI Aayog as the coordinator of the Sub-Group.

The Sub-Group among other things focussed on issues of strengthening State Skill Development Missions; incentivising private sector for participation in skill development; expanding access and outreach of skilling programmes by involving community, PRIs, civil societies etc. The Sub-Group has since then submitted its report to the Prime minister. The major recommendations are in the highlighted enclosure.

The Unit provided logistical support for the deliberations of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers in NITI Aayog in terms of holding of meetings, preparation of minutes; the background note for the meetings and other associated work. The report was drafted by the Unit.

SKILLING AT SCALE WITH SPEED & STANDARDS

- Strengthening State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) for integrated delivery by harmonising the skilling efforts across line departments/private agencies/voluntary organisations etc.
- Determining sectoral priorities at State level to enhance the qualitative and quantitative skill availability for the sector.
- Incentivising private sector to set up training institutions; adopting government ITIs/Polytechnic; participation in curriculum revision; and offering work benches and officials as trainers.
- Introducing Vocational education from the middle level to motivate children.
- Opening Incubation, Counselling and Tracking Centres at the village level.
- Providing safe transportation, female instructors, child care facilities, market and finance to encourage women participation.
- Involving higher education institutions to address the problems of trainers.

- Using Local Bodies for skill mapping and creating a data base of youth at local level.
- LMIS/National Career Service Centres to be used to share the success stories and sharing of information with all the stakeholders.
- Broad basing financial resources to access CSR, MPLAD/MLALAD, Cess under the Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Act 1996.
- Source: Report of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development.

NITI Aayog is coordinating with the PMO to consolidate all possible skilling related activities under the newly created Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. NITI Aayog is following with the Central Ministries for implementation of the Common Norms for Skill Development Schemes and also on the integration of secondary school education with vocational education.

NITI Aayog was directed by the PMO to collaborate with the Ministry of Skill Development to ascertain the skill requirements in the key infrastructure sectors so as to optimally utilise the capacity available for skill development on one hand and to make available the skilled manpower on the other hand. Accordingly, NITI Aayog set up three Sub-Groups on Transport, Power & Energy and Telecommunication to ascertain demand and supply of skilled manpower in collaboration with the line Ministries and their respective Sector Skill Councils. The Three Sub-Groups have submitted the interim Reports.

2. Formulation and Appraisal of Cabinet Notes, SFCs and EFCs:

Incentivising Formal employment and increasing access to unemployed job opportunities

With the objective of incentivising employers to create more jobs and also to create portal for increasing access to unemployed job opportunities, NITI Aayog moved two Notes for the Cabinet approval, viz. "Making available publicly scores and ranking of candidates in recruitment examinations through portal for increasing access of unemployed to job opportunities and payment of EPS subscription under EPFO Act 1952 by Government of India. The Cabinet approved the proposals contained in the notes for implementation by Department of Personnel and Training and Ministry of Labour and Employment respectively. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech announced that to incentivise the creation of new jobs in the formal sector, Government of India will pay the Employees Pension Scheme contribution of 8.33% for all new employees enrolling in EPFO for the first three years of their employment. This will incentivise employers to recruit unemployed persons and also to bring into the books the informal employees. In order to channelise this intervention towards the target group of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, the scheme will be applicable to those with a salary upwards of Rs.15,000 per month. The Ministry of Labour and Employment is formulating the scheme in this regard. DoPT is taking necessary steps to create the web portal.

3. Appraisal of Cabinet Notes, SFCs and EFCs

In addition, proposals in the form of Cabinet notes/EFC/SFC for various initiatives by Ministries of Labour & Employment and Skill Development having bearing on employability; livelihood opportunities; labour market flexibility; social safety; conditions of work etc. were received in the Unit. The same were appraised and comments were sent with the approval of the competent authority to the administrative ministries.

Some of the important proposals appraised include:

Schemes/Programmes

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 as "Skill Development Component" of umbrella PMKVY

- Common Norms for Skill Development Schemes of Government of India
- National Skill Development Mission
- Skill Training for Employability Leveraging Public Private Partnership (STEPPP)
- Udyamita - Entrepreneurship and Training Scheme
- Setting up of National Skills University across the country.
- Setting up of Apprenticeship Training Institutes for Women.
- Strengthening of Apprenticeship Ecosystem in India.
- Setting up of 1500 ITIs in PPP Mode in unserved blocks and areas under Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Enhancing Institutional Capacity for Training of Trainers to establish institutions primarily to train trainers in PPP mode

Labour Acts

- Amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
- Providing a minimum pension of Rs.1000/- pm in perpetuity to the pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995;
- Amendment to Minimum Wages Act 1948;
- Amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952
- Proposed Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana: Scheme to incentivise employers for job creation

4. Research

- The SD&E Unit worked on the many policy papers during the year which were published in various journals:
- Make in India and the Potential for Job Creation
- Decline in Rural Female Labour Force Participation in India
- Entrepreneurship Development in India - the focus on start-ups
- Employment Potential of the Road Transport Sector
- Skills Development for Disadvantaged: YOJANA
- Skill Development for Women: UNESCO Sponsored Event
- Skill Development and Productivity of the Workforce

5. Miscellaneous Activities

Besides the above activities, a detailed note was prepared for the PMO on Qualitative Assessment of the Skill Development Schemes based on World Bank study. There is regular interactions with ILO experts on issues concerning labour market reforms, skill development and productivity enhancement, social security for the labour and conducting evaluation of skill. The Adviser (Labour) Participated in the Panel discussion on Transitioning from informal to formal Employment at the ILO-UN headquarters in New York.

MANAGING URBANISATION

URBANISATION' AN ENGINE OF GROWTH

India is urbanising very fast. As per Census 2011, 377 million Indians comprising about 31 per cent of the country's population live in urban areas. Urban areas contribute to over 63 per cent of the GDP of the country. The urbanisation level is expected to cross 50 per cent by 2050 when one out of every two Indians would be living in cities. Urbanisation would be a key driver of rapid inclusive growth for India as it promotes growth in industries and services due to agglomeration economies, increase in productivity, innovations and entrepreneurship. However, urbanisation poses its own challenges on economic, social and environmental dimensions which need to be managed well to harness its full potential. Due to rising urban population, basic infrastructure like water, sanitation, housing, waste management and transportation is under stress, pollution of land, air and water is leading to public health and sustainable issues and a large population of urban poor is forced to live in slums and is getting excluded from the formal city space. The mega wave of urbanisation on the anvil needs to be managed well so that cities can attract investments, become hubs of growth, talent creativity and innovation, thereby creating vibrant habitats for millions of citizens including those moving from rural to urban areas in anticipation of better living conditions and quality of life.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Managing Urbanisation Vertical has a key role in evolving a shared vision of urban transformation, amongst Governments at Central, State and Municipal levels. The Vertical endeavours to bring critical issues pertaining to urban rejuvenation and transformation at the centre stage by engaging with key stakeholders, think tanks & institutions and policy makers for designing suitable policy and programmatic interventions. The Vertical represents NITI Aayog in various committees of Ministry of Urban Development and National Institute of Urban Affairs. The Vertical regularly participates in the implementation and monitoring of various urban sector programmes launched by the Central Government.

INITIATIVES

1. Capacity Building of Urban Local Bodies

In order to effectively realise the vision of urban transformation, one of the key enablers is to build sufficient capacities in the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and State Government in urban management and provide greater financial and functional autonomy to the ULBs. In this backdrop, NITI Aayog has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) in November 2015 to tap the expertise of Singapore in urban sector to build capacities in State Governments and ULBs. Under this MOU, a capacity building programme called "Urban Management Programme" has been launched by NITI and SCE to build capacities in three critical areas of urban transformation viz., (i) Urban Planning & Governance, (ii) Water, Wastewater & Solid Waste Management and (iii) Public Financing (PPP). This unique initiative of NITI provides a platform to State Governments/ULBs to share the challenges being faced in urban transformation in these key areas and to evolve and design efficient solutions to some of these challenges through partnership with urban sector experts from Singapore. Officials from seven states viz., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi & Assam would participate in this Programme. The programme would comprise of a series of workshops in India and Singapore. Towards the end of the programme, the participants would develop a strategic baseline framework to address the key identified challenges in the urban sector.

2. International Conference on "Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development in India"

The Vertical organised a three day International Conference on "Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development in India" from 1st to 3rd August 2015 in partnership with Institute for Human Development (IHD) and Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Florida. Experts from all over the world deliberated on following themes - international experiences of urbanisation and lessons for India, challenges of employment and skills, planning for mobility and infrastructure needs, rural-urban linkages and growth of small & medium towns, sustainability, land use, slum upgradation, affordable housing etc.

3. National Workshop on "Transforming Urban India: Creating Smart and Sustainable Cities"

The Vertical organised a national workshop titled, "Transforming Urban India: Creating Smart and Sustainable Cities" on 2nd September 2015, in partnership with Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Bengaluru. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for exchange of ideas and knowledge among key stakeholders on issues related to the development of smart and sustainable cities. 250 participants from State Government, ULBs, Central Ministries, Academic Institutions, Industry and other stakeholders ideated on some of the critical aspects that enhance the quality of life in a city and make a city sustainable and therefore, smart.

4. Sustainable Urban Transport Solutions for Small & Medium Sized Cities

With a view to build capacity in small and medium sized cities to plan and implement smart and sustainable urban transport solutions, NITI Aayog in partnership with Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) has launched an initiative to develop toolkits for planning and implementation of sustainable mobility solutions. States of Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu are partnering with NITI in this initiative.

5. Appraisal of Cabinet Notes/PIS Memos/EFC/SFC/Metro Rail DPRs

In addition, proposals in the form of Cabinet Notes/EFC/SFC/PIB Memos for various initiatives by Ministry of Urban Development were examined and appraised and comments were sent. The Vertical also examined in detail the proposals for Metro Rail based Mass Urban Rapid Transit System for Delhi, Chennai, Vijayawada, Lucknow, Vishakhapatnam, Kochi & Pune and offered comments and suggestions to improve project structuring, multi-modal integration and enabling PPPs.

6. Urban Rejuvenation Mission

Government of India in June 2015 launched the Urban Rejuvenation Mission (URM) which includes the Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT) and Housing for All. The Smart Cities Mission which would create 100 smart cities aims to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a lighthouse to other aspiring cities. AMRUT aims to ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection, increase the amenities value of the city by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces, provide storm water drains to reduce flooding and reduce pollution by promoting non-motorized transport like walking and cycling in 500 cities. The Vertical has been actively involved in design of Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT. Further, the Vertical has actively participated in the APEX committee meetings of AMRUT to examine and approve the State Annual Action Plans (SAAP) for 2015-16. The Vertical gave various

suggestions to improve outcomes like systematic monitoring of reform implementation through PERT and GRANTT charts, re-cycling/re-use of wastewater and reduction of non-revenue water (NRW), introduction of PPPs in wastewater projects etc.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

INITIATIVES

1. Housing for All (HFA): Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)

Housing for All has been proclaimed as a national priority for the Government of India. To achieve the goal of Housing for All by 2022, nearly 3 crore houses need to be built in rural areas in the next 7 years and about 2 crore houses in the urban areas.

To architect this vision, NITI Aayog has pursued for finalisation of repository of type-designs for the rural areas along with road map for skilling masons, promoting use of local low cost, disaster resilient building materials and inclusion of geo-tagged photograph for monitoring house construction. Further, Ministry of Rural Development has been advised to strengthen their housing MIS on the lines of GARV model of Ministry of Power.

Similarly, NITI Aayog has also urged the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation to fix annual and long-term targets, and also long link fund release to States with implementation of reforms by March, 2017. NITI has also ushering for the implementation of rental housing scheme, as providing house on ownership for all may not be feasible due to capacity and budgetary constraints. Further, ensuring regular best practice sharing may provide a further fillip to the housing sector.

2. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

NRLM was launched in June 2011 after restructuring Swarnajayanti Grameen Swarajgar Yojana. After further restructuring of the scheme in May 2013, based on the experience from implementation the Mission in the first two years, it was renamed to be called Ajeevika. Today, this mission is called the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana. The objective of DAY is to organise all rural poor households of the country and continuously nurture and support them till they come out of abject poverty. DAY seeks to reach out to 8 to 10 crore rural poor households and organise one woman member from each household into SHGs and federations or higher levels in a phased manner by 2024-25.

A meeting to review the progress of DAY-NRLM was held on 21.3.2016 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister in which the CEO, NITI Aayog, made a presentation highlighting the progress of the scheme, key challenges and interventions required.

ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NITI AAYOG, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE FOLLOWING INTERVENTIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

- Regular measurement of SHGs household savings, income, asset creation, debt reduction, productivity.
- Building a database of state-wise trained resource persons across cadres and 15-20 master trainers per block across cadres for federation of SHGs in village organisations.
- Appointing 1 or 2 bank correspondents per panchayat, 1 bank mitra per branch to expedite bank linkages.
- Compile, share successful business models across state missions, create qualified national focus team for developing commodity value chains, market linkages for livelihood expansion.
- Incentivise retention, career progression, global placements monitor; improve quality of placements to increase retention under DDU-GKY, etc.

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): Reckoning wage to material ratio at District Level

MGNREGA guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment, in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The underlying objective of the scheme is to enhance the livelihood security of the poor households in rural areas of the country. Besides offering livelihood security, MGNREGA's goals include rejuvenating natural resource base, creating productive rural asset base, stimulating local economy by providing safety net to rural poor, ensuring women empowerment and strengthening grass root democratic institutions.

Often it has been experienced that 60:40 wage and material ratio reckoned at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level creates hurdles in construction of some good durable assets like school or hospital buildings etc. To give more flexibility for the creation of durable and quality assets under MGNREGA, NITI Aayog had recommended that the ratio of labour and material component for overall works done by the GPs or any other Agency is to be reckoned at the District level instead of the Panchayat level. This will go a long way in creating some good durable and quality assets under the MGNREGA.

ENERGY & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Energy and International Cooperation Vertical handles all aspects of the value chain of the energy sector. The areas of focus are sub-divided into Power, New & Renewable Energy, Coal, Gas, Nuclear and Petroleum. Overseas engagements in the space of Energy and International Cooperation also form a part of the work profile of this vertical.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

1. NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the task of framing National Energy Policy (NEP). As a first step, NITI Aayog, with the help of its Knowledge Partners, carried out a series of consultations with Central and State Governments, Industry, Academia, regulatory bodies and institutions for inputs on key thematic areas. These inputs were then woven into the policy document, the draft of which was circulated to all line ministries in March 2016.

2. A sub-committee was constituted by Ministry of Power, and led by Adviser (Energy), NITI Aayog, for finalising India's possible energy mix till the year 2030 to provide inputs to the formulation of India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. The electricity demand in 2030, along with various other parameters proposed from the IESS, 2047 were majorly incorporated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while framing the final INDCs.

3. NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the International Energy Agency and TERI, organized a workshop titled 'India Energy Outlook' on April 13, 2015. The workshop was a part of the IEA's 2015 edition of the World Energy Outlook, which has an in-depth focus on India. The vertical was also instrumental in providing key inputs for the development of the same.

4. As part of the Sustainable Growth Working Group (Constituted under the Indo-US Energy Dialogue Framework), in the spirit of encouraging collaboration between the Indian and the US research communities, NITI Aayog has identified topics to conduct studies in areas of energy. Some of the studies awarded are: (i) Energy-Water-Food nexus (ii) Water foot prints of the energy sector, and (iii) Development of an energy data-portal.

To enable development of the energy-data portal, workshops on Energy Data Management were organized with the participation of MOSPI, various line Ministries, Government Departments, and knowledge partners to work out the existing data gaps in the energy sector of the country, and the roadmap to address the same by constructing a comprehensive data portal for the Indian energy sector.

NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Catering to a request of the Ministry of Finance, NITI Aayog constituted an Expert Group for proposing the financial options to meet the 175 GW target for renewable energy by 2022. The group made a bold assessment for moderate public funding and reinforced the need for robust non-monetary interventions to achieve this target.

NITI Aayog constructed a "Report on India's Renewable Electricity Roadmap 2030" which summarises the opportunities and barriers to renewable Energy and the rationale as well as the benefits and costs of its adoption within the context of the Indian Power System. This was done by a comprehensive stakeholder-driven "roadmap" exercise. The report was launched in February, 2015 during RE-Invest-2015.

NITI Aayog facilitated the development of a tool for geo-spatial analysis of Solar and Wind Energy under the Sustainable Growth Working Group (SGWG), a collaborator framework under the Indo-US energy dialogue.

The SGWG Solar and Wind, a collaborative effort of Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is a web tool and resource to identify areas with a high potential for renewable energy development. It is also a software solution to simplify the collection, search and sharing of data. NITI Aayog being the geospatial centre will house this data repository.

NITI Aayog received the Five Star Energy Efficiency Rating from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in February 2015, becoming the first Government building in India to achieve this rating by carrying out an energy efficiency retrofit. NITI Aayog received the National Energy Conservation Award 2015 for the same in December 2015.



Backed by a successful evidence base, NITI Aayog was also able to bring about a policy change for the implementation of the ESCO model in all Government buildings in Delhi.



POWER

1. Examination of proposals of CCEA/PIB/EFC/SFC of projects and other policy issues related to the Power Sector and conveying views of NITI Aayog to the concerned Ministry and Departments.
2. The theme Chapter on 'Power Sector' of Appraisal Document of the 12th Plan was contributed by the vertical.
3. Detailed status notes have been prepared on rural electrification and clean cooking mechanisms in the country to provide inputs to National Energy Policy.
4. The vertical worked closely with the Sub-Groups aiming to formulate the National Electricity Plan.
5. Workshops, conferences and meetings of the 19th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India were attended by the officers of the vertical.
6. Proposals for revised cost estimates of Koteshwar HEP (480MW) – THDCIL, Uri-II (240MW) & Sewa-II (120MW) HEP of NHPC, Rampur HEP (412MW), HP, Tripura Gas based Power Project (101MW), Monarchak of NEEPCO were examined and meetings of the Standing Committee on time & cost overrun for fixing responsibility were attended by the officers of this Vertical.
7. The vertical was also instrumental in providing inputs regarding the targets/achievements of Power Sector Schemes (Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana & Integrated Power Development Scheme) under level-2 infrastructure for review by the Prime Minister.
8. Provided comments on Power Sector issues for Integration Action Plan for LWE districts.
9. The officers of the vertical participated and contributed to the meetings of the Steering Committee on Demand Side Management Scheme of Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Empowered Committee on Transmission System.

10. The Officers in the Vertical participated in Performance Review and MoU Meetings of the Power Sector. The meetings of Steering Committee/Monitoring Committee on Integrated Power Development Scheme, Power System Development Fund and Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana were also attended.

11. Examined the proposal of Ministry of Power regarding revised guidelines of UMPPs and provided comments.

COAL

1. Completed the process for the assessment of coal demand for the Annual Plan 2015-16 of the Ministry of Coal by taking in various parameters like sectorial growth, specific consumption norms for Power Sector and sectorial projection in the cases of captive power, cement and sponge iron.

Examination of proposals of CCEA/PIB/IMG of coal mining projects and other policy issues related to the Coal Sector.

2. Participation in the meetings to find out modalities for the allotment/linkage of coal blocks for non-regulated sector through e-auction and Inter-Ministerial Group to convey the views of NITI Aayog to taking investment decisions etc.

3. Participation in and contribution to Performance Review, MoU Meetings of the sector and various seminars on Coal and Energy Sectors organised by different research Institutes.

4. Representation and contribution to various meetings on Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) for Thermal Power Plants, Cement Plants & Sponge Iron etc.

5. Provided inputs related to coal sector for the review of level-2 infrastructure meeting by the Prime Minister.



In 2014, NITI Aayog developed the Government of India's first dynamic and interactive web-based scenario building tools for the Indian energy sector, India Energy Security Scenarios, 2047. Keeping in mind the rapidly changing energy landscape of India, NITI Aayog developed a revamped version of the IESS, 2047, factoring in newer outputs, new technologies, and sectors that are gaining importance in the present scenario. To keep the tool relevant in the present policy space, the IESS V2.0 also builds in the recent development goals of the Government of India.



The IESS team conducted nationwide outreach workshops to increase the usability of this tool in tier II cities, educational institutions etc.



The IESS has recorded ~52000 visits till date, and is being used as a platform for shaping the vision of the National Energy Policy.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

1. Coordination of discussions on the subject “Stimulating India’s Oil & Gas Sector” on 5th January 2016, between the Hon’ble Prime Minister and Global Oil & Gas Experts: The discussion served fruitful and emphasised on the need to bring reforms in the Oil & Gas sector.
2. The theme Chapter on ‘Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector’ of Appraisal Document of 12th Plan was contributed by the vertical.
3. Representation and contribution to various committees of MoP&NG: One of the reports titled ‘Good International Petroleum Industry Practices (GIPIP)’ has been finalised.
4. Adviser (Energy) served as a Member on the Committee looking at the Policy for Grant of Extension of PSC contracts signed by the Government for awarding small and medium sized discovered fields to private joint ventures.

1. NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent with the International Energy Agency in March 2016. The Sol entails the exchange of ongoing joint research on relevant technologies, and analysis of global trends in pricing and supply of energy supplies, plus development of human resources development strategies for the energy sector.



2. NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent with the Institute of Energy Economics Japan to promote co-operation for the purpose of analysing issues related to the Energy Sector.



3. NITI Aayog finalized cooperative frameworks with the Development Research Centre (People’s Republic of China) and PEMANDU (Malaysia).

5. Adviser (Energy) as the co-chair of the G-20 Energy Security Working Group led discussions in Turkey in 2015.
6. Representatives from the vertical also participated in the Joint Working Group meeting on Sustainable Growth held at Washington DC, USA during September, 2015.

7. Subsequent to the signing of the finalisation of the cooperative framework between NITI Aayog and Development Research Centre (DRC), of People’s Republic of China, a dialogue was held at Beijing in November 2015. A discussion was also held with the Vice Mayor of the city of Shenzhen in China.



8. A delegation from the vertical visited the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Government of United Kingdom to for a knowledge exchange visit with DECC, as part of the Statement of Principles agreement between GoUK DECC and NITI Aayog. The visit aimed to to identify areas of further collaboration on energy modelling, further energy planning work for states/regions, engaging with academic institutions on energy economics and planning and sharing ideas with UK policymakers on how best to utilise the pathways calculator approach in effective policy making and its implementation.

NETWORKING WITH KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

The Energy vertical collaborates actively with various national and international agencies, including industries, academia, think-tanks etc. for research inputs for different sectors in the energy value chain. Some of the agencies that collaborated with the vertical for the India Energy Security Scenarios, 2047, and other projects in the year 2015-16 are the Prayas Energy Group, Center for Study of Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (C-STEP), IRADe, Centre for Policy Research, TERI, India Smart Grid Forum, FICCI, CII, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, U.S.A, Petrofed, among others.

ENGENDERING DEBATES ON KEY ENERGY ISSUES - CONTRIBUTION TO NITI BLOGS

The Energy Division has contributed to the intellectual discussions in the space of energy by contributing to the NITI Aayog Blogs. Blogs titled “Our Rising Energy Imports - What does it mean?”, “Electricity and Clean Cooking Strategy for India”, “NITI Aayog Collaborates with Top Global Energy Think-tanks”, and “NITI’s energy sector planning tool – IEES, 2047” have been contributed to engender debates on current issues being faced by the Indian energy space.

INFRASTRUCTURE

RESPONSIBILITIES

NITI Aayog’s Infrastructure Connectivity vertical is mandated to provide an integrated approach to transport sector by promoting efficient, sustainable, environment-friendly and regionally balanced transportation system.

INITIATIVES

1. 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 (VC) that recommended this project due to the low-cost funding, apart from a commitment to 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 VC to accelerate the execution of this project. The members of this committee include Railway Board Chairman, Foreign Secretary, Industrial Policy and Promotion Secretary and Economic Affairs Secretary.

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORT ISSUES

The vertical has been involved with the issues of regional transport, especially in the North East region, where large investment, approximately to the tune of Rs.10,000 crores per annum is being made to improve rail and road infrastructure. A status report on the same titled as 'Transport Infrastructure Development of North Eastern States' was prepared by the vertical in 2015. This report provides a detailed analysis of the on-going transport projects in the region and the way ahead to accelerate them.

In August 2015, the PMO asked NITI Aayog to engage with stakeholders and recommend the way forward on three projects namely Ruzaphema Airport Dimapur-Kohima Rail Project (both in Nagaland) and Tupul-Imphal Rail Project in Manipur. Adviser (Infrastructure Connectivity) conducted meetings with stakeholders and provided a way forward on all these projects.

The Division prepared a presentation for the meeting of chief ministers of the north eastern states with Hon'ble PM. This meeting was held in July 2015.

3. DE-BOTTLENECKING CRITICAL ON-GOING PROJECTS

During the year, the Infrastructure Connectivity vertical helped in the de-bottlenecking of some critical transport projects. The most important was Pakyong Airport Project in Sikkim near Gangtok which had been stopped due to public agitation on account of damage caused to houses in the vicinity of the construction site. Adviser (Infrastructure Connectivity) and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) made a site visit in April 2015 that led to signing of a MoU between Airport Authority of India, MoCA, Government of Sikkim and NITI Aayog. This MoU paved the way for resolution of disputes and the construction work resumed from 1st October, 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

- Ruzaphema Airport:
MoR was advised to check the alignment of Dimapur-Kohima rail line to explore the possibility of bringing it closer to the proposed airport at Ruzaphema to enable the area to be developed as a multimodal transport hub.
- Dimapur-Kohima Rail Project:
NITI recommended that the Dimapur-Kohima rail line be continued and all attempts should be made by the project authorities to complete the project by 2020.
- Tupul-Imphal Rail Line Project:
NITI recommended continuation of the project and stressed on its early completion. In order to save costs, it suggested exploring the possibility of combining a road tunnel with the planned rail tunnel in this section, as requested by MoRTH.



Fast-tracking critical projects: Adviser (Transport) and other officials at Pakyong Airport site

Other projects that accelerated with NITI Aayog's intervention 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. As a result of continuous monitoring at the project level, the rail-cum-road bridges at Patna and Munger have been commissioned in 2015-16.

4. PERFORMANCE REVIEW MEETINGS CHAIRED BY HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER:

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 priority for infrastructure development in the country and as a platform for cohesive decision making for the



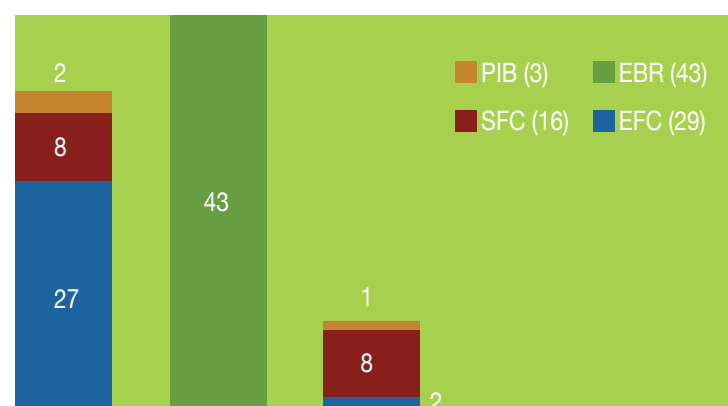
NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman and CEO at an infrastructure performance review meeting, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister

infrastructure sector. In 2015-16, six meetings were held. In May 2015, the annual targets were fixed for various infrastructure sectors. These were followed up by four more meetings in the second, third and fourth quarters respectively. The vertical is responsible for collecting data from the respective ministries, analysing them with the help of other related divisions in NITI Aayog and assisting the CEO in finalising the presentation to be made to the Hon'ble PM.

5. 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 Project Appraisal and Management Division (PAMD) before these were considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), Public Investment Board (PIB) and Expanded Board of Railways (EBR).

This year there has been a step up in rail investments and 26 electrification projects and 39 doubling projects have been examined and appraised by the Transport and PAMD divisions. Up to 31st March, 2016, investment proposals of Rs. 48,226.13 crores in 50 projects were examined and supported out of the total proposed investment of Rs. 77,504.66 crores in 62 projects received from Ministry of Railways during the year. This has accelerated the process of execution of much-needed capacity augmentation projects in the railways such as doubling and tripling of congested sections. During this process, NITI Aayog has worked very closely with the Ministry of Railways on suggesting alternative investment strategies including the need to fast-track dedicated freight corridors for new alignments.



6. INTERIM REPORT ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

After the Hon'ble PM raised the need for identifying the skill shortage in high capital intensive infrastructure sectors and directed that if there exist such shortages, the same may be identified and a road map be laid out for filling the same. NITI Aayog was requested to coordinate the meeting between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) and all infrastructure ministries. Subsequently, a Sub-Group on Transport, with stakeholders, was convened by Infrastructure Connectivity vertical to identify the skill requirement at cutting edge level.

The Sub-Group has submitted an interim report on 17th March, 2016, with an objective to take further action. This report brought out the current situation of manpower requirement and skill shortage in the transport sector. It also laid out a road map for augmenting skilled manpower for the transport sector. The final report is under preparation.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY

Cabinet notes

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 through consultation papers, cabinet notes and CoS notes. The cabinet notes examined during the year are presented below:

SECTOR	ROADS	CIVIL AVIATION	RAILWAYS	SHIPPING	TOTAL
CABINET NOTES	06	05	07	12	30

Some of the salient policy decisions taken by the ministries in consultation with Infrastructure Connectivity vertical during the year are as follows:

a. Rail Development Authority (RDA)

Infrastructure Connectivity vertical examined the proposal for setting up of the RDA and has suggested light touch regulation principles to be adopted.

b. Road Transport and Highways

In the year 2015-16, NITI Aayog consistently engaged itself with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for policy discussions to improve the project deliverables in the highway sector. Such deliberations include prioritisation of further investment in the highway sector for the next 10 year horizon; revision of NH fees; policy on one-time fund infusion into languishing BOT projects; and amendments in model concession agreement.

c. Road Safety

NITI Aayog supported the proposal of MoRTH for the creation of National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board and provided useful recommendations that are under consideration. This body would act as permanent secretariat to National Road Safety Council and provide technical support to GoI for carrying out the work relating to Road Safety under the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA).

d. National Sagarmala Apex Committee

NITI Aayog's VC was appointed a member of National Sagarmala Apex Committee which was constituted on 13th May, 2015. In its first meeting, held in October 2015, the Vice Chairman highlighted the much needed focus on port-led development to realize the objectives of Sagarmala Programme. He outlined the importance of linking ports to the production centres in the hinterland and reduction in cargo logistics cost. He stressed on the changes required in trade policy and duty structure to attract investment and ensure ease of doing business. He emphasised on the need to focus on textiles, leather and electronics sectors as they have huge employment potential. He has also suggested investment in a few large coastal economic zones to scale up manufacturing and exports.

The views of NITI Aayog have been included in the National Perspective Plan on Port as part of the Sagarmala Initiative.

e. Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase III (MUTP III)

The Infrastructure Connectivity vertical received a project proposal on MUTP Phase III. This project would augment the existing sub-urban rail infrastructure in Mumbai. The total project cost is Rs.10,085 crores to be financed largely through a World Bank loan. MUTP III will help in decongestion of existing overcrowded corridors, increasing number of services and vehicle kms., saving in terms of energy and travelling time, etc. NITI Aayog strongly supported the proposal and communicated the areas of improvement to Ministry of Railways which broadly covered the issues of financial sustainability, physical outcomes of the investments, introduction of air-conditioned coaches, automatic train protection system, east west corridor, future plans, transit-oriented development and communication-based train control technology. The importance of financial and technical sustainability of Mumbai Suburban System was also referred along with some research papers in support of these policy interventions.

f. **Appraisal Document of the 12th Plan:** Transport Division contributed to the preparation of appraisal document of the 12th Plan by authoring the section on transport as part of the infrastructure chapter. This provides an assessment of the performance of the transport sectors in the first three years in terms of physical as well as investment targets set out in the 12th Plan and lays out priorities for the future.

8. SECTOR SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS

RAILWAYS

- Monitoring of Implementation of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), manufacturing facilities for rolling stock, progress of containerisation, setting up of inter-modal hubs, etc.
- Matters related to investment in High Speed Rail, World Class Railway Station, Logistic Parks, Long Haul Trains, etc.
- Re-organization of Indian Railways on business lines, accountancy reforms, setting up of SPVs, etc.
- Railway National Projects and projects of strategic importance.
- Promoting alternative means of finance including PPP, participation of private sector in schemes of the railways in rolling stock and connectivity.
- Railway projects related to capacity expansion such as, New Lines Doubling, Gauge Conversion and Electrification.

ROADS

- Implementation of PMGSY-I and working out revised funding pattern.
- Approval of Second Rural Connectivity investment program by ADB.
- Implementation of SARDP-NE and road connectivity to LWE districts.
- NHDP and non NHDP projects.
- Expansion of NH network.
- Bharatmala Project.
- Amendments to the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for BOT (Toll) NH projects.

PORTS AND SHIPPING

- Cabotage relaxation policy for promoting Indian Shipping.
- Infrastructure status to Ship Building and Ship repair.
- 10 years of financial support to ship building and ship repair sector.

- Ongoing implementation on Jal Marg Vikas project to improve navigability and bring cargo traffic to NW-1.
- Corporatisation of Major Ports.
- Abolition of TAMP.
- Indo-Bangladesh Coastal Shipping Agreement and MoU for passenger and cruise vessels.
- Implementation of Chhabahar Port of Iran.
- Sagarmala Project.
- Award for Island-Mainland and Inter-island ships for A&N Islands.
- Approval of IPO of Cochin Shipyard.

CIVIL AVIATION

- Establishment of National Aviation University at Rae Bareilly, U.P.
- Policy matters relating to FDI in Aviation Sector.
- Development of Airports in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.
- Revised policy on route dispersal guidelines to improve services to inaccessible areas.
- Promoting air freight and logistics.
- Policy relating to the development of Aviation Hubs.

9. OTHER ITEMS OF WORK

- EFC/SFC proposals relating to the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Cabinet notes related to the above Ministries (other than those involving private investment).
- All matters relating to State specific issues in the transport sector.
- All matters relating to International Transport Forum.
- All matters relating to Construction Sector.
- National Transport Development Policy Committee (NTDPC) Report has been submitted and its implementation by various ministries is being followed up.

The salient activities undertaken during the year by Transport Division are as follows:

10. EXAMINATION OF INVESTMENT PROPOSALS OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR AND PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF CONCERNED MINISTRIES

Investment proposals received from Central Ministries of Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Civil Aviation were examined in association with Project Appraisal and Management Division before these were considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), Public Investment Board (PIB) and Expanded Board of Railways (EBR).

This year there has been a step up in rail investments - 26 electrification projects and 39 doubling projects have been examined and appraised by Transport and PAMD divisions in a very short time frame.

NITI Aayog is member of Project Steering Group on High Speed Railways and Elevated Sub-urban Corridor in Mumbai.

Number of EFC, SFC, and PIB notes (Sector-wise) examined in Transport Division

sector	EFC notes	SFC notes	PIB notes
Roads	27	08	02
Civil Aviation	-	-	-
Railways	-	-	-
Shipping	02	08	01
Total	29	16	03

11. Details of some of the salient policy decisions taken by Transport Sector Ministries in consultation and/or at the instance of transport division are as follows:-

(a) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

1. Setting-up of Independent Rail Tariff Authority.
2. Review of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on Railway Transport.
3. Revised Cost Estimates of DFC project.
4. Formation of 29 Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs) with various State Governments to mobilize resources for undertaking various rail infrastructure projects in States.
5. Revised delegation of powers for appraisal and approval of Government plan funded projects/ schemes related to Ministry of Railways.
6. Implementation of key high technology driven Rail Infrastructure Projects through Foreign Railway entity/Country.
7. Implementation of Critical Railway projects linked to Coal Evacuation in the State of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chattisgarh.

(b) MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

1. Proposal to introduce the Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2015 in the Parliament.
2. Creation of National Road Safety & Traffic Management Board through an executive order, pending passage of the Road Transport & Road Safety Bill, 2014.
3. Construction/development of about 7000km state roads along coastal/border areas under Bharat-Mala Pariyojna.
4. Amend the National Highways Fee (Determination and Collection) Rules, 2008.
5. Restoration of delegation of powers of appraisal of National Highway Projects to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
6. Approval of the Traffic for Capacity Augmentation of National Highways from two lane to four lane.
7. Segregation of Civil Construction Cost from Capital Cost of National Highways (NH) projects for appraisal and approval.
8. One time fund infusion to retrieve and physically complete languishing National Highway Projects - extension of provision available for BOT (toll) projects to BOT (Annuity) projects.
9. Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East (SARDP-NE) - Revised Investment approval for on-going Phase-A and investment approval for implementation of Phase-B.
10. Arunachal Pradesh Package for Roads and Highways.

In the roads and highways sector we have consistently engaged in policy discussions with the MoRTH to improve the project deliverables in the highway sector which include prioritisation of further investment in the highway sector for the next 10 year horizon; revision of NH fees; policy on one-time fund infusion into languishing BOT Projects and amendments to model concession agreement. We have strongly contributed to the formation of National Road Safety Transport Authority which is expected to improve the road safety scenario in the country.

(c) MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MORD) – PMGSY

1. In rural roads, the ministry's second rural connectivity investment programme under ADB funding.

(d) MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

1. Approval for signing of Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Maritime Transport.
2. Amendments in the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 for modernising the institutional structure of Major Ports.
3. Approval of Cabinet for entering into Maritime Agreement with the Arab Republic of Egypt.
4. Composite and integrated development of River Yamuna to achieve navigation and to develop water transport facilities.
5. Transfer of shares of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) in Irano Hind Shipping Company (IHSC), a joint Venture between SCI and Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), to IRISL.
6. Agreement on Coastal Shipping between India and Bangladesh for carrying out Coastal Shipping between the two countries.
7. Scheme to incentivise modal shift of cargo from Rail/Road to Waterway Transportation.
8. Indian Ship-building and Ship-repair industry - A strategy for promoting 'Make in India' initiative.
9. Waiver of Penal Interest on Government loans advanced to Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) from time to time.
10. Reimbursement of expenditure incurred by Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCI) in connection with execution of dredging work at Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP) on nomination basis.
11. Model Maritime Board Bill.
12. Transfer of 14.86 hectares of land from Farakka Barrage Project (FBP), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation of the Ministry of Shipping, with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) as it is a custodian, for the construction of a new navigational lock parallel to the existing navigational lock at Farakka.
13. Abolition of Tariff Authority for Major Ports - Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
14. Proposal for the enactment of a Central Legislation for declaring identified Inland Waterways as National Waterways and empower the Central Government to declare any waterway as National Waterway.
15. Approval of Cabinet for signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Spain on cooperation in Port matters.
16. Relaxation of Cabotage restrictions.

In ports and shipping – modernising the institutional structure of major ports; migration of PPP operators from 2005 to 2013 guidelines of TAMP; moving to a market determined tariff structure for major ports; grant of infrastructure status to ship building and repair industry and investment strategy for inland waterways sector.

(e) MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

1. Establishing Civil Aviation Authority.
2. Setting-up of National Aviation University.
3. Developing Aviation Hubs in India.
4. National Civil Aviation Policy 2015.
5. Grant of financial assistance from Govt. of India to the tune of Rs.700 crore to the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose of land acquisition required for expansion of Vijaywada Airport to international standards and the declaration of Vijaywada Airport as an International Airport, as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

INDUSTRY

The nature of activities in the Industry Vertical cuts across the manufacturing sector. In addition to offering NITI Aayog's perspective on inter-Ministerial policy consultations and participating in Committees and Development Councils of significance, this vertical takes initiatives on issues of importance cutting across different Ministries/Departments. The increasing interaction and engagement with the State Governments, Industry Associations and other stakeholders in different industry segments has added a new dimension to the scope of work.

The vertical deals with subjects pertaining to Ministries of Steel, Textiles, Corporate Affairs and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Departments of Fertilisers, Public Enterprises, Heavy Industries, Industrial Policy and Promotion, Chemicals and Petrochemicals. Plan schemes of the Departments of Biotechnology, Atomic Energy, Science and Industrial Research, Petroleum and Natural Gas too come under its preview.

INITIATIVES

1. NITI Aayog – IDFC Enterprise Survey on Business Regulatory Environment in India is a major initiative of the 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. The Survey will complement the Governments 'Make in India' initiative by taking stock of issues faced and providing impetus to State-level reforms that will make it easier to do business in India, while fostering competitive and cooperative federalism.

In order to finalise the scope and methodology of the Enterprise Survey, a Group under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog was constituted in June 2015. In line with the outlined methodology, the survey of about 3000 units (including 500 start ups and service sector units) and 150 associations is planned. Further, M/s. IMRB International will be carrying out the survey in the States during March 2016 to June 2016 and has been awarded the work.

2. Way Forward for the Indian Steel Industry: (Which?) Member, NITI Aayog had a meeting with Senior Officers of Government of Odisha and representatives of the Steel Industry at Bhubaneswar on 7.01.2016 regarding the current stage of progress and problems in Steel Industry in Odisha. The 'Disability Factors' in Indian steel industry

and the way forward was further deliberated on in an inter-Ministerial meeting wherein senior officers from the three States shared their views.

3. The CEO, NITI Aayog, chaired the Empowered Committee to look into the revival mechanism of closed units of Fertiliser Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Limited (HFCL). Adviser (Industry) represents NITI Aayog in an Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs) constituted on Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy on P&K fertiliser and other subsidy issues by the Department of Fertiliser. The issues regarding P&K fertilisers brought for the consideration of the Committee were on subsidy, APM gas allocation/pricing etc. In addition to the examination of restructuring proposal of Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) and Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation Limited (BVFCL), the policy issues with regard to improvement of subsidy disbursement, production, distribution of fertilisers, balanced use etc. were also examined.

4. A study report on 'Access to affordable medicines in India – Challenges to the Pharmaceutical Industry & Building Consensus on Pricing and Patent Access Policy' was finalised in June 2015. The report has emphasised the need for Pricing and Patient Access Policy Framework that can ensure effective, appropriate and sustainable access in the context of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The findings and recommendations were discussed in a meeting organised by the Division, on 29th October, 2015 in the NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog, Department of Pharmaceuticals and M/o H&FW may work together to evolve a national strategy for access to affordable medicines keeping in view the recommendations made in the Study report as a starting point.

5. The Vertical was also involved in rendering technical advice, from a techno-economic perspective, on Investment proposals/schemes for EFC/PIB/SFC Notes. The Division actively participates in the Development Councils constituted by different Ministries/Departments.

6. The revival and restructuring proposals of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were scrutinised/examined and comments were offered on the draft CCEA Notes. All policy issues regarding CPSUs emanating from Department of Public Enterprises and representation in Apex Committee for conferment of Maharatna/Navratna status is also dealt by the Industry Vertical. The issues brought for the consideration for the High Power Committee under the Cabinet Secretary on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CPSEs, were examined.

Officers of the division were involved in Inter-Ministerial Committee/Empowered Committee/Apex Committee of Department of Industrial policy and Promotion for effective implementation of various schemes like North-East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDLP) and Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS). Various FDI policy issues were examined and measures for improvement were suggested. The Division also provides support to Trustee on Board of Trustees of DMIC Project Implementation Trust from NITI Aayog.

7. The 'Make in India' initiative in the textile sector lays stress on Skill, Scale & Speed, 'Zero Defect and Zero Effect' on environment to make the Textile Industry globally competitive. The major initiatives in the Textile Sector was the launching of an Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS). The amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), approved by the CCEA in December 2015, would give boost to apparel and garment segment of the Textile Industry, which not only represents the top end of the value chain in the Textile Industry but also generates maximum employment per unit investment. Three Brown field and two Greenfield Projects have been approved under the Integrated Processing Development Scheme (IPDS) to facilitate the compliance of

environmental standards. Skill development plays a crucial role for the Textile sector. Under the Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDC), the target set for skilling in 2015-16 is of 4 lakh persons. The officers of the Industry Vertical were closely involved in appraisal of these initiatives of Ministry of Textiles.

8. The investment proposal of Department of Atomic Energy for enhancement in Uranium production in the country and other proposals were examined. Adviser (Industry) represents NITI Aayog in the Steering Committee constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to implement Plastic Parks.

9. The major Programmes in Village and Small Enterprises (VSE) Sector are under purview of Industry Vertical. The issues concerning VSE Sector and the needs of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have additional dimensions that are different from large scale industries. The Issues related to MSMEs and Khadi & Coir sector emanating from the Ministry of MSME and issues concerning Handloom, Handicraft, Wool, Silk and Powerloom sector under Ministry of Textiles, are dealt by the Industry Vertical. The officers of this Vertical participated in review meetings organised from time to time by the Ministries. The major Programmes under purview of VSE Sector includes:

- i. MSME Cluster Development Programmes
- ii. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme
- iii. Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for MSEs
- iv. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
- v. Khadi Reform & Development Programme
- vi. Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)
- vii. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- viii. National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- ix. Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- x. National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP)
- xi. Infrastructure Development & Capacity Building
- xii. Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) in Sericulture
- xiii. Mega Clusters Scheme
- xiv. Rejuvenation, Modernisation and Technology Upgradation of Coir Industry

A Workshop on Handlooms to discuss a Consultation Paper was organised by NITI Aayog on 20.02.2015 under the chairpersonship of Ms. Kiran Dhingra, former Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. Thereafter, CEO, NITI Aayog sought the advice of Chief Secretaries of the States who attended the Workshop in defining the key challenges in Handloom Clusters in the States to assist NITI in developing a customised strategy and execution plan. The response received from the States was shared with the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles for appropriate action by them.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financial Year 2015-16 witnessed a lot of structural changes in the financial landscape of the country. The Union Government has accepted Fourteenth Finance Commission's (FFC's) recommendation to increase the States' share of Union Tax proceeds from 32% to 42%, the biggest increase in the share ever with effect from Union Budget 2015-16. With the motive of increasing the financial autonomy of the States, the untied grants to the States increased while the discretionary grants like Normal Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance, Special Central Assistance were discouraged.

In wake of these changes NITI Aayog took its new role of fostering cooperative federalism with a prime mandate to monitor and evaluate the Public Expenditure.

INITIATIVES

Allocation to States: Departing from the erstwhile Planning Commission's role of allocating Plan Grants to the States, the only financial intervention by NITI in 2015-16 was through One time allocation of Special Assistance of Rs.20,000 crore under Demand No. 37 of Union Expenditure Budget 2015-16 has been made to States towards different committed liabilities like BRGF, Bundelkhand, PMRP, LWE districts, Sixth Schedule areas, irrigation projects, support for developing water sources for arsenic and fluoride affected areas and support for States to deal with post FFC related issues.

Analysis & Study of State Finances: NITI Aayog maintains a database on State Finances and undertakes a technical analysis of the same. The division undertook the responsibility of collating information on State Finance from all State Governments, including the information on social services expenditure for the purpose of maintenance of database and analysis.

On assessing the financial management of States, five States were identified and a study has been initiated in respect of these States for arriving at necessary solution to optimally utilise each of their available fiscal space and for better management of macroeconomic/public finance.

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.

State-wise analysis of total transfers to the States in 2015-16 over 2014-15: Total transfers to the State include transfers from devolution of Central Taxes, Central Assistance to State & UT Plan (CASP) and Finance Commission Grants. The analysis helped in re-enforcing the fact that most of the States except three, have received more transfers in FY2015-16 compared to 2014-15.

The study of the Social Sector expenditure of the States in FY 2015-16 over FY 2014-15 revealed that in twelve out of fifteen states, health expenditure as a proportion of the GSDP has seen a rise. The expenditure pattern in education is similar. It has risen in eleven out of the fifteen states shown.

In the four states where it has declined, the change is less than 0.5 percentage points. Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are two States in which both health and education expenditures as proportions of GSDP have declined.

Tentatively, it is fair to say that the available data do not give any reason for alarm that the States may have acted irresponsibly in the wake of increased flexibility in spending.

Public Financial Management System (PFMS) earlier known as Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System, has been a Central Sector Scheme of NITI Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission) started in April, 2008. It aims at establishing a suitable on-line Management Information System (MIS) and Decision Support System (DSS) for fund management of the Schemes of the Government of India. The system seeks to track fund disbursement from Government of India under Schemes and ultimately report utilisation under these Schemes at different levels of implementation in States/UTs on a real-time basis.

PFMS through its interface with banking networks, facilitates end-to-end beneficiary management and electronic payment system to the bank accounts/Aadhar-linked bank accounts of the beneficiaries and provides an online/real-time MIS to various stakeholders. In addition, the scope of PFMS has since expanded beyond its mandated role. In 2014, Department of Expenditure (DEA) carried out major interventions on the PFMS platform for digitisation of accounts covering all payments and receipts including plan and non-plan as also to subsume existing accounting systems. However, with the implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) being done through PFMS operated by the Office of CGA the scheme has been transferred to DEA w.e.f 7.07.2015.

Technical Comments on reports of various Cabinet Note Committees/Commissions/Proposals/Projects

The vertical has examined and provided technical inputs on various Cabinet notes like restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Establishing Non-statutory Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA) and Promotion of Payments through electronic means.

It has also provided comments on the Punchhi Commission Report on Centre-State Relations; Standing Committee on Finances on review of Planning Process, Demand for Grants of Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning etc. Comments have also been provided on the proposal from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), World Bank Knowledge partnership for enhancing supervisory methods and capacity of financial sector, and on World Bank Technical Assistance (TA) support for implementation of Puducherry State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC). The vertical has also contributed to the recommendations of High Level Expert Committee on Efficient Management of Public Expenditure, especially for doing away with the Plan and Non-Plan distinction.

External Engagements

A Conference on 'Role of NITI Aayog - Consultation with States' was organised with State Planning & Finance Secretaries at the Vigyan Bhavan on 30th November, 2015. This provided the States a platform to discuss their budgeting and financial issues.

NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Division is involved in formulation of policies, development of strategies and appraisal of programmes for sustainable management of water resources in the country.

INITIATIVES

1. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been conceived by the Central Government with a vision to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation for all agricultural farms in the country (Har Khet Ko Pani), to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity. The programme has been approved for implementation across the country with an indicative outlay of Rs.50,000 crore in five years. It has four components, namely, (a) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), (b) Har Khet Ko Pani, (c) Per Drop More Crop and (d) Watershed Development.

An Inter-Ministerial National Executive Committee (NEC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog to oversee programme implementation, allocation of resources, inter-ministerial coordination etc. Suitable strategies to accelerate the pace of programme implementation were recommended by the National Executive Committee (NEC) in its first meeting held on 29th September, 2015 in NITI Aayog. As recommended by the NEC, a committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture), NITI Aayog has been constituted to develop a comprehensive road map for PMKSY. The draft Road Map for PMKSY has been prepared and will be finalised by the Committee soon after consultation with States, concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders. In the draft road-map, implementation of Last Mile Connectivity Projects so as to fully utilize already created irrigation potential has been accorded high priority in addition to prioritized major and medium irrigation projects under AIBP.

The second meeting of the NEC was held on 19th February, 2016 in NITI Aayog. In the second meeting, recommendations were made for simplification in guidelines and procedures for release of funds so as to expedite the implementation of PMKSY projects. It was further decided to accord the highest priority to projects under Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) in order to fully utilise the already created irrigation potential.

2. Prioritisation of Projects for Implementation under AIBP has a mandated target to cover more area under assured irrigation as early as possible. A total of 23 on-going irrigation projects have been prioritised for completion by March, 2017. About 4.83 lakh ha area is expected to get irrigation coverage after completion of these prioritised projects. A team of officers from NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation visited 22 projects and assessed their physical progress. Project implementation schedule and milestones are being finalized in consultation with the States. This will facilitate proper monitoring in a way to ensure timely completion of these projects.

3. A study on 'Water Framework for India' has been initiated by NITI Aayog, with World Bank assistance, to develop a framework for development and sustainable management of water resources in India. The study would capture good practices across various States in the country and also from other countries. Learnings from good practices will be useful in the formulation of suitable strategies to address various issues affecting the water sector.

4. **Amendments to the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** was enacted for adjudication of disputes related to waters of inter-State rivers and river valleys. Amendments have been proposed to the Act with a view to further streamlining the settlement/adjudication process of inter-State river water disputes. The proposed amendments will facilitate strengthening of institutional arrangements for timely settlement of water disputes. Consultation with the States and other stakeholders on the proposed amendments were held by NITI Aayog; and their observations were compiled and forwarded to the MoWR, RD&GR to incorporate in the proposed amendments suitably.

5. **Preparation of road map for River Grid:** The Water Resources division of NITI Aayog has taken up the initiative to develop a road map for inter-linking of rivers. The road map would be developed in association with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR) and the Task Force constituted by the Ministry on Inter-linking of Rivers. The status was reviewed and suitable strategies were further formulated to expedite the preparation of the road-map of River Grid in a meeting held in NITI Aayog on 18.3.2016 under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture), NITI Aayog. It was decided in the meeting that the Ministry (MoWR, RD&GR) would share the details of works undertaken by them on Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) projects with NITI Aayog. The details would include the current status and the action-plan in respect of each of the ILR projects for the next three to four years. These details would facilitate preparation of an effective road-map for inter-linking of rivers.

6. Appraisal of Projects/Programmes

(i) The memorandum for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for “National Hydrology Project Phase III” was appraised in NITI Aayog and observations were sent to the Ministry of finance. The project with an estimated cost of Rs 3,640 crore has been proposed for implementation with World Bank assistance. Implementation of the proposed project is expected to facilitate improved data accessibility for sustainable management of water resources.

(ii) A proposal prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for “Transforming Groundwater Management” with an estimated cost of Rs.6,000 crore was examined and observations were communicated to the Department of Economic Affairs. The project has been envisaged as a National Programme on sustainable ground water development and management and proposed for implementation with assistance from World Bank. Strengthening and capacity building of the States and the local institutions for sustainable management of ground water resources has also been included in the project proposal.

(iii) The memorandum for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to set up “National Water Informatics Centre” (NWIC) with an estimated cost of Rs.39.77 crore was appraised in NITI Aayog and observations were sent to the Ministry of Finance. It has been proposed to set up NWIC with an objective to develop, maintain and update regularly a comprehensive information system on water resources.

(iv) The proposal of the MoWR, RD&GR for the implementation of the Ken-Betwa interlinking of Rivers project at an estimated cost of Rs.17,697 crore with assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) was examined by NITI Aayog and the observations were sent to the Ministry of Finance. The Ken-Betwa would be the first Inter-linking of Rivers Project for transfer of water from water-surplus to water-deficit areas. The project is expected to cover about 7 lakh hectares under irrigation, generate about 78 MW power and provide drinking water facility to about 14 lakh persons.

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

The Environment and Forest division is concerned with Policies, Plans and Programmes for sustainable management of the 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) to achieve environmental sustainability.

INITIATIVES

1. Appraisal of Projects/Programmes:

(a) The draft Memorandum prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for Standing Finance Committee in respect of the Central Sector Scheme on “National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change” was examined in NITI Aayog and observations were conveyed to the Ministry. The proposal was for the establishment of a fund to serve as a corpus for adaptation of activities at National and State levels. The scheme was proposed to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under on-going activities through the schemes of State and Central Government to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.

(b) The Draft Memorandum prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for Standing Finance Committee in respect of the Central Sector Scheme on ‘National Mission on Himalayan Studies’ (NMHS) was examined in NITI Aayog and observations were sent to the Ministry. Through the scheme, it is envisaged to provide much needed focus on addressing key issues relating to conservation as well as enhancement and sustainable management of natural resources in the Indian Himalayan region.

(c) Two projects proposed by the Government of Meghalaya namely, ‘Community Led Ecosystem Management Project’ with an estimated cost of Rs.1,200 crore and ‘Meghalaya Community Forestry and Bio-diversity Conservation Project’ with an estimated cost of Rs.1,000 crore were examined and comments were sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The ‘Community Led Ecosystem Management Project’ has been proposed for implementation with World Bank assistance and the ‘Meghalaya Community Forestry and Bio-diversity Conservation Project’ has been proposed for implementation with assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

(d) The Draft Memorandum prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for Expenditure Finance Committee in respect of the project ‘Pollution Abatement of River Mula-Mutha at Pune’ was appraised. The project has been proposed for implementation with an estimated cost of Rs. 990.26 crore under National River Conservation Plan with assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The expected outcome of the proposed project was reduction in municipal sewage/pollution load from Pune entering into the river Mula-Mutha along-with improvement in water quality, bio-diversity and eco-system of the river.

(e) In addition, the following proposals were examined in NITI Aayog and comments were submitted to the concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies:-

- The ‘Bio-diversity Conservation and Community Development Project’ (estimated cost - Rs.980.56 crore) submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh;

- The project titled 'Development of River Catchments in Tripura for Climate Change Adaptation, Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihood by Harnessing the Landscape' (estimated cost - Rs.1,150 crore) submitted by the Government of Tripura;
- The project titled 'Sustainable Forest Development for Livelihood Systems and Bio-diversity Conservation in Manipur' (estimated cost - Rs.749.57 crore) submitted by the Government of Manipur;
- The proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for grant of a full-fledged autonomous status to Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) located at Coimbatore.

2. Appraisal of legislations proposed by the MoEF&CC for consideration by the Cabinet:

(a) Note for the Cabinet on the draft Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 and the proposal to introduce the said bill in the Parliament was examined in NITI Aayog and comments were given to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The proposed legislation seeks to provide an appropriate institutional mechanism, both at the Centre and in each State and UT, to ensure expeditious utilisation of amounts realised in lieu of forest land diverted for non-forestry purpose. The proposed legislation has the provisions to ensure utilisation of these amounts in efficient and transparent manner. The proper and timely utilisation of these amounts will mitigate the impact of diversion of such forest land for non-forestry purpose.

(b) The note for the Cabinet regarding amendments in Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 through a new legislation, namely, Environmental Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was examined. The proposed amendments are expected to improve the effectiveness of implementation of environmental laws and help in preventing pollution and improving environment quality.

(c) The proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for revision of rates of Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land diverted for non-forestry purpose was examined in NITI Aayog and observations were sent to the Ministry (MoEF&CC).

MINERALS

The Minerals division of NITI Aayog deals with development of strategies for sustainable extraction of mineral resources.

INITIATIVES

1. Self-reliance in Critical Strategic Resource of Rare Earths

Rare Earths (REs) are important resources for use in high-tech applications in various strategic sectors such as defence, atomic energy, space, oil, green energy, electronics etc. It is needed to develop a business plan or a road map for exploration and sustainable mining of rare earths and also for manufacturing RE-based end-products in the country. Initiatives in that direction have been taken up by NITI Aayog.

Strategies to achieve self-reliance in critical strategic resources like Rare Earths were discussed with experts in a meeting held on 21st July, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog. As per the decision taken in the meeting, an Expert Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore for developing a focused strategy for individual Rare Earth Metals from mineral exploration to manufacturing end products.

The Terms of Reference for the Expert Committee are as under:-

- To prepare a Status Paper on India's present and future requirements (2050) and capacity development for individual rare earth metals;
- To review policy and programmes relating to classification, exploration and processing of rare earth resources;
- To review technology needed for exploration, mining, extraction and manufacturing of rare earth based end products;
- To advice on exploration of rare earth resources, both in coastal and hinterland regions;
- To suggest strategy for developing R&D Centre(s) and economically viable indigenous technology towards self-reliance;
- To review and advise on the strategy on international cooperation, towards procurement of rare earth resources from abroad to meet growing demands of end products;
- To estimate the human resource requirements for meeting growing demands of rare earth based end products and advise on required institutional framework for meeting the demand;
- To recommend measures for encouraging private sector investment in mining, extraction and manufacturing rare earth based end products.

The first meeting of the Expert Committee was held on 5th October, 2015 in NITI Aayog. As per the decision taken in the first meeting of the Expert Committee, five Working Groups on various themes such as Resources Identification, Demand/Applications Identification, Process Technology Identification, Regulatory Mechanism for Illegal Mining, and Overseas and Private Sector Investment were constituted by NITI Aayog. The meetings of these Working Groups were held in November and December, 2015. These Working Groups have provided valuable inputs to the Expert Committee for the formulation of suitable strategies not only to achieve self-reliance in critical strategic resources like Rare Earths but also for becoming a leading manufacturer of RE-based end-products in the World. The Expert Committee is likely to finalise its report soon.

2. Note for the Cabinet for setting up of a Society for organising 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Delhi-NCR in the year 2020 and promoting geoscience in the Indian subcontinent was prepared by the Ministry of Mines and examined in NITI Aayog. The 36th IGC would offer an opportunity to upgrade geoscience and geoscientific research in India to meet the challenges emanating from global changes and ever increasing quest for natural resources. It would benefit geoscientists of the Indian subcontinent engaged in geoscientific mapping, mineral exploration, geotechnical investigations etc.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INITIATIVES

1. Atal Innovation Mission

To build and accelerate the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country, NITI Aayog has established the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU).

The objective of the mission is to serve as a platform for world class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Startup business and other self-employment activities particularly in technology driven areas. Accordingly, the activities of the mission will cover:

- a) Entrepreneurship promotion - for successful promotion of entrepreneurs and startups, and
- b) Innovation promotion - to provide a platform for innovative ideas generated

In order to architect the functioning, operations and working of the Mission, an Expert Committee was formed by NITI Aayog to conceptualise the framework of Atal Innovation Mission. The committee has given recommendations covering both innovation and entrepreneurial aspects.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Introducing competitions to solve socio-economic challenges through disruptive innovations
- Cultivate young minds in India through tinkering with dynamic equipment
- Increase the efficiency of incubators
- Harness Corporate Funds to finance R&D
- Reform the Education System, curriculum and teaching methods
- Identify innovation as a high risk area by accepting failure at a societal level
- Improve the Ease of Doing Business through reforms in taxes, capital, labour markets, IPR etc.
- Promote social inclusion by involving more women, rural population etc.
- Celebrate innovation and entrepreneurship at the national level

A Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) was also constituted chaired by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to provide guidance on a continual basis for effective implementation of the mission and achieving the stated goals.

A MISSION DIRECTORATE WAS ALSO SET UP TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFIED INITIATIVES UNDER AIM:

- a) Grand Challenges to find ultra-low cost solutions to India's most pressing problems
- b) Establishing 500 Atal Tinkering Laboratories
- c) Establishing 100 Atal Incubation Centers
- d) Scaling-up 10 established Incubation Centers

The guidelines for the implementation of the above activities were prepared after multiple intensive stakeholder consultations and communicated with the approval of MHLC. The same have been uploaded on the website of NITI Aayog. Schools, academic institutions of higher learning/universities, individuals and private organisations are encouraged to take advantage of these programmes.

2. To promote Make in India, initiatives have been taken for working out a road map for Manufacturing of Body Armour and related facilities for the security and defence sectors. The perceived security threat is changing rapidly along with advancements in ammunition. Therefore, it has been felt to give a focused attention to the subject of manufacturing of Body Armour and the associated activities.

A Core Group has been constituted under Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog to discuss aspects such as manufacturing of raw materials, finished products, R&D and testing and development facilities with all stakeholders from industries, academia, R&D organisations, Ministries, security agencies, para-military forces and defence personnel. The objective of the exercise was to work out a road map for addressing comprehensively manufacturing of Body Armour, including raw materials indigenously.

Based on the deliberations in the meetings, the following tentative recommendations were made:

- Identify the status of the technologies/infrastructure available in the country.
- Evaluate the capacity and capability of the existing technologies/infrastructure in terms of demand from the users and work out a programme to expand the operation.
- Set up of new as well as scale up of raw material manufacturing facilities/infrastructure for aramid/Kevlar of high density polyethylene/ceramic power in the country to reduce the import of these materials.
- Prepare a road map covering the Indian capabilities and capacities in personnel armour.
- Study the prospects of nanotechnology in the area.

3. Energy sources and energy security has been attracting the concerns of the policy makers. Worldwide, alternate energy sources are being identified and promoted to meet the energy demands. In this connection, Methanol as an alternate energy source is attracting the attention of researchers across the world.

To understand and evaluate a Roadmap for Methanol Economy in India a technology group has been constituted in NITI Aayog under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member to work out on aspects such as production, transportation, storage, utilization and R&D of Methanol Economy. The deliberations in these meetings stressed on:

- Exploring the use of High Ash Coal for methanol production
- Use of biomass and gases from cement companies for production of methanol
- R&D for the production of methanol from the feedstocks like sugar bagasse; pine needle
- Survey on the uses of methanol in transport sector

4. NITI Aayog is also establishing working relationship with international think-tank on Methanol Institution for exchange of literature, research findings and experts to promote methanol economy in the country. An International Seminar on methanol economy is also proposed to organize by inviting subject experts by NITI Aayog.

5. The Oversight Committee for the implementation of National Data Sharing & Accessibility Policy met two times to identify the new data sets of NITI Aayog for uploading on the data portal and updating of existing data sets. Major socio-economic indicators/state profiles of 29 States were uploaded on data portal. These data sets would help planners & researchers.

6. The proposals pertaining to SFC/EFC/SPAC and Cabinet/CCEA Notes of Central Scientific Ministries/Departments like DOS, DAE (R&D), DST, DBT, DSIR/CSIR and MoES were examined and commented upon.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E) Division in NITI Aayog is concerned with the policies and programmes to protect & safeguard the interests of the socially, educationally and economically weaker sections of the society such as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), Nomadic, Semi Nomadic & De-Notified Tribes (NT, SNT & DNTs), Safai Karmacharies, Minorities and other Vulnerable Groups such as Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Victims of Substance Abuse/Drug Addicts, Beggars/Destitutes and Transgender Persons. The Division also renders advice for formulation and implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Grants under Article 275(1) and Special Central Assistance for the SCSPs & TSPs. In the process, the Division acts as the Nodal Division in NITI Aayog for Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Minority Affairs and also State Departments dealing with the welfare and development of the socially, educationally & economically weaker sections and other social defence groups.

INITIATIVES

1. A major task undertaken by the Division during the period pertaining to the review of Committed Liabilities under the Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS) for Scheduled Caste (SC) students on the directions of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) keeping in view the huge accumulated liabilities. Accordingly, a joint team of the NITI Aayog and the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, led by Adviser, Social Justice, visited three states, namely, Maharashtra, Punjab and Telengana.

2. The Report of the Joint team led to formation of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.S. Malik, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog to examine the issue on a holistic basis. The Committee submitted its report to the PMO and the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment in January 2016. The Committee recommended a number of measures to streamline the processes, including revamping certain provisions of the Scheme. The report was also subsequently sent to the Finance Secretary (in Expenditure Department) with a request for necessary action by the Department of Expenditure, especially with regard to clearance of the backlog of central arrears under the PMS scheme for SC students. It may be mentioned that the allocation for the Scheme was increased from Rs.1600 crore in B.E. 2015-16 to Rs.2700 crore in B.E. 2016-17.

3. A total of 22 proposals were considered in the Division and views of the NITI Aayog conveyed to the respective Ministries/Departments. Some of the important proposals received in the form of draft Cabinet Notes/EFC and SFC memorandum on which views of NITI Aayog were furnished during the period included (i) the 'National Policy on Drug Demand Reduction proposed for medical treatment and psycho-social rehabilitation of the drug addicts persons and facilitate Whole Person Recovery (WPR)'; (ii) 'Modernisation of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) (Kanpur) engaged in the manufacture and supply of Assistive Devices for Persons with Disabilities',

(iii) 'Enhancement of the Authorised Share Capital of the National Schedule Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) from existing level of Rs.1000 crore to Rs.1200 crore'; and (iv) 'Merger of Schemes under Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)', (v) and the proposal for an 'Umbrella Scheme for Empowerment of Transgender Persons as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme'. The SFC memorandum for "Modification in eligibility conditions under 'Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme' and 'Venture Capital Fund' for Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs were two other proposals which were examined and views of NITI Aayog conveyed to the Ministry with suggestions for improvement therein.

REPORT ON COMMITTED LIABILITIES UNDER THE PMS SCHEME FOR SC STUDENTS

A. Issues involved

- Lack of clarity about institutes/ students claiming scholarship.
- Very high rate of tuition fee charged by private professional institutes.
- Professional Colleges accounting for about 20% of the students yet consuming about 80% of the funds under the scheme.
- Wide variations in rates of tuition fee for similar courses across Government, Government Aided and Private Institutes.
- Lack of clarity regarding correct projections of funds by States/UTs due to non-adherence of time-lines for submission/recommendation of applications.
- Lack of monitoring.

B. Recommendations

- Need for Mapping of Institutes and courses.
- Implementation of scheme using e-governance systems/solutions.
- Establishment of uniqueness of the students through SSC roll number, month and year of passing, name of the Board, Aadhar seeding of bank account.
- Capping of tuition fee in private institutions at 1.5 times that of the Government institutions for similar courses.
- A student to be eligible for scholarship only for one course at same stage and strict time-line to submit/process application.
- Periodical physical inspection of Non-Government institutions with high proportion of SC students.

4. Meanwhile, a quick impact evaluation study of the scheme titled 'Nai Roshni - Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women' was initiated in NITI Aayog through the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Organisation (DMEO). The scheme is meant for empowering and instilling confidence among women from the minority community by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions so that they move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles and assert their rights, collectively or individually, in accessing services, facilities, skills, and opportunities besides claiming their due share of development benefits of the Government for improving their lives and living conditions. The findings of evaluation study are expected to provide inputs to bring about further changes, if any, in the scheme for its better implementation.

5. Similarly, the Social Justice Division has been working on the issue of revamping the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) so as to evolve the TRIs into top class Research Institutes. A study on TRIs has also been assigned to the National Institute of Labour Economic Research and Development (NILERD). The Final Report on revamping of TRIs is proposed to be prepared after receipt of the NILERD report on the study.

6. The Social Justice Division also participated as one of the Members of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to approve the plan proposals of States/UTs under SCA to TSP, Grants under Article 275(1) and Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana etc. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also constituted a Co-ordination Committee for implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan by Central Ministries/Departments. The Division represented NITI Aayog as one of the Members of the Coordination Committee in all its meetings. Similarly, the Division represented NITI Aayog in the Empowered Committee (EC) which sanctions projects under Multi-sectoral Development Programmes (MsDP) and Coordination Committee of Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for Minorities held under the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.

7. The NITI Aayog (Social Justice and Empowerment) is one of the member in the following Committees constituted in the Nodal Ministries / Departments i.e. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Minority Affairs:

- i. Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for Minorities.
- ii. Project Appraisal Committees for States /UTs (PAC) under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes.
- iii. Co-Ordination Committees for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), Multi-Sectoral Development Programme.
- iv. Research Advisory Committees (RAC).
- v. Committee for Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain for Minor Forest Produces (MSP for MFP).
- vi. Committee for selection of Institutions and agencies under Grant-in-Aid to NGOs.
- vii. Committee on World Bank assisted Project "Improving Development Program in Tribal Areas".
- viii. Committee for selection of Coaching and Training Institutions for Free Coaching Scheme for STs.
- ix. Expert Committee for preparation policies for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- x. Standing Finance Committees (SFC) of CS and CSS Schemes.
- xi. Central Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (CSMC) for Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY).
- xii. Selection Committee for recommending Coaching Institutions for grant of Central Assistance under the scheme of Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students.
- xiii. Steering Committee under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna".
- xiv. National Council for Senior Citizens.
- xv. Expert Committee on Issues relating to Transgender Community.
- xvi. Expert Committee on operationalize the recommendations given on various components by High Level Committee for Planning the development of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial and Ambedkar National Centre for Social Justice.

xvii. The Central Monitoring Committee under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

xviii. National Advisory Committee of the Anthropological Survey of India (ASI).

DEVELOPMENT MONITORING & EVALUATION

The need for an efficient and independent evaluation mechanism in India was recognised by the policymakers right from the introduction of planning process in the country and resultantly, the Programme Evaluation Organisation was established by the Government in 1952 to carry out independent evaluation of the Government programmes.

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) was established by the Government on 18th September, 2015 as an attached office of the NITI Aayog by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Organisation and Independent Evaluation Office. The DMEO is headed by a Director General who is equivalent to an Additional Secretary in the Government of India. To ensure that DMEO is able to function independently, it has been given separate budgetary allocations and manpower in addition to complete functional autonomy.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The DMEO has been mandated "to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery".

The DMEO undertakes the monitoring of implementation of various government programmes and projects in respect of the Infrastructure Ministries and the Social Sector Ministries on an ongoing basis. The monitoring reviews are held at the highest levels in the Government. Similarly, the DMEO has also been assigned the task of monitoring the Departmental Action Plans prepared by various line Ministries/Departments based on the recommendations of the Groups of Secretaries on eight themes. Its key functions can be classified as:



The DMEO undertakes evaluation of the selected programmes/schemes under implementation, suo-motu or on the request of the programme implementing Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India. The objectives of evaluation work include an objective assessment of the processes and impacts of the development programmes, identification of the areas and reasons of the successes and failures at different stages of programme execution, suggest mid-course corrections wherever required and disseminate lessons for the future, etc.

To ensure that the work done by DMEO is relevant and useful to the programme implementing organisations, all possible efforts are made to involve the planners and implementing agencies at various stages of evaluation process. For each study, whether in-house or outsourced, an Evaluation Monitoring Committee is constituted by DMEO. Whenever required, domain experts from outside are also included as Members of the Committee.

The Committee finalises the 'Terms of Reference' including the study objectives, sampling & methodology, deliverables, timelines, etc. Comments of the Subject Matter Divisions (SMDs) in NITI Aayog and the implementing Ministries/Departments are obtained on the findings of the evaluation studies before finalizing the Evaluation Report. The Evaluation Reports, once approved by the competent authority, are sent to the implementing Ministry/Department for taking remedial measures wherever required, and a copy thereof is uploaded on the website of NITI Aayog in the public domain.

INITIATIVES

Evaluation studies carried out by the DMEO during 2015-16 are:

REPORT	KEY FINDINGS
Evaluation Report on the Border Area Development Programme issued in July 2015 to the Ministry of Home Affairs.	(a) Though response varied from state to state, 80% inhabitants of the states covered under the study were not satisfied with the programme. (b) 50% people of Manipur, 82% people of Tripura, 14% people of Nagaland, 78% people of Sikkim and 65% people of West Bengal living in border areas did not feel safe whereas 100% people of Gujarat stated that they felt safe.
Evaluation Report on Command Area Development and Water Management Programme issues on 08-Dec-2015 to the Ministry of Water Resources.	(a) 97.63% of the farming households benefitted from CADWM. Out of them 25.51% benefitted due to the improvement in irrigation facilities, 24.06% due to the receipt of sufficient water supply for cultivation, 23.73% due to increase in the number/ variety of crops being grown in their farms, etc. (b) 95.71% of the farmers had undertaken on-farm development under CADWM. Out of them 88.2% had constructed field channels, 13.74% had constructed link drains, 2.57% had done reclamation of waterlogged areas/ drainage, 3.38% had done enforcement of warabandi, etc.
Quick Evaluation Report on Integrated Child Development Services issued on 19th June, 2015, to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.	(a) 99% of AWCs provided mothers' counselling on child healthcare and 68.6% of AWCs worked on children's malnutrition. (b) 74.6%, 19.7% and 5.7% of the children had Normal, Moderately Malnourished and Severely Malnourished health respectively.

Evaluation Report on Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Programme issued in July 2015, to the Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD.	(a) On safety and security issue, 72.4% of the students reported that KGBV hostels had boundary walls and 68% were satisfied with the security arrangements in the hostels. (b) Majority of KGBV students would not have enrolled/ sustained in the system had there been no residential/hostel facilities in these schools.
Evaluation Report on Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Scheme issued in March, 2015 to the Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD	(a) All the students accepted that library facilities were available in the school. 94.5% students mentioned that books of all subjects were available. However, many senior students felt that books for them were inadequate in comparison to those for the junior students. (b) 90% of the students responded that medical and health check-up facilities were available in the school campuses and 34% of students reported that School had appointed a resident doctor. 99% of the students confirmed about the availability of medicines and about 36% of them said that health check-ups happened weekly and/or monthly basis in JNVs.
Evaluation Report on the Backward Region Grants Fund issued in October, 2015 to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.	(a) None of the states were able to get more than 80 per cent of the allocation released whereas the overall fund utilization of the total release of funds during 2006-07 to 2010-11 was merely 35.68 per cent. (b) In the surveys States, the completed works constituted 61.61% of the sanctioned works while the ongoing works constituted 23.42%. About one-tenth of the sanctioned works were not started.
Evaluation Report on the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana was issued in July, 2015 to the Ministry of Power.	(a) On the household electrification, RGGVY was able to achieve 93.3% of its target. Five out of 15 sample States, i.e. AP, Haryana, HP, Karnataka and UP had achieved 100% targets. (b) Regarding the intensification of electrified villages, the overall achievement was 53%.

Photos of CADWM Works



Photos of ICDS Programme



Evaluation Studies nearing completion

(i) A copy of the draft Evaluation Report on the Minimum Support Price was sent to the Department of Agriculture on 10-Dec-2015 for their comments.

(ii) The Evaluation Report on MGNREGA was under finalisation.

Evaluation Studies in Progress

(i) The study on the Role of PDS in Shaping Household and Nutritional Security has been outsourced to NCAER. The Final Report is expected in January 2016.

(ii) The study on the process assessment and impact evaluation of the PDS reforms has been outsourced to J-PAL SA on pro bono basis. First Evaluation Report is expected in October 2016.

(iii) On the recommendation of PMO, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has requested DMEO for quick evaluation of Nai Roshani, a Leadership Development Programme for Minority Women. The design for the study was under finalisation as of March 2016.

GOVERNANCE & RESEARCH

Ever since inception of NITI Aayog, a need was felt to put in place a mechanism for getting qualitative research done through professional agencies. This would even facilitate the creation of a forum for exchanging perspectives and fostering novel ideas.

The erstwhile Planning Commission had been operating the Research and Study Scheme, 2013. However, these guidelines needed to be modified to suit the role of NITI Aayog. Therefore, a new set of guidelines viz. 'Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2015' was framed in 2015-16 with provisions for funding research studies, seminars/workshops, publications and NITI fellowships. (The entire set of guidelines are available on the website of NITI Aayog, while guidelines of Research & Study Scheme, 2013 are available at archived website of the erstwhile Planning Commission.)

This scheme is expected to facilitate the development of NITI Aayog as a premier think-tank of the Government of India and as a repository of quality research work.

During the year 2015-16, total Grants-in-aid of Rs. 57.14 lakh was released which comprises of Rs.35.58 lakh on Research Studies and Rs.21.56 lakh on Seminars/Workshops. Proposals for Grants-in-aid for 4 new research studies (Table-1.1) and 12 Seminars (Table-1.2) were approved during the year 2015-16. Besides, 7 ongoing Research Studies, as per the old guidelines, have been completed (Table1.3).

Including studies supported by the erstwhile planning commission, a total of 233 study reports have been uploaded on the web-site of NITI Aayog and on the archived website of the erstwhile Planning Commission for easy accessibility, exchange of views and wider public use for research. Copies of these reports and seminar proceedings are also circulated to concerned verticals/division within the NITI Aayog. The concerned divisions in the NITI Aayog pursue these reports and also share them with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

The erstwhile Planning Commission had given grants-in-aid to 14 Universities/Institutions for setting up Chair Professor/Planning and Development Units (PDUs) in the respective universities/institutions. NITI Aayog has begun the process of reviewing these PDUs and recasting the scheme with a view of the new organisations mandate.

Table 1.1 Research Studies approved during the year 2015-16

Sr. No.	Title of the Study	Institution
1.	Study of Assessment of Water Foot Prints of India's Long Term Energy Scenarios	The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), New Delhi
2.	Analysis of the Food Security – Water-Energy Nexus in India	RG Foundation, New Delhi
3.	Development of an Energy Information Portal for India	Prayas (Energy Group), Pune
4.	Status of Women in Science among Select Institutions in India: Policy Implications	Society for Socio-Economic Studies and Services (SSESS), Kolkata

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME STUDIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2015-2016

STUDY TO QUALITATIVELY ASSESS THE CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES

The study aimed to assess the capacity building needs of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) especially in meeting requirements of various initiatives taken by the Government for urban rejuvenation.

KEY FINDINGS

- Cities such as Surat, Indore and Nagpur were in a relatively better position in terms of capacity development of officials and representatives, when compared to most cities.
- Mussoorie has had the least intervention in terms of capacity building followed by Patna.
- The most pressing issues which cut across all the cities range from discord in functional relations between the ULBs and states, acute shortage of staff (technical and general) at all levels, frequent transfer of officers, lack of state level resource institutions and absence of dedicated municipal cadre.
- ULBs in India need to invest in systematic knowledge management. Rather than depending solely on capacity building activities that target individual capacity, the ULB should pursue institutionalisation of the capacity that is created.
- There is a need to undertake reforms of these bodies to complement capacity building.

S. No.	Title of the Seminar	Name of Institution
1.	Workshop on 'Application of Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS Technologies	Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai
2.	Workshop on 'Knowledge Multiplication and Mass Communication for Agriculture in Arenas of Climate Change'	National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Public Leadership (NCCSD), Ahmedabad
3.	Conference on 'Agricultural Marketing'	Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing, Hyderabad
4.	Workshop on 'Renewable Energy and Nuclear Power'	Centre for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (CSTEP), Bangalore
5.	Seminar on 'Horizon Technologies and Technology Partnership'	Council for Energy, Environment & Water (CEEW), New Delhi
6.	Workshop on 'Energy Efficiency component of the Proposed National Energy Policy'	Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy, New Delhi
7.	Workshop on 'Environment and Climate Change for input to National Energy Policy'	Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi
8.	Workshop on 'High-level Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Energy Demand and Infrastructure'	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
9.	Seminar on 'Trafficking of Women and Children - Situational Analysis, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration'	Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu
10.	Seminar on 'Socio-Economic Development in Rural Areas'	Uttaran, Tezpur
11.	Workshop on 'Women Empowerment during XII Five Year Plan Through Agricultural Mechanisation'	C.S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur
12.	Seminar on 'Social Ecology and Environmental Protection in India: Issues, Challenges and Strategies'	Anchalika Bikash Parisada, Balasore

S. No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	Evaluation of achievement Level of Class IX & XI students in Math, Science & English: A Comprehensive study of Tribal and Non-Tribal Districts of Odisha	RG Foundation, New Delhi
2.	Skills Development in Meghalaya: An Appraisal	St. Anthony's College, Shillong
3.	Identifying Backwardness of Mewat Region in Haryana: A Block Level Analysis	S.M Sehgal Foundation, Gurgaon
4.	A study to qualitatively assess the capacity building needs of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)	National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi
5.	Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Health Care System: Impact of the duality and role of bureaucracy in new approach - in the state of Karnataka	IDPMS, Bangalore
6.	Evaluation of Rural Housing Programme under Economic Package in selected Naxal affected Districts in Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Bihar and Orissa	Development Facilitators, New Delhi

7.	Identifying and Profiling skill and development activities for generating potential employment opportunities for Rural Development	Haryali Centre for Rural Development, New Delhi
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Governance and Public Service Delivery

While monitoring and evaluation function is being strengthened through Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog has also set up a vertical in December 2015 viz. Governance and Public Service Delivery. This vertical is expected to facilitate better governance in public policy administration and coordinate matters of service delivery related to other verticals within the Aayog, Departments in the Centre/State Governments and other like-minded organisations of repute. It will also aim to collate and disseminate best practices in Governance and create a repository of Good Governance practices for all stakeholders.



Participants at the High-Level Roundtable Stakeholder Discussion on 'Horizon Energy Technologies, Technology Partnerships and National Energy Policy' (workshop organised by CEEW under RSNA 2015)



National Workshop on 'High level Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Energy Demand and Infrastructure' organised by TERI under RSNA 2015.



Dr. J.P. Mishra, Adviser (Agriculture) is addressing participants at the National Workshop on 'Knowledge Multiplication and Mass Communication for Agriculture in Arena of Climate Change' organised by NCCSD, Ahmedabad under RSNA 2015.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NILERD)

NILERD, formerly Institute of Applied Manpower Research, is an autonomous Institution under the NITI Aayog. The primary objectives of the Institute are to focus on strategic and technical research on human resource planning and development, structure and changing patterns of the labour market, training, dissemination of best practices, monitoring and evaluation of such initiatives to further the national development agenda. The HRD Division functions as a nodal division in the NITI Aayog for the administrative control and guidance to the Institute.

Research Studies

The Institute undertakes a wide spectrum of research/evaluation studies, broadly conferring to the nature, characteristics, and utilisation of human resources, the changes in the labour market and also in other sectors such as agriculture, industry, skill development, monitoring and evaluation of Government programmes, etc. Its multi-disciplinary expertise is reflected from the wide array of research activities which has significant implications in the academic sphere as well as in the national and international policy forum. The research studies undertaken by the Institute during 2015-16 include: Studies on Determinants of Access to formal Credit by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Units of India; Study on Training Needs Assessment Survey for Major Ports; and Study on Impact Assessment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) on Dissemination of Improved Practices and Technologies. During the year, new studies were initiated viz. Manpower Planning in Odisha, Human Capital Projections for Veterinary Sector and Study on Tribal Research Institutes, sponsored by the Government of Odisha, Veterinary Council of India and NITI Aayog respectively.

Education and Training

The Institute offers various International Programmes such as the Masters Degree in Human Resource Planning and Development in affiliation with Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) (established by Government of NCT of Delhi); International Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Planning and Development; Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), besides International Training Programmes on Human Resource Planning and Development, Manpower Research, Manpower Information System, Global Human Resource Management, etc. Over the last one and half decade, more than 1000 participants, mainly civil service officers, planners, educators, and trainers, from more than 100 countries have benefitted from educational programmes of the Institute. The Institute has been maintaining its 'A' Grade, awarded since 2012 by GGSIP University, Delhi. These programmes are largely funded by the Ministry of External Affairs. Besides, in line with the mandate of NITI Aayog on cooperative federalism, the Institute has been conducting Specialized Training Programmes on Monitoring & Evaluation for the Officers of the Jammu & Kashmir Government.



Convocation ceremony of the Masters' Degree Programme of NILERD conducted during 2015-16

Other initiatives

The celebration of the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear), 2015 was culminated by a special event – Community of Evaluators –South Asia (COE-SA) Conclave 2015 in November, 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal where the Director General of the Institute, Dr. Yogesh Suri was invited as a key note speaker to highlight the emerging development paradigm in India and use of evaluations in the context of policy formulation.



Inauguration of the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear) 2015 by Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh

A workshop on 'Evaluations for Development with Equity and Equality' was organised by the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) in association with the NITI Aayog and NILERD in April 2015. The goal of the workshop was to share evaluation methodologies and findings with evaluators, funders and policy makers.

NILERD celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day in October 2015 where participants of the different international training programmes of the Institute and faculty and staff participated in lecture, cultural programme etc. on the theme 'Unity in Diversity'. Manpower Journal is the flagship Journal of the Institute published since 1965. Two issues of the Journal were published during 2015-16.

APPRAISAL OF PROGRAMMES/SCHEMES/PROJECTS

One of the important functions undertaken in the erstwhile Planning Commission is related to appraisal of programmes/schemes/projects. For undertaking the appraisal work, two divisions were set up in the erstwhile Planning Commission, namely, Project Appraisal Management Division (PAMD) and Public Private Partnership Appraisal Unit (PPPAU). The PAMD was set up in 1972 to undertake techno-economic appraisal of public-funded programmes/schemes/projects while the PPPAU was set up in 2006 to appraise 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. The appraisal work continues to be undertaken in the reconstituted NITI Aayog through the aforesaid divisions.

Appraisal undertaken during 2015-16

1. As per the extant financial limits of appraisal forum, PAMD conducts comprehensive appraisal of programmes/schemes/projects costing above Rs.500 crore and prepares appraisal notes in consultation with the subject divisions 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 Division also appraises proposals of Ministry of Railways costing above 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.

2. During 2015-16, 144 appraisal notes on EFC/PIB/EBR proposals involving outlay of Rs.6,67,635 crore have been issued. The sectoral distribution of projects appraised during 2015-16 is enclosed at Annexure. Information pertaining to major groups of sectors is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Sector group-wise projects appraised during 2015-16

Sr. No.	Sector Group	Number of Projects	Cost (Rs. Crore)	% of total cost
1.	Agriculture	2	71455.00	10.70
2.	Energy	9	40737.47	6.10
3.	Transport	8.5	100778.16	15.09
4.	Industry	15	73332.18	10.98
5.	S&T	0	0.00	0.00
6.	Social Services	22	357149.83	53.49
7.	Communication	2	1269.49	0.19
8.	Others	9	22912.64	3.43
	Total	144	667634.77	100.00

3. During 2015-16, 98 PPP projects with a total cost of Rs.67,233 crore have been appraised by the PPPAU. This includes 73 Central sector projects and 25 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: Sector-wise PPP projects appraised in 2015-16

Sr. No.	Sector	Number of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. Crore)
A	Central Sector		
1.	Roads	58	51348.74
2.	Ports (including Lighthouses)	15	7837.91
	Total (A)	73	59186.65
B	State Sector		
1.	Roads	15	357149.83
2.	Foodgrains Storage (silos)	6	1269.49
3.	Power Transmission	3	22912.64
4.	Urban Infrastructure	1	187.71
	Total (B)	25	8046.37
	Grant Total (A+B)	98	67233.02

Table 3: State sector PPP projects appraised in 2015-16

Sr. No.	Project Appraised (Sectors Wise)	Number of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. Crore)
1.	Assam	1	42.478
2.	Bihar	1	44.625
3.	Delhi	1	41.845
4.	Gujarat	1	190.99
5.	Karnataka	2	218.68

6.	Madhya Pradesh	1	267.3
7.	Odisha	1	187.71
8.	Punjab	2	77.628
9.	Rajasthan	9	1709.217
10.	Uttar Pradesh	6	5265.91
	Total	25	8046.383

Guidelines for grant of 'In-Principle Approval'

In view of the discontinuation of Annual Plan discussions held in the erstwhile Planning Commission with the Ministries/Departments and the new mandate of NITI Aayog, it was felt necessary to revisit the existing guidelines for grant of 'In-Principle Approval (IPA)' for new programmes/schemes/projects. Accordingly, PAMD issued revised guidelines for grant of IPA vide U.O. No.O-14015/2/2015-PAMD dated 29th June, 2015. The salient points of the revised guidelines are as under:

a. New Centre Sector Schemes/Programmes which have been included in the budget of the respective Ministries/Departments with full provision of resources will not require IPA. Further, new coal & power projects, new railway projects of national and strategic importance and new projects which have been included in the budget of the respective Ministries/Departments will also not require IPA.

b. In the case of all new railway projects (barring national and strategic projects) which have been included in the budget of Ministry of Railways, processing of proposals will be in a single batch in each category such as Electrification, Doubling, etc. so that an integrated and holistic view can be taken of the project timelines and cost estimates. All project proposals shall first be examined by a group comprising Advisor (Transport) and Adviser (FR) in NITI Aayog and ED (Planning)/ED (Rly Electrification)/ED (Works), Railway Board which will prepare a shortlist of projects, their prioritization and commitment for availability of funds for grant of IPA.

c. For new Central Sector schemes/programmes which have been provided only a token provision or no provision in the budget for 2015-16, the Ministry/Department would need to submit the proposal in the prescribed SFC/EFC format indicating inter alia the details as sought in the above guidelines.

Sector-wise number and costs of EFC/PIB/EBR proposals appraised during 2015-16

Annexure

Sr. No.	Sector	Number of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. Crore)
	AGRICULTURE		
1.	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	2	71455.00
	ENERGY		
2.	Power	6	8511.20
3.	Coal	1	16029.32
4.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	1	616.95
5.	New & Renewable Energy	1	15580.00
	TRANSPORT		
6.	Railways	1	44369.56
7.	Surface Transport	1	53519.60
8.	Shipping	4	2889.00

	INDUSTRY		
9	Industry	2	4327.30
10	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises	3	26008.00
11	Steel & Mines	1	92.00
12	Petro Chemicals & Fertilisers	3	16133.29
13	Textiles	3	9521.59
14	Food Processing	3	17250.00
	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY		
15	Science & Technology	-	-
16	Earth Sciences	-	-
	SOCIAL SERVICES		
17	HRD	7	34197.93
18	Culture	-	-
19	Youth Affairs & Sports	1	524.00
20	Health	3	10469.14
21	Women & Child Dev.	1	18822.00
22	Labour	1	1350.00
23	Social Justice	2	2814.76
24	Urban Development	1	3770.00
25	Rural Development	2	268972.00
26	Minority Affairs	3	7230.00
27	Tribal Affairs	-	-
28	Drinking Water Supply	1	9000.00
	SOCIAL SERVICES		
29	Information & Broadcasting	1	969.49
30	Post	1	300.00
31	Information Technology	-	-
	OTHERS		
32	Home Affairs	2	3992.87
33	Environment & Forests	1	990.00
34	Law & Justice	-	-
35	Water Resources	2	3679.77
36	North Eastern Region	-	-
37	Finance/Corporate Affairs	2	13000.00
38	NITI Aayog	2	1250.00
39	External Affairs	-	-
	Total	144	667634.77

VOLUNTARY ACTION CELL

The role of the voluntary sector in the development of the country is well recognised due to their access to people at the grass-root level. The Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are now treated as partners in development, instead of just being implementing agencies of government schemes.

The Voluntary Action Cell dealt with various issues concerning Voluntary Sector as well as those relating to review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the Central Sector Schemes implemented through NGOs during 2015-16. The main activities undertaken by VAC during the year are as follows:

2.1 Review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) & Central Sector (CS) Schemes implemented through NGOs

(i) A reference was earlier received from the former PMO requiring review of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented through NGOs by various Ministries/Departments of Government of India and submission of a report on the same. Accordingly, 8 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) including their components and 62 Central Sector (CS) Schemes under which grants-in-aid are provided to NGOs were reviewed and a detailed report was sent to the PMO on best practices identified in the reviewed schemes regarding Selection Procedures, Monitoring & Evaluation, Accountability and Transparency.

(ii) The report (prepared on the basis of a detailed study covering various aspects of the Schemes viz. purpose, funding pattern, selection procedure, monitoring & evaluation, accountability and States covered etc.) contained recommendations for enhancing transparency, targeted and efficient delivery, monitoring and evaluation.

2.2 Common guidelines for implementation of schemes through NGOs

(i) Subsequent to submission of report to the PMO as per the directions of Cabinet Secretariat, a note for Committee of Secretaries (CoS) on review of Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes was submitted. The note was considered first in a meeting of Group of Officers.

COMMON GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES THROUGH NGOS

The main features of the guidelines are as follows:

- Electronic integration of data i.e. maintaining data base of NGOs electronically in the NGO-Darpan (NGO – PS) portal
- Selection Procedure i.e. criteria for selection of NGOs and states' involvement in selection of NGOs for sanction of projects
- Monitoring and Evaluation i.e. monitoring of the performance/utilization of funds by NGOs to prevent misuse of funds and third party evaluation of NGOs to evaluate their focus and sensitivity towards the mains issues of the project
- Accountability and Transparency i.e. reflection of grants released in Public Financial Management System of the Controller General of Accounts and submission of documents like utilisation certificates, execution of surety bond etc.

Thereafter, a revised note was considered by CoS in the meeting held on 24.07.2015. The CoS directed NITI Aayog to draw up generic guidelines and enlist NGOs on NGO-Darpan (NGO-PS) portal on a certain minimum qualifying criteria. Accordingly, the Common Guidelines were issued in September, 2015. The basic purpose of having the guidelines is to bring about transparency in the implementation of the schemes through NGOs.

(ii) However, the guidelines are illustrative and not exhaustive. Ministries/ Departments may need to have additional procedures/conditionality for credible, transparent and accountable involvement of NGOs in the implementation of Schemes and may frame their sector/ scheme-specific guidelines, within these generic guidelines.

(iii) The Division has also been engaged with the process of revalidation of the NGO-Darpan (NGO-PS) Portal of the NITI Aayog as decided by the CoS in its meeting in July 2015. The portal is a platform to electronically maintain the data regarding NGOs in the country who intend to or have been availing grants under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes. The Division is working in collaboration with NIC to recast the existing NGO-Darpan (NGO-PS) portal to make it more transparent with respect to information from the respective NGOs who sign up on the portal.

DATA MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

The work of Data Management and Analysis Vertical relates to the compilation of time series data on Indian Economy so as to analyze the performance of the economy in various sectors. Data available with the vertical are primarily secondary data collected 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. The Vertical works in close co-ordination with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), NITI Aayog to develop an interactive web portal on data on State Statistics.

The Vertical is occupied in the study and analysis of major macro-economic indicators including sectoral GDP growth, finances of the Central and the State Governments, prices (WPI as well as CPI), external sector (FDI and FII inflows, foreign exchange reserves, current account deficit), Gross Capital formation, savings, final consumption expenditure etc. Time-series data on various macro-economic aggregates is compiled and carefully monitored. Besides, State/District level indicators are also compiled and analysed.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Analyse the growth performance of the Indian economy with special focus on savings and investments, fiscal performance, inflation, external sector performance and global economic environment;
2. Estimates 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 analyse the changes in the poverty indices;
3. Examines alternative poverty ratios and indices computed by various Committees, Expert Groups, etc. as well as by international bodies;
4. Contributes to the response on issues pertaining to economic strategy and policy posed by Parliament, forum of economists and States, delegation from National Planning Commissions from other countries and trans-national institutions through the respective nodal Ministries;
5. Nodal Vertical for Plan proposals for Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Registrar General of India;
6. Nodal Vertical for SAARC Development Goals.

The Officers of the Vertical have been associated with the following major activities:-

- A. Collection of data on State Statistics for uploading on the NITI Aayog website: The objective is to create an integrated database for monitoring the performance of the States on the basis of deliverables. Data has been provided in 7 major categories viz. Demography, Economy, Education, Health, Household Assets and Amenities, State Finance and Miscellaneous.
- B. Furnished comments/views on action points for SAARC meetings on Poverty Alleviation and SAARC Regional Project Proposal for Investments on Highland Food Security with High Value-Chain in South Asia.
- C. Provided comments on Draft Note for Cabinet on Adoption of United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Enactment of the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2015 of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- D. Provided comments on the draft EFC Memo for appraisal & evaluation of grant-in-aid to Indian Statistical Institute.
- E. Prepared Powerpoint Presentations on subjects such as Strengthening Sino-Indian Economic Cooperation: Building Closer Developmental Partnership; SDGs: Inclusive Growth and Sustainability; India: Macro Economic Overview etc.
- F. Study and analysis of major macro-economic indicators including sectoral GDP growth, finances of the Central and the State Governments, prices (WPI as well as CPI), external sector (FDI and FII inflows, foreign exchange reserves, current account deficit) etc.
- G. Periodical monitoring of the progress made under Millennium Development Goals, SAARC Development Goals on the basis of information compiled and provided by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation which is the nodal Ministry.
- H. 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.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with the world's premier think-tank, viz., IEA on 4th March, 2016 in Paris. The signing was conducted at the IEA Headquarters between Dr Arvind Panagaria, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director, IEA. The SOI provides for collaboration between the two agencies to undertake joint research projects in the areas of energy policy & market research, exchange of technical know-how, data analysis, analytical techniques and econometric models and exchange of information. NITI Aayog is already engaged with Energy Ministries in preparing long term energy policy and advising policy interventions. The SOI with IEA will support the above engagement through better perspective on global technological and market developments in the area of energy.

INSTITUTE OF ENERGY ECONOMICS OF JAPAN (IEEJ)

Furthering NITI's alliances with global think-tanks, NITI Aayog also signed a Statement of Intent with IEEJ on 9th December, 2015. Dr Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman visited Tokyo on May 16-17, 2016 and delivered a talk at the above mentioned Institute. This was followed by a visit by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO who led a group to IEEJ on 8-9 June, 2016 for the first meeting of the working group. The meeting involved presentations of energy sector challenges in both countries. The two institutions have agreed to work on natural gas demand, integration of renewable energy in the grid and high efficiency, low emission coal fired plants.

**DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE, CHINA**

NITI Aayog entered into a Statement of Intent with the Government of China's premier policy think-tank, viz., Development Research Centre (DRC), China on 15th May, 2015. This collaboration envisages exchange of policy programs in public domain, joint studies & research, exchange of visits, joint workshops and seminars based on mutual discussions and agreed terms. The first meeting of the two sides took place in Beijing on 23rd-24th November, 2015, wherein a team of officers of the NITI Aayog was led by Dr. Arvind Panagaria, Vice Chairman. The interaction involved presentations on i) China's and India's Economy in the Global Economic Restructuring Opportunities and Challenges; ii) Regional trade associations; implications for India and China; iii) Strengthening Sino-Indian Economic Cooperation; building closer developmental partnership. It has been agreed that the two sides will commission a joint study to examine the implications arising out of emerging trade treaties both in the Asia-Pacific, and between EU and US. It has also been envisaged that this collaboration will further trade between India and China and help in determining individual responses to the emerging global trade scenario.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM COMMISSION (NDRC), CHINA

NITI Aayog has an on-going MoU on Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) with NDRC, China since 26th November, 2012. Under this framework, the two countries collaborate in multiple areas including infrastructure, policy coordination, environment protection and hi-tech, among others. This framework agreement provides for a platform for engagement across multiple areas between a host of Ministries on the two sides. During the year, working groups on the above areas interacted mutually. The next meeting of the Strategic Economic Dialogue is to be hosted by NITI Aayog in India on mutually convenient dates.

**PEMANDU, MALAYSIA**

An MOU was signed between NITI Aayog and the Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) in the Prime Minister's office of Malaysia on 23rd November, 2015 at Kuala Lumpur during the visit of Prime Minister to Malaysia. The MOU envisages strengthening, promoting and developing cooperation in the areas of performance management, project delivery and monitoring related to government programmes to enhance public service delivery, improve efficiency of implementation methods and procedure and develop templates and tools to monitor performance of government programmes. Based on a successful intervention in Maharashtra, interest has been expressed by various States for establishing the PEMANDU monitoring mechanisms for chosen programmes in the States. NITI Aayog is expected to facilitate establishment of the above monitoring units in the States through the above cooperative mechanism.

G20

Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog has been serving as India's G20 Sherpa since September 2015. In this capacity, he represented India at Sherpa meetings under Turkish presidency during 2015 and under Chinese presidency during 2016. During 2015, he led the negotiation on behalf of India for the G20 Leaders' Communiqué in Antalya, Turkey. Because Paris Climate Change negotiations and Nairobi World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations were to soon follow, Antalya G20 negotiation was a very challenging affair. Several developed country G20 members were keen on early harvest on some of their goals in climate change and trade negotiations at the G20 Summit. To protect Indian interests, Indian Sherpa systematically countered the arguments offered by developed country Sherpas. The negotiation lasted two days and three nights with the negotiating space for India in Paris and Nairobi fully preserved.

As noted, in 2016, G20 presidency has passed on to China. Three Sherpa meetings in Beijing, Guangzhou and Xiamen have already taken place. The Chinese presidency has introduced new subjects such as innovation, digital economy and New Industrial Revolution in the context of accelerating growth and guidelines on investment rules. In addition, the subjects originating in earlier presidencies such as development, climate change, energy, employment and labour, trade and anti-terrorism are being carried forward.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related Targets have been resolved in September 2015 in the UN General Assembly by 193 countries including India and came into effect on January 1, 2016. While MDGs covered the earlier 15-year period of 2000-2015, SDGs cover the period from 2016 to 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal agreement to end poverty in all its dimensions and to evolve an equal, just and secure world – for people, for prosperity, and for the planet by 2030. A snapshot of the SDGs is given in the picture below:



Institutional Arrangements at the National and State/UT levels:

- At the Central government level, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is evolving the indicators related to the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.
- A working group on SDGs comprising of representatives from NITI Aayog and MoSPI has also been constituted.
- A draft mapping of Goals and Targets in respect of the Central Ministries, various flagship initiatives of the government and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) has been carried out by NITI Aayog, circulated to Ministries and uploaded on NITI Aayog website (niti.gov.in) to facilitate better awareness and faster implementation of the SDGs and targets.
- A National Consultation was held on 9th and 10th February, 2016 by NITI Aayog and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), with focus on SDGs 3 and 4 related to Health and Education respectively.

State Governments, Central Ministries, NGOs, academia, international organisations, RIS and NITI Aayog had participated in the consultations.

(e) A seminar was also held on 25th February 2016 in which Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; DG, ADB and stakeholders, had deliberated upon SDGs and related implementation issues.



OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

RESPONSIBILITIES

As a new Institution, NITI Aayog was building the necessary resources, knowledge, skills, that will reinforce its ability to act with speed, to provide the strategic policy vision for the government in its first year.

Developing strong communications management and an outreach strategy is critical to showcase NITI Aayog's work as a premier think-tank of the Government, infusing new direction and rigour to policy making.

BUDGET TALKS

The premier think-tank of the Government of India, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) provides crucial directional and policy support to the Centre as well as State governments. On the release of the Union Budget 2016, NITI Aayog organized a live interaction, directly with citizens of the country.

The interactions with public took place through the MyGov portal, in collaboration with Google India, on March 2nd and 3rd, 2016. On the first day of the talk, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr. Arvind Panagariya, explained the many intricacies of the Union Budget and its real impact on various crucial sectors of the economy. On the second day, NITI Aayog CEO, Mr. Amitabh Kant, spoke about what the Budget spells for key policies formulated by the Government of India. Reflecting on the government's focus sectors and schemes, the CEO explained the direct bearing budget will have on employment generation, investments and economic growth in the country. Steering an institution that infuses new policy ideas to enable the Government to act in the best interests of public, Mr. Kant also detailed NITI Aayog's role in translating schemes and policies, as enunciated in the Budget, into action on ground.

This was the first of its kind, one-on-one interaction of NITI's experts with the public on the Budget, and focused on what the budget means to the common man. The live talks has been scheduled soon after the release of the Union Budget, so that experts heading the policy think-tank of India elucidate its provisions to citizens, while detailing the short and long-term possibilities and challenges it poses for India.

Besides providing an exclusive, expert perspective on the Union Budget, both speakers also answered questions posed directly by viewers. Questions were asked in advance and through the duration of the talks on both days on NITI Aayog's social media handles, besides the MyGov portal. The talks can be accessed on the NITI Aayog website, www.niti.gov.in.

WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA

The Government of India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, has expressed renewed commitment to advancing gender equality. The Government has initiated interventions including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana for the empowerment and education of girls and to tackle the determinants of discrimination against girls and women. In September 2015 at the UN General Assembly's Sustainable Development Summit in New York, India was one of 193 UN Member states to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. India supported the need for a standalone Goal on gender at the international negotiations that preceded the adoption of Agenda 2030, recognizing that women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs. The NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the responsibility to plan, monitor and coordinate efforts across Central Ministries and State governments on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to mark International Women's Day 2016, NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the UN in India presented a contest to source crowd stories that celebrate the indomitable spirit of women who have made a difference. The theme of the campaign was 'Women Transforming India'. Stories of women change makers breaking new ground, empowering herself and/or others or challenging stereotypes were sought by NITI Aayog, particularly in the following areas:

1. Economic - Demonstrated leadership in setting up small businesses/enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities for communities.



2. Social and Cultural - Community leadership challenging discriminatory practices, norms and mindsets.

3. Environment - Leading initiatives to preserve the environment and respond to the challenges of climate change.

NITI POLICY BRIEFS AND BLOGS

With the view that a culture of knowledge and information sharing are critical to good governance in India NITI Aayog has taken several initiatives to actualise the institution's think-tank function. In an attempt to directly engage with the citizens, NITI has tried to generate a constant flow of meaningful content through its blogs and policy briefs sections introduced on the revamped NITI Aayog website: www.niti.gov.in.

NITI Policy Briefs have been made a regular feature of the institutions website. The rationale behind important policy decisions, their implications and other crucial details are written about in the Policy Briefs section of the NITI Aayog website, by Advisers and other subject matter experts. Different sectors of public policy, where NITI Aayog has taken/facilitated decision making are covered here. These briefs are intended to act as an instrument to give direction to policy debate, both within and outside the media space.

All officials have been encouraged to write for NITI blogs, in order to enhance outreach and establish a dialectical culture for the institution. There should be space for interaction, which will be moderated. Blogs need to be uploaded at least once a week on the NITI website.