

सत्यमेव जयते

NITI Aayog

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



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NITI Aayog – AN OVERVIEW

Organisation Structure



Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi
Chairman



Dr. Rajiv Kumar
Vice-Chairman



Rao Inderjit Singh
MoS for Planning



Dr. Bibek Debroy
Member



Dr. V. K. Saraswat
Member



Prof. Ramesh Chand
Member



Dr. Vinod K. Paul
Member



Amitabh Kant
CEO

Advisers	Verticals	States
Shri Ratan P. Watal, Pr. Adviser	Social Sector	
Shri Yaduvendra Mathur, Addl Secretary (KIH)	(Knowledge Innovation Hub) Admn.& General Administration, Accounts	
Shri Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Addl Secretary	(Team India Hub) & Infrastructure – Energy, International Cooperation	
Anil Srivastava, Adviser & Addl. Charge of DG, DMEO	Work relating to shared, connected & electric Mobility and all aspects of Intelligent transportation	M.P & Chhattisgarh
Shri Alok Kumar Adviser	Administration & FR Social Sector-II (Health, Nutrition, WCD)	Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
Shri Alok Kumar Adviser (as Link Officer)	Human Resource Development	Jharkhand & Bihar
Shri Ravinder Goyal Adviser	Infrastructure – Connectivity	J&K, Himachal Pradesh
Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, OSD	Governing Council Secretariat & Coordination	
Dr. J. P. Mishra, Adviser	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	Gujarat & Uttarakhand
Ms. Anna Roy, Adviser	Data Management & Analysis and Industry	
Dr. Yogesh Suri, Adviser	Governance & Research and Water Resources	Karnataka, Kerala
Shri Jitendra Kumar, Adviser	Natural Resources & Environment	NE States, Sikkim, Goa
Sh. Praveen Mahto, Adviser	Project Appraisal, PPP and PIB	
Sh. Ashok Kumar Jain, Adviser	Rural Development, SDGs	AP & Telangana
Shri Vikram Singh Gaur, Adviser	States Coordination Division & D.P Division	Maharashtra & Rajasthan, and UTs
Shri U.K. Sharma, Adviser	Science & Technology	
Smt. Sunita Sanghi, Adviser	Social Sector -I (LEM, Skill Development and UD)	Punjab & Haryana
Shri Srikara Naik, Adviser	Social Justice & Empowerment	West Bengal & Odisha
Shri S.S.Ganpathy, Adviser	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY)	
Shri C Angrup Bodh	DMEO (Admin & Finance)	

OBJECTIVE AND FUNCTIONS OF NITI AAYOG

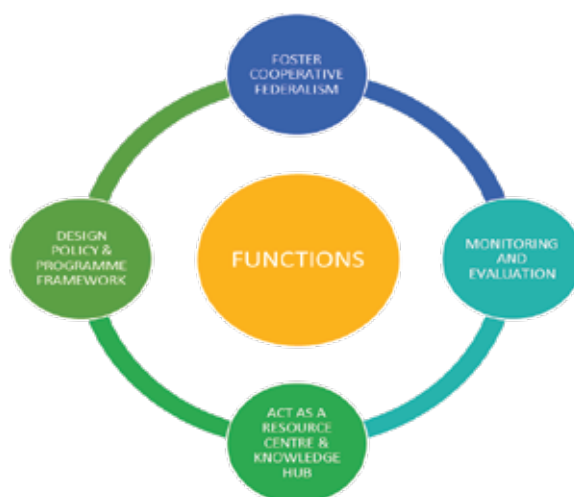
Founded on 1st January, 2015, the National Institution for Transforming India or NITI Aayog has been created to serve as the think tank of the Government of India. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chair of the institution.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT UNITS

The Administration in NITI Aayog functions in accordance with the service rules and extant Government of India instructions issued by 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.

NITI Aayog engaged eleven Consultant/Sr. Consultants including two Consultants with legal background for carrying the specific tasks given to NITI Aayog as per the guidelines finalised for engagement of Consultants. One Consultant has been engaged as Consultant Governance and Research for designing and implementation of portfolio of policy initiatives. Apart from this, NITI Aayog also engaged twelve Research Assistants. NITI Aayog also extended the term of four Consultants engaged earlier whose tasks include but not limited to preparing Vision Document, for preparing Strategy Paper and Action Plan. To hire these experts, advertisements were issued for inviting online applications. The Administration screened, shortlisted the applications and organised interviews to identify suitable candidates.

NITI Aayog is facilitating the Young Professionals to have exposure to Public Policy, Planning, Development and the areas that are relevant to development with a view to provide high quality professional inputs in Economics, Finance, Education, Public Health, Social Sciences, Engineering, Urban Planning and Infrastructure amongst others. NITI Aayog issued Advertisement for engaging 25 Young Professionals. Administration screened/shortlisted the applications and candidates were called for interview. Finally 25 candidates for NITI, 5 for EAC to PM, were selected and issued offer letters to be engaged as Young Professionals on contract basis. Eight (8) candidates for Atal Innovation Mission and 8 for DMEO were also selected and their names were sent to AIM and DMEO respectively for further action at their end. DMEO has also issued the offer letters to the selected candidates.

The internship scheme initiated by NITI Aayog in 2016 continued in 2017-18. The internship scheme gives an opportunity to the students to give them exposure to the functioning of the Indian Government by placing them in various Verticals/Divisions within NITI Aayog. The Scheme seeks to engage students pursuing Undergraduate/Graduate/Post-Graduate Degrees or Research Scholars enrolled in recognized University/ Institution within India or abroad, as “Interns”. These “interns” are given exposure to various Verticals/Divisions/Units within NITI Aayog and are expected to supplement the process of analysis within NITI Aayog through empirical collection and collation of in-house and other information. For the “Interns” the exposure to the functioning of the Indian Government may be an add-on in furthering their future interests.

‘NITI Non-Resident Fellowship Programme’, formulated by Administration Vertical, in December, 2016, seeks to draw up on global expertise across sectors of national importance to move beyond conventional planning in formulating Government policy. The programme will enable senior and mid carrier professionals of calibre to carry out substantive research, interact in the Indian policy circuit and work hands-on on policy initiatives. Under this Programme, NITI Aayog engaged a Distinguished Fellow on honorary basis initially for a period of three months, extendable for another three months and his extension order has been issued.

Consequent upon the recommendations of the Task Force Report and restructuring of NITI Aayog, the amendment of Recruitment Rules for GCS posts is being carried out.

OFFICES ATTACHED TO THE NITI AAYOG

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

The Government of India established the Institute of Applied manpower Research later renamed as National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) in 1962. It is a Central Autonomous Organization attached to NITI Aayog, Ministry of Planning. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr. Rajiv Kumar serves as the President of its General Council, CEO Shri Amitabh Kant is the Chairperson of the Executive Council and Dr. Arup Mitra is 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.

ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Secretariat vide Notification No. 1/31/1/2017-Cab dated 26.9.2017 and subsequent Notification dated 1.11.2017 has notified the constitution of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister with the following composition:

Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog	- Chairman
Dr. Surjit Bhalla	- Part-time Member
Dr. Rathin Roy	- Part-time Member
Dr. Ashima Goyal	- Part-time Member
Ms. Shamika Ravi	- Part-time Member
Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog	- Member-Secretary

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EAC-PM

- Analyze any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon.
- Addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. This could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else.
- Attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.

POLICY MAKING AND PROGRAMME

I. THE ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the Prime Minister of India, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.

AIM is also envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes incentivizing establishment of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, and SME industry / corporate levels.

AIM has adopted a holistic framework in the achievement of its objectives

I. Atal Tinkering Labs – to promote creative, innovative mind set in schools

At the school level, AIM is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across all 700+ districts across the country. These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces of 1000-1500 square feet where latest technologies like 3D Printers, Robotics, Internet of Things (IOT), Miniaturized electronics do it yourself kits are installed using a grant of Rs 20 Lakhs from the government so that students from Grade VI to Grade XII can tinker with these technologies and learn to create innovative solutions using these technologies, thereby creating a problem solving, innovative mindset within thousands of students across the country. To date, 941 schools have already been selected for ATL Grants and around 400 of them are already operational. Additionally the process of selecting another 1500 schools for ATL Labs is already complete and it is expected that over 2000 schools would have received ATL Grants before the end of this financial year.

Every school would have an ATL In-charge appointed by the school as well as mentors associated to mentor the ATL students. Over 800+ ATL In-charges have received training through AIM and its partners. AICTE is partnering with AIM to ensure that the closest universities to a school can also mentor ATL students.

Atal Innovation Tinkering challenges are regularly held in the school as well as by AIM every month to ensure students' active involvement in creating innovative solutions to solve problems in their community and in the country.

Recently the Atal Tinkering Marathon was held in which an estimated 24000+ students have participated and 650+ of the best innovation entries have been submitted in which the Top 100 innovation entries are being showcased in the Atal Tinkering Summit held in New Delhi on 16th December 2017 and the Top 30 of these innovations will receive special recognition.

The vision is to have every school have access to at least one or more Atal Tinkering Labs in each district of the country, as well as to scale the same up with the help of state education ministries across the length and breadth of the country. Also Government / Govt Aided schools, and Girls schools, North East and Hilly District schools get a special preference in the consideration of ATL selections.

The Atal Tinkering Labs has created much enthusiasm and energy in the schools and students and a Balanced Score Card based approach has been designed to monitor and measure the outcomes of the same.

II. Atal Incubators – to promote entrepreneurship in universities and industry

At the university, NGO, SME and Corporate industry levels, AIM is setting up world-class Atal Incubators (AICs) that would trigger and enable successful growth of sustainable startups in every sector /state of the country, thereby promoting entrepreneurs and job creators in the country addressing both commercial and social entrepreneurship opportunities in India and applicable globally. AIM is also providing scale up support to existing incubators for scaling up their operations.

AIM is providing a grant of upto Rs 10 crores to successful applicants for setting up Greenfield incubators or scaling up existing ones. The idea is that every one of the 110 named smart cities and the top 5-10 educational / industrial institutions of every state should aspire to have a world class incubator that will provide the youth / startup communities in the universities / industries opportunity to create new startups.

To date 19 Atal Incubators have been selected. Before the end of 2017-2018 we would have 50+ Atal Incubators selected. We have had over 2500 applications for the latest round of AIC selection concluded on September 30, 2017.

Women led incubators and entrepreneurial startups is strongly encouraged by AIM.

Again here, the need to scale up with the help of other ministries / states / sectors / public sector organizations would be crucial to create thousands of job creators in India.

III. Atal Vikas Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges – to promote point tech innovations and product creations for social and commercial impact

To promote specific product innovations with social / economic impact, AIM will be launching Atal Vikas Challenges / Atal Grand Challenges in specific areas / sectors of national importance such as Affordable Housing, Rural Microfinance Fintech innovations, Universal drinking water, Swaach Bharat / Swaasth Bharat using Robotics / IOT technologies, Renewal and Clean Energy, Universal Drinking water, Augmented and Virtual reality based distance Education, Battery Technologies etc..

The successful applicants will get a grant of upto Rs 1 crore for Atal Vikas Challenges and upto Rs 30 crores for Atal Grand Challenges.

AIM is also partnering with corporates and other insitutions to launch such challenges to stimulate new product / service development in various sectors. For example the recently held AIM-Yes Bank Transformation series 2017 Smart Agri Nation challenge had 27000 students from B Schools of India participating in the same with high quality presentations on the same.

IV. Mentor India Network – Creating Mentors of Change

To enable an ecosystem of innovation, AIM is setting up one of the largest Mentoring networks in India called Mentor India from the professional and industry community who can help mentor students at Atal Tinkering Labs and AIC Incubators / startups.

Over 5000+ mentors have already registered and they will be allocated to various ATLS / AICs.

Also a number of corporate organizations have volunteered to adopt ATLS/AICs in their vicinities to ensure close mentoring and success of these initiatives.

II. REFORMS IN HOMEOPATHY CENTRAL COUNCIL ACT AND THE INDIAN MEDICINE CENTRAL COUNCIL ACT

To reform Homeopathic Central Council, Indian Medicine Central Council, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and comprising Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, CEO, NITI Aayog and Secretary, Aayush have been constituted with a mandate to examine the legal provisions and modalities of working of the Homeopathy Central Council Act and the Indian Medicine Central Council Act and suggest necessary reforms. After extensive deliberations, the Committee finalized the draft National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) Bill, 2017 and National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2017 and these Bills have been sent to Ministry of AYUSH to table in Parliament.

III. MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGH-SPEED RAIL (MAHSR) CORRIDOR PROJECT

NITI Aayog hosted the Sixth Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on High Speed Railways of MAHSR Corridor Project on 22nd November, 2017, in Delhi. The Indian side was led by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman (VC), NITI Aayog and Japanese side was led by Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan. In the meeting, issues like Make in India, Transfer of Technology, Loan Agreements, Contractual issues, Land Acquisition, and Technical Issues were discussed. To facilitate speedy implementation of the project two Working Groups have been created.

IV. HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF ISLANDS

i. Development of Islands

- NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the process of holistic development of identified islands as unique models of sustainable development Accordingly, in consultation with key stakeholders, NITI Aayog has shortlisted 10 islands for holistic development in the first phase namely Smith, Ross, Long and Aves of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Package I) Little Andaman of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Package II) and Minicoy, Bangaram, Tinnakara, Cheriyaam and Suheli islands of Lakshadweep (Package III).
- The consultant engaged by NITI Aayog for preparation of concept development plans and detailed master plans for Package I and Package III islands have submitted the Draft Site Development Potential Reports in respect of these two packages in October 2017. As regards Package II (Little Andaman), technical and financial evaluation of bids have been completed. Award of work for preparation of concept development plans and detailed master plans is under progress.

- **Island Development Agency (IDA)**

The IDA was set up on June 01, 2017 under chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Home Minister. CEO NITI Aayog is the Convener of the Agency. It has so far held two meetings i.e. on 24.7.2017 and 8.11.2017, As mandated by the IDA, NITI Aayog is in process of identification of another 10-15 Islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep for their development.

ii. Development of North-East Region

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' To finalize the draft road map assistance of World Bank shall be taken and all North Eastern States, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal have been requested to provide their consent before finalization of Terms of Reference (ToR).

COMPETITIVE COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

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

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

(ii) Advocacy of State perspectives with Central Ministries.

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

The policy of the Government to involve State governments is reflected in changes in the interaction processes of the NITI Aayog. Consistent with its mandate, NITI in 2017-18 has undertaken several crucial initiatives to ensure that States are equal partners in the policy making and implementing process. This section will discuss in detail each of the initiatives:

I. THE THIRD MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG

The third meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 23rd April, 2017 at RBCC, President Secretariat, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Railways and Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare - as ex-officio Members, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and Minister of Textile as Special Invitees and also by Minister of HRD, Minister of State (I/C), Planning, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, permanent Members of NITI Aayog, CEO, NITI Aayog and senior officials of Government of India. In the meeting minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Governing Council were confirmed and Action Taken Report upon the decisions taken therein was reviewed. Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog made a presentation on a 15 year long term vision, accompanied by a 7 year strategy and a 3 year action agenda. He gave an outline of the draft Action Agenda circulated at the meeting, which had been prepared with inputs from the States. Thereafter CEO, NITI Aayog made a presentation on Action Taken Report and initiatives of NITI Aayog. Revenue Secretary made a presentation on GST, explaining the benefits of the system and the way forward. He urged the Chief Ministers to expedite the enactment of State GST Acts.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, made a presentation on doubling of farmers' income. He touched on areas such as irrigation, technology generation and dissemination, policy and market reforms, e-NAM, livestock productivity etc.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address, touched upon various issues relating to regional imbalance, use of GeM platform by the States to reduce corruption and increase transparency in Government procurement, preparation of a roadmap for better planned and sustainable utilization of funds like the District Mineral Fund and the CAMPA Fund by the States, as per requirements of individual States, etc.



II. NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHIEF SECRETARIES OF STATES/UTS ON “STATES ON DRIVERS FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA” HELD ON 10TH JULY, 2017

TA conference of Chief Secretaries was held on 10th July, 2017 at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi. The conference was attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of State (I/C) Planning Cabinet Secretary, Secretaries of Government of India, the Chief Secretaries, Administrators, Secretaries to State Governments in-charge of Planning, Finance, Industry, Health and Agriculture and also by Vice Chairman, Members and CEO, NITI Aayog.



The inaugural session was addressed by CEO, NITI Aayog, Cabinet Secretary and Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog. The speakers highlighted key development challenges facing the country and the need to focus on the overall development strategy and implementation with special focus on the backward districts. Thereafter, presentations were made and discussions held on various subjects / sectors. During the conference, each Chief Secretary made a 3 minute presentation on one Best Practice of their State which can be replicated. Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the conference pursuant to these presentations and gave directions for taking forward the replication of best practices.



III. DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STATES/UTS (DSSS) FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

NITI Aayog has implemented a structured initiative for “Development Support Services for States (D3S)” with a vision to achieve transformational, sustained delivery of infrastructure projects with state of art capacity disseminated at all levels of governance.

While there have been success stories in the PPPs in Infrastructure sector, a number of projects have suffered on account of market failures due to limitations in the prevailing approach to PPPs. Hence there is a strong need for rebooting infrastructure project delivery models so a sustainable infrastructure creation cycle is established. A renewed focus of the Government is evident and the action is geared towards creating PPP success stories at the level of States/UTs.

Given this context, NITI Aayog’s initiative of DSSS has the following key objectives:

- Establish Centre-State partnership model for cooperation
- Reimagine and transform delivery of infrastructure projects by creating a marquee project shelf that demonstrates successful implementation of high impact projects
- Establish PPPs as governance tools supporting larger development agenda
- Address key structural issues that states face in conceiving, structuring and implementing infrastructure projects
- Build institutional and organizational capacities of states and state level institutions to conceive, conceptualize, structure and implement infrastructure projects

The DSSS Infrastructure initiative involves providing project level support from Concept plan till financial closure to State Governments / UTs for a demonstrable project shelf consisting of selected 10-12 projects.

NITI Aayog has appointed M/s Ernst & Young LLP (EYLLP) as its consultant to partner with NITI Aayog in formalizing the D3S-Infrastructure initiative for infrastructure, engaging with states to identify a project shortlist and providing transaction management for implementing selected infrastructure projects on ground.

NITI Aayog carried out a structured engagement and outreach programme with the states through a national level workshop in Delhi (March 7, 2017) and regional workshop for North eastern states (March 18, 2017) with the states/UTs. The initiative received an enthusiastic response from the states and based on this outreach, over 400 projects were received from 18 states who participated in the initiative. The project submissions were evaluated and the projects were shortlisted based on a multi-staged project selection framework based on criteria like responsiveness of submissions, readiness, land availability, impact, replicability, risk, viability assessment and state commitment.

The following 11 projects from 8 states were selected for development on PPP mode through MoU based partnership with the state governments:

Sl. No.	Shortlisted Project	State
1	Establishing a Business Enterprise Zone at Bio-tech Park in Guwahati on PPP mode	Assam
2	Integrated post-harvest supply chain management infrastructure in identified districts of Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu
3	Integrated community based Micro Irrigation infrastructure at selected Command Coverage Area (CCA) clusters in Haryana	Haryana
4	Development of Ro-Ro jetties and terminals at selected locations in Maharashtra	Maharashtra
5	Setting up of Divisional Sports Complex at Shimpoli in Mumbai on PPP mode	Maharashtra
6	Integrated Solid Waste Management of Roorkee cluster on PPP mode	Uttarakhand
7	Development of E-Governance Academy of Nagaland and a BPO hub near Dimapur (Nagaland) on PPP mode	Nagaland
8	Development of Affordable Housing units at Indra-Bypass (Gangtok)	Sikkim
9	Smart Multi-utility for BTCD area in Bhubaneswar	Odisha
10	Extension of National Information Infrastructure to entire state of Nagaland	Nagaland
11	International Convention Centre and hospitality hub at Rishikesh (Uttarakhand)	Uttarakhand

NITI Aayog has partnered with the 8 states from where the above 11 projects have been selected through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with each of the 8 state governments. The MoU lays down the scope of partnership, responsibilities of the state governments and NITI Aayog, governance framework and escalation matrix. With the execution of MoUs with 8 state governments between October-November 2017, phase I of DSSS has been completed successfully.

IV. REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE

A. Model Act on Agricultural Land Leasing:

NITI Aayog set up an expert group on 7th September, 2015 to suggest a Model Act on Agricultural Land Leasing. The expert group prepared a model act on agricultural land leasing which was posted on www.niti.nic.in on 12th April, 2016. Subsequently the printed copies of the model act were shared with the Chief Ministers and the Chief Secretaries of the States during the month of February, 2017 for enacting their own land leasing laws. The response from States was encouraging as 8 Chief Ministers responded to NITI Aayog's model act. A National Workshop on Agricultural Land Leasing Reforms : Present Status and Way Forward was organised by Agriculture Vertical on 18th April, 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi to discuss the various issues related to agricultural land leasing and action plan to implement centre's initiative. The workshop was attended by Senior Officers' from most of the States/UTs besides Central Ministries. It was noted that the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have also modified their tenancy laws to promote land leasing. Madhya Pradesh Assembly has passed a bill (*BHUMISWAMI EVAM BATAIDAR KE HITON KA SANRAKSHAN VEDHEYAK, 2016*) on 29th July, 2016 for agricultural land leasing which has been sent to the

President for assent. Some of the states like Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have also initiated process to modify/enact their own land leasing Acts based on NITI Aayog's Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act.



Recommendations of National Workshop

- States need to legalize 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.
- All the state with changes as suitable to the state must legalize land leasing in all areas to ensure complete security of land ownership right for landowners and security of tenure for tenants for the agreed lease period.
- Remove the clause of adverse possession of land in the land laws of various states as it interferes with free functioning of land lease market.
- 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.
- 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. This will facilitate all tenants including share croppers to access insurance bank credit and bank credit against pledging of expected output.
- Incentivize 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.

B. Reform of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act:

NITI Aayog consulted with the States on 21 October 2016 on three critical reforms:

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

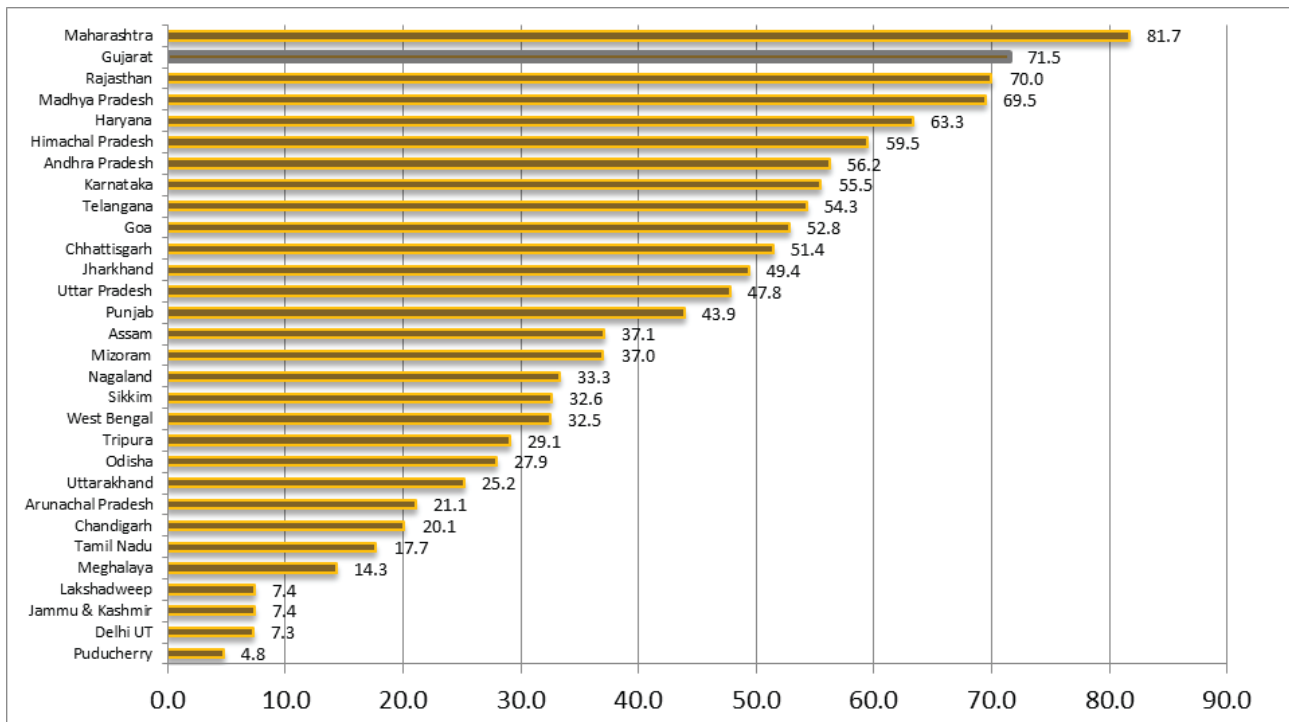
Subsequently, after several consultations with States and other Stakeholders by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Agriculture, the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Committee (APLMC) Act 2017 was launched in February, 2017. States are being consulted to adopt APLMC Act, 2017.

Salient Features of Model APLMC Act, 2017

- i. Single State level market in place of notified market area with APMC as the regulatory agency. Thus no separate traders' license shall be required for trading in separate APMCs.
- ii. Clear delineation of the powers and functions between Director of Agricultural Marketing and Managing Director of State/UT Agricultural Marketing Board. Former will have to carry out regulatory functions, while the later will be mandated with developmental responsibilities
- iii. Create a conducive environment for setting up and operating of private wholesale markets and farmer consumer markets. It enables strong private markets with authority to fix their own market fees in consonance with the cap laid down in the Model Act.
- iv. Model Act proposes to enable declaration of warehouses/ silos/ cold storages and other structures/ space as market sub yard to provide better access/ linkages to the farmers
- v. Promote e-trading to enhance transparency in trade operations and integration of markets across geographies.
- vi. Single point levy of market fee across the State and rationalization of market fee & commission charges.
- vii. National market for agriculture produce through provisioning of inter- State trading license, grading and standardization and quality certification.

C. Reform of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act:

NITI Aayog has developed the first ever 'Agriculture Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index' to sensitize states about the need to undertake reforms in the three key areas of Agriculture Market Reforms, Land Lease Reforms and Forestry on Private Land (Felling and Transit of Trees). The index carries a score with a minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas. Maharashtra ranks highest in implementation of various agricultural reforms. The State has implemented most of the marketing reforms and offers the best environment for undertaking agri-business among all the States and UTs. Gujarat ranked second with a score of 71.50 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Following the launch of AMFFRI, many states reformed the marketing laws. Punjab has adopted APLMC Act, 2017 and 23 States have issued felling and transit guidelines for minor forest produce and on-farm timber produce. An ordinance was also effected by MoEFCC to modify the schedule of Indian Forest Act 1926 to delist bamboo grown on private land from the tree produce. Hence, the aim of index to induce a healthy competition between States and percolate best practices in implementing farmer-friendly reforms has started showing its impact.



During the subsequent phases, focus will be on carrying out pre-feasibility, project preparation and planning activities for the selected projects followed by handholding the states through the transaction management cycle till the financial closure.

V. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) IN HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND WATER SECTOR

NITI Aayog has initiated web portal for social indicators by establishing an outcome monitoring framework in critical economic and social development sectors that include - Healthcare, Education & Water Sector. The primary objective of this framework is to determine performance of various States by reviewing performance with respect to KPIs in each of these sectors. Each State has been requested to submit their respective KPI datasets and NITI Aayog through an external agency would review and validate such inputs as submitted. M/s IPE Global has been hired as the validation agency for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in Healthcare, Education & Water Sector.

VI. CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Two Workshops with Start-ups & Young Entrepreneurs on 16th & 17th August, 2017 and with Young CEOs & Entrepreneurs on 21st & 22nd August, 2017 titled “Champions of Change – Transforming India through G2B partnership was organized. 450 CEOs and Entrepreneurs participated in the workshops. In the First workshop, six groups of Entrepreneurs made presentation on themes such as A new India by 2022, Digital India reaching last mile, Education & Skills, Energizing a Sustainable Tomorrow, Health and Nutrition and Soft Power Incredible India.



In the Second workshop, six groups of young CEOs made presentations before the PM on themes such as Cities of Tomorrow, Doubling Farmers' Income, Make in India, World Class Infrastructure, Reforming the Financial Sector and A New India by 2022.

VII. GIS BASED PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

Gujarat Model of GIS based Planning has emerged as the best practice in its sector. A national level workshop of all States/UTs was organized at Ahmedabad to experience it in depth. On NITI Aayog's initiative, MeitY agreed to support the endeavour of GIS based planning in all States with support of BISAG. BISAG is developing the customized software based on the actual requirement of each State/UT separately. NITI Aayog organized the in-depth capacity development programme of State Officials at Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application Geo-informatics (BISAG) in November 2017 for customized State software's prepared by BISAG.

VIII. DASHBOARD TO TRACK PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN UTs

NITI Aayog has developed the Dashboard, a Progress Tracker for Union Territories of India (UTs) to monitor and track the monthly progress of various developmental schemes/ projects/ initiatives of the government. The UTs feed the data, Ministries vets it and NITI Aayog/MHA undertakes monthly and quarterly monitoring. As of now, the tracker monitors the progress of 42 developmental schemes/ projects/initiatives. This monitoring has impacted the delivery of services in UTs significantly. The URL is <http://progresstracker.in/>

IX. CAPACITY BUILDING OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES

A meeting with team of Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and Temasek Foundation International, Singapore under the chairpersonship of Adviser (MU) was held on 04.10.2017 to deliberate on possible areas and road map for the second phase of capacity building programme for urban leaders.

Subsequently, his Excellency High Commissioner to Government of Republic of Singapore met CEO, NITI Aayog on 12.10.2017, wherein it was decided to go ahead with second phase of capacity building programme of urban leaders. First phase of capacity building programme of seven States, undertook under the umbrella of MoU signed by Hon'ble Prime Minister in November, 2015 was completed in January, 2017. Three frameworks namely (i) Integrated Data Management Framework (ii) Strategic Framework for Water Recycling and (iii) Strategic Framework for Solid Waste Management and PPP have been developed by the participants of the first phase of capacity building programme are under finalization. The MoU for second phase of capacity building is being signed.

THINK TANK FUNCTIONS

I. VISION DOCUMENT OF INDIA

Three Year Action Agenda

The Three Year Action Agenda covers the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20, the last years of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. With an increasingly open and liberalized economy and given the new realities of the global economy, it needed to rethink the tools and approaches to conceptualizing the development process. The Action Agenda framework allows us to better align the development strategy with the changed reality of India. In preparing the Agenda, the NITI Aayog sought and received inputs from State Governments, Union Territories and Ministries of the Central Government. Extensive consultations were held with groups of scientists, economists, journalists, voluntary organizations, industry associations and experts in education, health, culture, defence, transport and other fields. Many experts also provided useful written inputs.

The draft Agenda was circulated to NITI Aayog's Governing Council Members on April 23, 2017. Subsequently, several states and their Chief Ministers provided comments on the draft document. The Action Agenda contains ambitious yet achievable proposals to achieve far-reaching changes in India's economy. Where relevant, we have included possible actions by the states to complement the Centre's efforts. The document has 7 parts with 24 chapters, covering areas ranging from agriculture, industry and services, Three Year Revenue and Expenditure framework to health, education and management of water resources.



The final version of Three Year Action Agenda- 2017-18 to 2019-20 has been finalised and unveiled by Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, along with Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and the then NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya on 24th August, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The above document is in public domain and available on NITI Aayog website www.niti.gov.in.”

II. APPRAISAL DOCUMENT OF 12TH FIVE YEAR PLAN:

The Appraisal Document of the 12th Five Year Plan has been finalised and circulated in the meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 23rd April, 2017, which is in public domain and available on the website of NITI Aayog (www.niti@gov.in).

III. TRANSFORMING INDIA LECTURE SERIES ORGANIZED BY NITI AAYOG

The 3rd lecture under Transforming India Lecture Series of NITI Aayog was held on 25th May, 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Dr. Michael E. Porter, a Renowned American Business Strategist, Economist and Author delivered the key note address on the theme “Competitiveness of Nations and States: New insights”. This was followed by a Panel discussion and a Question and Answer session, in which the panelists were Mr. Michael Green, CEO, Social Progress Imperative, Mr. Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, Quality Council of India and Shri Pramath Raj Sinha, founder of ISB & Ashoka University. The welcome remarks and Vote of Thanks were made by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.



The participants included the Union Council of Ministers, Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretaries / Senior Officers of various Ministries / Departments of Govt. of India, PMO and NITI Aayog.

IV. DOUBLING OF FARMERS' INCOME:

The first ever policy document on “Doubling Farmers’ Income –Rationale, Strategy, Prospects and Action Plan” was prepared by Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog. It has three pronged strategy focusing on (i) development initiatives, (ii) technology and (iii) policy reforms in agriculture

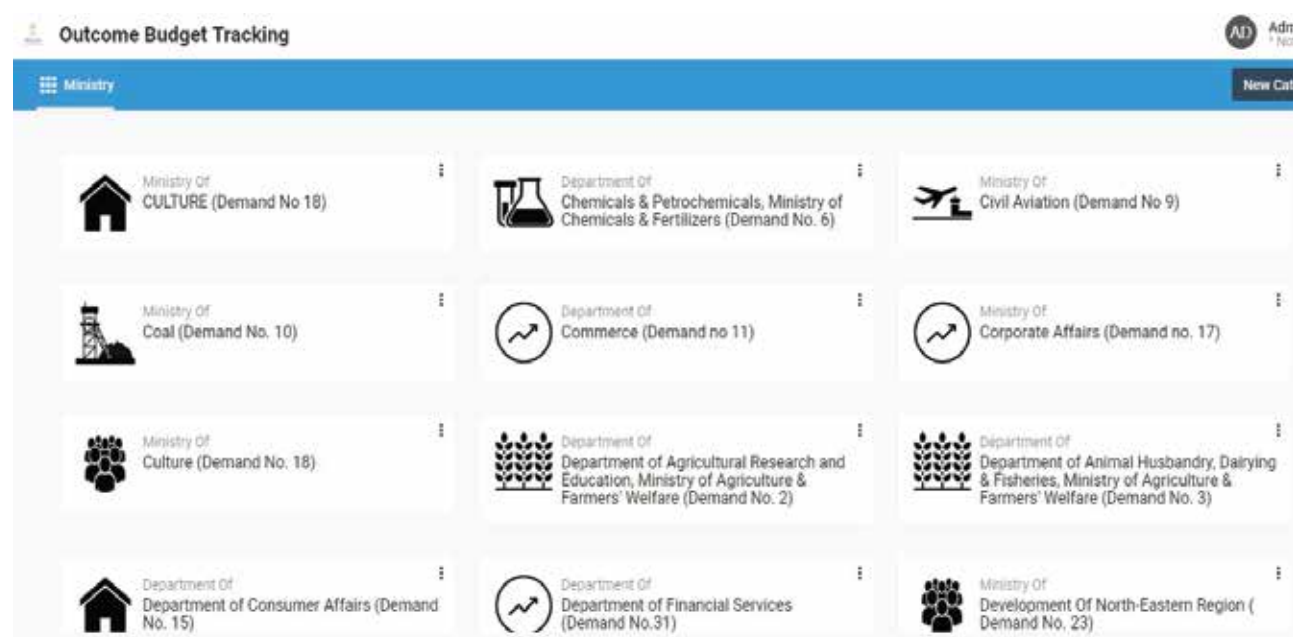
has been suggested in the policy paper to double farmers' income. Enhancing productivity, crop intensification, directed diversification for high value commodities, better price realization and change in terms of trade are the major pillars suggested for augmenting the income of the farmers along with better opportunities in non-farm sector in the rural areas. The paper also suggested reforms in national agricultural research system, and precision farming to raise production and income of farmers substantially. R&D institutions should also include in their packages grassroots level innovations and traditional practices which are resilient, sustainable and income enhancing. About one third of the increase in farmers' income is easily attainable through better price realization, efficient post-harvest management, competitive value chains and adoption of allied activities. This requires comprehensive reforms in market, land lease and raising of trees on private land. Agriculture has suffered due to absence of modern capital and modern knowledge. Similarly, FPOs and FPCs can play big role in promoting small farm business. Ensuring MSP alone for farm produce through competitive market or government intervention will result in sizeable increase in farmers' income in many states.

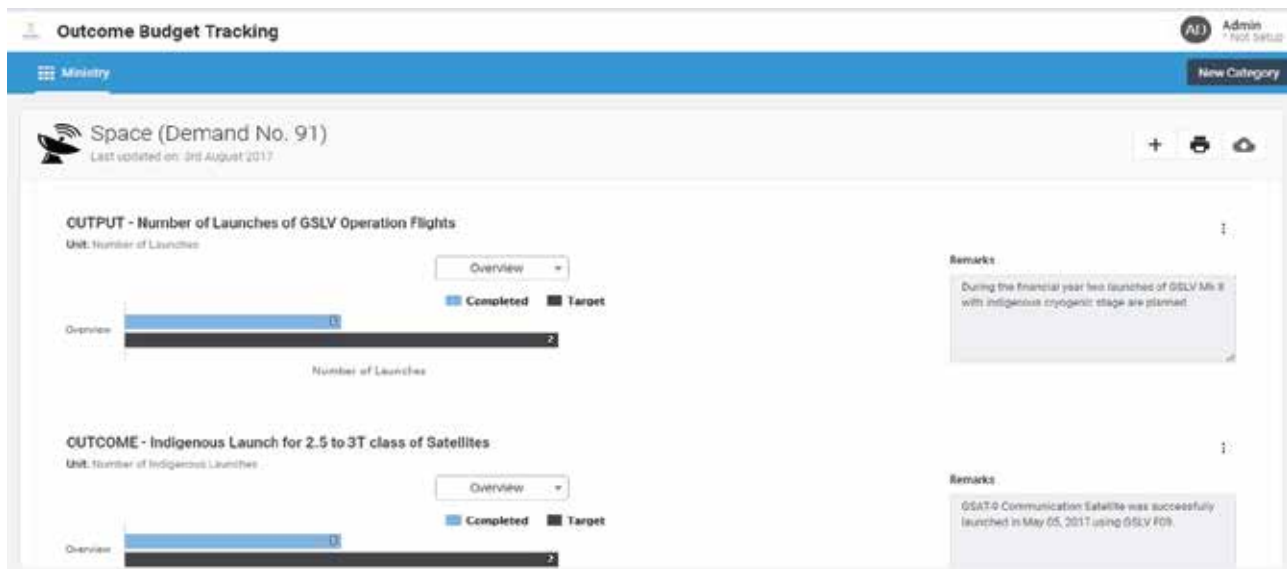
V. OUTCOME BUDGET AND OUTPUT-OUTCOME FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Finance has asked DMEO to monitor the implementation of Outcome Budget: 2017-18 of the Government of India. DMEO has developed a web-based interactive dashboard for this purpose and the entire Outcome Budget document containing information about 69 Ministries/Departments has been uploaded to the dashboard. The Ministries/Departments has been provided with the access to dashboard so that they can upload data to the dashboard on online basis.

Work is in progress to upgrade dashboard enabling it to automatically fetch data from the MIS of Ministries and also to have granular information i.e. State and District level data.

The screen shots of Outcome Budget dashboard are as below:





DMEO has taken up a rigorous exercise to bring qualitative improvement in the Output-Outcome Framework by reviewing and identifying relevant outputs and outcomes, and quantifiable and measurable indicators to monitor them. With the help of an external agency and in compliance with the international best practices in performance monitoring, DMEO has adopted a standardized strategy which involves use of the Strategic Outcomes Verification Process (SOVP), an analytical tool, in this exercise. SOVP is based on the traditional results chain i.e. Inputs-Activities-Outputs-Outcomes-Impacts. Indicators identified through the exercise would be incorporated by the Ministry of Finance in the Outcome Budget: 2018-19. The following approach and prioritization was followed by DMEO for covering over 750 schemes across 72 Ministries and Departments:

- For schemes with budget outlays above Rs. 100 crores in 2017-18, DMEO finalized indicators in consultation with the Ministries concerned. Priority was given to the schemes above Rs. 500 crore.
- For schemes with budget outlays below Rs 100 crore, the Ministries were asked to prepare outputs, outcomes and indicators and share the same with DMEO.

The budget coverage of this exercise was as follows:

Scheme Outlay (Rs. Cr.)	No. of Schemes	Value (Rs. Lakh Cr.)	Percentage by Volume	Percentage by Value
> 500	150	9.38	~20%	95%
100-500	181	0.45	~24%	4.50%
<100	438	0.1	~56%	0.50%

Thematic Departmental Action Plans

DMEO has also been monitoring the implementation of thematic Departmental Action Plans prepared by the Ministries/ Departments for implementing the recommendations from 8 Groups of Secretaries

on 8 thematic areas. However, this work on the direction of Cabinet Secretary was transferred in March 2017 to the Sectoral Group of Secretaries.

VI. GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2017

India and United States had co-hosted the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2017 from November 28-30 in Hyderabad, India. The Summit was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Advisor to the President, Ivanka Trump, who led the U.S. delegation. The theme of GES 2017 was Women First, Prosperity for All and aims to create an environment that empowers innovators, particularly women, to take their ideas to the next level. The summit focused on four key industry sectors: Energy and Infrastructure, Healthcare and Life Sciences, Financial Technology and Digital Economy, and Media and Entertainment.



On behalf of GoI, NITI Aayog took the lead in organising GES, 2017 in India. As precursor to the GES, many events with different partners were hosted across the country from September to November, 2017 to inspire the culture of Entrepreneurship. The summit was attended by over 1500 delegates, including entrepreneurs and investors, CEOs of major knowledge-based industries. The participants were truly global, representing approximate 150 countries, with representation from every region of the world.



NITI Aayog coordinated all activities relating organization of GES 2017 at Hyderabad. NITI Aayog in collaboration with Government of Telangana organized the 8th GES from November 28-30, 2017 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad. The theme of the GES-2017 was '**Women First, Prosperity for All**'. The Summit was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 28th November, 2017. The Summit was attended by more than 2000 Entrepreneurs, Investors and

Speakers from more than 150 countries, along with guests and officials from Government of India, Government of Telangana and Representatives from White House, United States of America. The US delegation, comprising of more than 400 Entrepreneurs, Investors and Speakers, was led by Ms. Ivanka Trump, Adviser to US President.

The summit witnessed around 50 technical sessions and several pitching competitions. More than 175 speakers drawn from various countries shared their experiences. The Summit received overwhelming coverage by national and international media.

VII. LAUNCHING OF PROGRAMME TO TRANSFORM IDENTIFIED ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

A program to rapidly transform 115 identified districts in India which have hitherto shown relatively less progress across different development indicators was conceptualised and launched by Niti Aayog in the year under review. While the Indian economy is on a high growth trajectory, it ranked 131 out of 188 nations in UNDP's Human Development Index 2016. Its performance in terms of achieving key social outcomes is not consistent with its growth story. As there are major inter-state and inter-district variations in achieving social outcomes, it is imperative that a concerted effort is made to improve performance of districts which have pockets of under-developments. The programme has been launched with the objective of improving the standard of living of citizens residing in these districts. Progress under this programme will result in dramatic rise in ranking of the country in terms of HDI and would also help the country in achieving SDGs and it is an important step towards creation of a New India by 2022.

To keep the approach focussed, the programme seeks to stress upon following sectors:

- a) Health and Nutrition
- b) Education
- c) Agriculture and Water Resources
- d) Financial inclusion and skill development
- e) Basic Infrastructure including access to road, potable water, rural electrification and individual household toilets.

For this programme, 115 districts in 28 States have been identified on the basis of a transparent process by using a composite index. This index comprises of published data in health and nutrition, education, deprivation enumerated under Socio-Economic Caste Census and basic infrastructure including road access, individual household toilet, access to drinking water and household electricity.

States are the main drivers of this programme. To assist district administration, Centre and State Governments have nominated senior level officials as Prabhari officers for these districts. These Prabhari officer are in a position to guide the districts due to their experience and are to act as a bridge between Centre and State.

The core strategy in the program may be summarised as:

- States as main drivers
- Work on the strength of each district.
- Make development as a mass movement in these districts.
- Identify low hanging fruits by identifying the strength of the districts so that this can work as a catalyst for development.

In order to aid District Magistrates, Niti Aayog is developing a real time monitoring mechanism of key performance indicator and rank the district on continuous basis. This is expected to bring in lot of competition.

The programme was formally launched on Jan 5, 2018 in a conference held in Ambedkar International centre, New Delhi where the District magistrates of these districts were addressed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.





In this meeting, which was attended by Central Ministers, Secretaries and Central and State Prabhari officers, the participants presented their strategies to transform these districts across identified themes of health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure. The Hon'ble Prime Minister directed the participants to make development a mass movement by involving local leaders as well as citizenry. He termed it as a great opportunity for all the stakeholders to contribute towards the transformation of these aspirational districts and expressed hope that the energy demonstrated by the participants augurs well for the citizens of these districts.

VIII. INTERACTION WITH ECONOMISTS AND EXPERTS ON " ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE ROAD AHEAD"

Niti Aayog organised an interactive session with over 40 renowned economists and other experts on the theme- " Economic Policy and the Road Ahead" on January, 10, 2018 which was attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. During the session, participants shared their views on various themes, such as macroeconomic indicators, agriculture, rural development, employment, health and education, manufacturing and exports, urban development, infrastructure and connectivity. The session was attended by several by several Union Ministers and the Prime Minister.



SECTORAL OBJECTIVE & ACHIEVEMENTS

1. AGRICULTURE

(i) Demand and Supply Projections on Crop, horticulture and livestock : A Working Group was constituted vide O.M. No.Q-110018/02/2016-Agri. dated 29th July, 2016 to assess the demand and supply scenario of agricultural commodities and make projections for the next 15 years. The Working Group held several consultations and the final



draft of the report was submitted during the end of November, 2017. The draft final report has been submitted at end of November, 2017. The draft report inter alia, provides the information on performance of Indian agriculture and growth trends; crucial issues related to the policy and programs of the agriculture and farmers' welfare; forecasts for fertilizer, seed, feed and fodder and other inputs; projection of demand and supply of agricultural commodities upto 2032-33 and policy interventions required to maintain food security and enhancing income of farmers through programmatic interventions.

TOR of Working Group

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

(ii) Sustainable Growth of Livestock and Dairying: Livestock sector has the potential of faster growth than crop sector and thus can contribute significantly in doubling farmer's income by 2022. Recognizing the potential, NITI Aayog organised a brainstorming session on 16th August, 2017 to develop strategy for sustainable and accelerated growth of livestock and dairying. State was represented by Senior Officers of Agriculture Departments and Vice Chancellors of State Veterinary Universities, Representatives of Industry, NGOs and Central Ministries participated in the meeting.

A comprehensive action plan and new initiatives to provide this sector a fillip for enhancing farmer's income was suggested. The ideas to streamline the future scope for rearing of poultry and small ruminants as backyard farming to raise farmers' income and livelihood supports in a 'crop-livestock' integration was emphasised. The salient action points finalised included:



- (a) Delineation of potential fallow and degraded lands to grow select green fodders to meet the green fodder shortages;
- (b) Policies for feed and fodder, small ruminants' development, culling of birds, breed improvement of cattle and skill development;
- (c) Cluster based village dairy farming to promote community dairy farming and integrating the milk marketing with the national agriculture market;
- (d) Integrated data base of animal husbandry, dairy development and poultry farming to implement better governance for the sector.
- (e) Low cost concessional credit policy to non-commercial dairying and animal husbandry and aquaculture at par with agriculture.

Drivers for Doubling Farmers Income

NITI Aayog's policy paper on 'Doubling Farmer's Income' identifies several growth drivers for doubling the farmer's income. The growth of animal husbandry and dairy sector has been envisaged at 4.5% to 6%. This could be achieved with concerted efforts of all the key stakeholders ushering into implementation of the developmental plans aligned to harness the potential of animal husbandry, dairying, poultry, piggeries and aquaculture in order to scale up the production and processing of milk, egg and meat etc.

(iii) Price supports to farmers: In the back drop of 50% higher MSP over cost of cultivation as recommended by M S Swaminathan led National Farmers Commission, a meeting was held in NITI Aayog on 01st July, 2017 to discuss about the possibilities of enhanced price support on review of minimum support prices of selected crops with the special reference to cost of production i.e. the A 2 costs (variable costs plus opportunity costs). Prof. M.S. Swaminathan participated in the discussions and deliberated the details of major causes of the agrarian crisis. He reiterated the need for land reforms, water policy and productivity both quantitatively and qualitatively, technology improvements and access, adequacy and timeliness of institutional credit, and opportunities for assured and remunerative marketing. He strongly recommended raising the agricultural competitiveness of farmers with small land holdings. There should be adequate improvement in implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops other than paddy and wheat particularly millets and other nutri-cereals. The state agriculture



produce marketing committee acts relating to marketing, storage and processing of agriculture produce need to shift to one that promotes grading, branding, packaging and development of domestic and international markets for local produce, and move towards a single Indian market. Dr Swaminathan appreciated the Member (Agri) and NITI Aayog for Model Agricultural Land Leasing act, 2016, agricultural marketing reforms index and Policy Paper on “doubling farmers’ income rationale, strategy, prospects and action plan”.

(iv) Development Agenda for India @ 75 : An Expert Group chaired by Member Prof. Ramesh Chand met on the September 21st, 2017, to discuss and suggest development agenda related to agriculture and allied activities for India @ 2022. A thematic roadmap has been prepared to meet the challenge to increase farmers’ income through interventions for increasing production & productivity, value chain creation, diversification; modernising agriculture for better technology, policy reforms and governance; and rural infrastructure. Development agenda for agriculture in new India focuses on seven goals in agriculture namely growth; stability; efficiency; food and nutrition security; food safety; sustainability; and farmers income.



(v) Vision for Agriculture & Food Processing: The Agriculture Vertical is entrusted with the development of a Vision Document, 2030 related to the Agriculture and its Allied Sectors addressing its critical areas related to Productivity Enhancement, Profit

Optimisation and Policy Initiatives for Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022. The Draft 15 years Vision Document on Agriculture and its Allied Sectors has synergy with the goals set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 7-years Strategy w. e. f. 2017-18 to 2023-24 to convert the longer vision into implementable policy as a part of “National Development Agenda” with a mid-term review after 3 years and a 3- year Action Plan for 2017-20 has also been developed.

(vi) Roadmap for Bamboo Development in NE: Action Plan for Bamboo Development particularly utilization in industry sector has been prepared in consultation with concerned Central Ministries viz. Department Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Environment Forest, Department of Land Resources, Science and Technology and Ministry of Social Welfare.

(vii) Pilot on Price Deficiency Payments: The concept note of Price Deficiency Payments as an alternative to physical procurement by the government introduce Minimum Support Price (MSP) was mooted and consultations were held with the State of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Central Ministries viz. Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, Food and Public Distribution for implementation of a pilot for cotton in the State of Maharashtra and pulses in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing a pilot project on deficiency price payment (Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana) in 8 crops viz soybean, groundnut, sesame, niger, maize, urad, mung and tur. The arrivals in October, 2017 have been 23% higher than October, 2016. An amount Rs. 160.84

cr is expected to be paid to 1,25,416 farmers under Bhaavantar Bhugtaan Yojana (BBY) for the period 16th October to 31st October, 2017 for trading 262678 tons of produce of 5 crops (soybean, urad, maize, moong, groundnut)

(viii) Technology applications for agri-insurance: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a flagship scheme of the Government of India. The scheme provides insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop, unsown area and damage to harvest produce as a result of natural calamities, and pests & diseases to stabilise the income of farmers, and to encourage them to adopt modern agricultural practices. The scheme aims to cover 50 percent of the farming households within next 3 years. During its implementation in last one season, several challenges relating to enrolment, yield estimation, loss assessment, and claim settlement were reported by the farmers, insurance companies, as well as by the State Governments. It was also felt that several technological opportunities exist that can possibly be leveraged to support the crop insurance programme for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. The Hon'ble PM in one of the meetings asked NITI Aayog to set a Task Force to deliberate on this subject and identify such potential opportunities. The Task Force was set up on 30 June 2016 in NITI Aayog. The Task Force submitted its report on 18 January 2017.

Terms of Reference

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

Recommendations

- Development of a comprehensive mobile-based application to ensure ease of registration, payment of premium and issuing e-receipts that has 24x7 links with the payment gateways
- States should commission major campaigns during the enrolment time in every crop season to increase awareness and arrange simultaneously for on-the-spot enrolment
- PMBFY guidelines should be relaxed to accept geotagged and time stamped photograph submitted by the farmers as a sowing certificate if the declared crop is changed after the payment of premium
- CCEs in its present form must be abolished in a phased manner and replaced with technological solutions for loss assessment. Till the time this is done, all CCEs should be witnessed, monitored and reported using mobile apps involving staff of SAUs/KVKs, farmers, agriculture department and insurance companies.
- For replacing CCEs with objective and rapid crop loss assessment methods, all state governments should immediately commission a 6-12-month project for a comparative evaluation and suitability of technological options for agro-ecological diversity in the state.
- Insurance companies should develop and evaluate a double trigger product using a) satellite weather data for mid-season claim calculation and payment to the insured and b) a yield index for final loss assessment and claim settlement

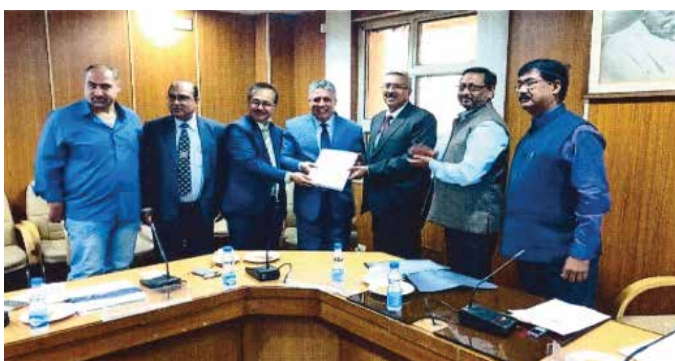
(ix) Self Sufficiency in Timber Production: Boosting indigenous production of timber sources from non-forest lands would meet vision for doubling farmers' income, job creation, reducing heavy dependence on imports and contributing to carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon di oxide through additional tree cover for meeting India's international climate change commitments. Suitable regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to enhance ease of tree cultivation on non-forests lands were recommended in consultation with Ministries including Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Commerce & Industry.

(x) Doubling farmer's Income- Champions of Change: The Prime Minister called to double the farm income by 2022, the 75th year of our independence. It is a daunting task as it may require an annual growth of 10.41 percent in farmers' income. To address the critical issues embraced with the agriculture, the platform for champions of change took up the topics focussing on productivity, irrigation, value chain, crop intensity, diversifications and how to increase the investments in agriculture - as actionable roadmap for industry to Double Farmers' Income. Finally, the deliberations were concluded keeping in mind following issues for future course of action :



Productivity	Role of industries for customized services for farm mechanization; new-age agricultural extension; quality planting material; high-end R&D investment.
Irrigation	PPP for land development, alternate models for financing and functioning of large irrigation projects
Diversifications	Address the regional imbalances in infrastructure; group formation to provide economy of scale to small growers; driving regional branding for agriculture, quality and standardization in animal husbandry and fisheries.
Crop Intensity	Knowledge to the farmers to build capacities for efficient utilization of land holdings, handholding for seeds, inputs and market linkages
Value Chain	Profitable commercialization and exports competitiveness; engaging the rural youth in creating value chains and capacity building and access to finance and markets.
Investments	Capital investment to enhance supply of quality planting materials/certified seeds and creating agri-business industry across value chain.

(xi) International Cooperation: Visit of Palestinian delegation : Three member delegation led by Dr. Nasser Jaghoub, Head (Director General), Palestinian Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund (PADRRIF), Ministry of Agriculture, State of the Palestine along with authorities of African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) visited NITI Aayog on 15th November, 2017 to appraise with the details of modus operandi related to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The study team shared the details of agricultural and irrigation activities being practiced in Palestine. In 2013 the Ministry of Agriculture established the Palestinian Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund to deal with all that relates to agricultural risk management. The PADRRIF, which became operational in 2014, brings under the same umbrella two main functions : (i) insurance and risk management for the agricultural sector; and (ii) direct compensation for damages to agricultural activities. The PADRRIF recognizes risks to the agricultural sector in the West bank and Gaza Strip (WBGs) as arising from natural and environmental hazards. The GOI signed a MoU with Palestine on co-operation in the field of agriculture during the visit of Palestinian President to India in May 2017.



(xii) Drought Assessment and Relief to farmers: Agriculture Vertical has been actively engaged in Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) constituted by Ministry of to assess the damage caused due to drought, hailstorms, cold waves, etc to crops and livestock, etc. During 2016-17, IMCTs visited Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States to assess the damage due to severe drought in Kharif, 2016. Kerala has suffered damages concurrently in Kharif, 2016 and Rabi, 2016-17. The

drought was declared in 7 Districts of Madhya Pradesh; 19 Districts of Chhattisgarh and 14 Districts of Kerala. The total reported area damaged >33% in these states due to drought was 0.542 lakh ha in Kerala, 6.05 lakh ha in Chhattisgarh and 18.64 lakh ha in Madhya Pradesh. The IMCTs recommended financial supports from the NDRF to the tune of Rs. 112.05 crore for Kerala; Rs. 395.91 crore for Chhattisgarh. The recommendations of IMCT for M.P. is yet to be frozen.



(xiii) Policy Papers/Discussion papers in agriculture

(a) Changing Structure of Rural Economy of India: Implications for Employment and Growth :

The paper examines the transition in rural economy during the past four decades based on the analysis of growth and composition of output and employment. Changes in rural economy are compared with urban economy to understand rural –urban disparities in income and employment. The transition has reduced share of agriculture in rural income, and, non-farm income dominated rural economy from 2004-05 onward. Further, production of manufacturing output in the rural areas is now much higher than the urban areas. However, agriculture still continues to be the predominant source of employment in rural India. Within non-farm sector, growth in output of manufacturing accelerated over time whereas additional employment generated in the sector shrunk over time. Post 2004-05 manufacturing witnessed almost jobless growth. Employment in construction sector increased substantially but it was not large enough to absorb workers leaving agriculture. The net result has been a decline in rural employment after 2004-05. This decline has hit female much more than the male. Serious imbalance has emerged in output and employment in different sectors in rural areas requiring urgent attention to create jobs in manufacturing, services and construction. Creation of jobs in rural areas requires a complete rethink of rural industrialisation.

(b) Changing Crop Production Cost in India: Input Prices, Substitution and Technological Effects:

The study has examined economics of crop cultivation at the aggregate level over the past 25 years, identified sources of cost escalation and evaluated the effects of factor prices, substitution and technological effects on the production cost. The results reveal that a disproportionate change in gross return vis-à-vis cost resulted in varying rate of return from crop enterprise during the past 25 years. During 2007-08 to 2014-15, the average cost inflation reached the highest level of 13 per cent, more than half of which was contributed by the rising labour cost alone. Further, at the aggregate level, use of physical inputs increased only marginally and a large share of the increase in the cost of cultivation was attributed to the rising prices of inputs. The estimated negative and inelastic demand of inputs revealed a great scope to reduce the cost by keeping a check on input prices, particularly labour wages. The estimated elasticity of substitution indicated imperfect substitution between labour and machine and the present level of farm mechanization is inadequate to offset the wage-push cost

inflation in Indian agriculture. It is therefore necessary to accelerate appropriate farm mechanization through the development of farm machinery suitable and economical at small farms and improvement in its access through the custom hiring. The study has also revealed a slow rate of yield improvement to offset the rising cost.

2. HEALTH

While India has made rapid strides on Health outcomes over recent decades; these outcomes have not kept pace with economic development over the same period. As a nation, we have shown significant declines in infant mortality, maternal mortality and total fertility rates, however, the inter-state variation in achievements remain a matter of concern. The Health Division has a key role in accelerating action to bring about transformational change in the sector through a multi-pronged approach. It has been our endeavour to bring priority issues centre stage and engage the attention of policy makers and all concerned stakeholders to solve the myriad problems that have retarded progress in these sectors with a sense of urgency.

The Vertical Represents the NITI Aayog in:

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

Major Responsibilities of the Division

- To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies in the sector of Health & Family Welfare 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.
- To maintain a state-of-the-art Resource Centre in the sector of Health & Family Welfare, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holder.

Major achievements of the Division during FY 2017-18 are as follows:

I. NITI Aayog 3 year Action Agenda- Chapter on Health

The Three- year Action Agenda was developed as the first part of the larger 15 year Vision for India. Inputs were received from academia, development partners, donor agencies, civil-society organizations and the States through consultations and written content. Accordingly, priority actions to be undertaken over the next three years were outlined under the following themes:

- I. Public and Preventive Health**
- II. Assurance of Health Care**
- III. Fiscal Transfers for better Health Outcomes**
- IV. Human Resources for Health**
- V. Access to Medicines**
- VI. Health Research**

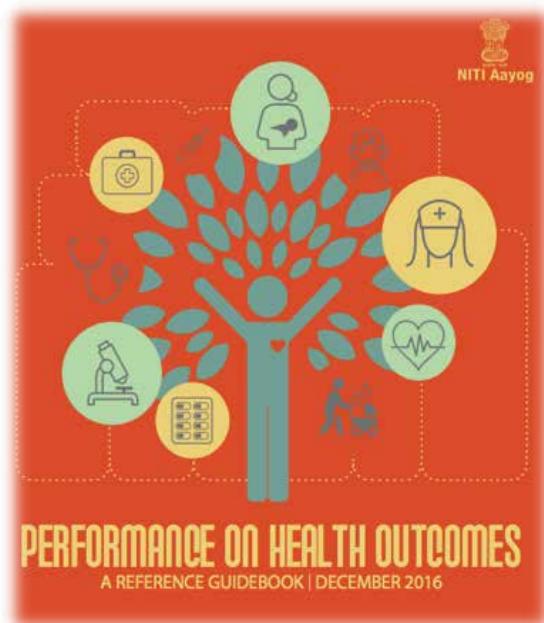
II. Reforms in the Medical Council of India.

During the review of health Sector in March 2016, Hon'ble PM constituted a Committee under the

Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and comprising Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, CEO, NITI Aayog and Secretary, Health to examine all options for reforms in the Medical Council of India and suggest a way forward. The Committee sought views and suggestions of various experts including eminent physicians and surgeons; former Secretaries to the Government of India, Department of Health and Family Welfare; public health experts; President/Vice-President and other Members of the MCI; representatives of the State Governments; and lawyers. The draft “National Medical Commission Bill” was prepared by the Committee after deliberations. After extensive deliberations, the Committee finalized the draft National Medical Commission Bill for replacing the Medical Council of India with the proposed National Medical Commission. The bill has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

III. Assessing the Performance of States on Health Outcomes -Performance on Health Outcome Index

In order to bring about transformational change in population Health through a spirit of co-operative and competitive federalism, NITI Aayog has spearheaded the Health index initiative, to measure the annual performance of States and UTs, and rank States on the basis of change, while also providing an overall status of States’ performance. The index comprises a limited set of indicators in three domains- outcomes, governance & information and key inputs/processes. The index was developed through an iterative process in consultation with the MoHFW, States & UTs, domestic and international sector experts, and development partners, in addition to a pre-test in two States for data availability. States were sensitized on the indicator definitions, data sources and process for data submission through a series of regional workshops. Mentors were provided to States, particularly the EAG States, North Eastern States and those that requested mentors. Data was submitted by States on the online portal hosted by NITI, and data from sources in the public domain was pre-filled. This data was then validated by an independent third party agency and validated data was used as the input into automated generation of index values and ranks on the portal. The exercise sets the foundation for a systematic output and outcome based performance measurement. It is envisaged that this tool will propel States towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will bring about the much desired optimal population health outcomes. The results of the Index will be accessible on social.niti.gov.in



IV. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) programme:

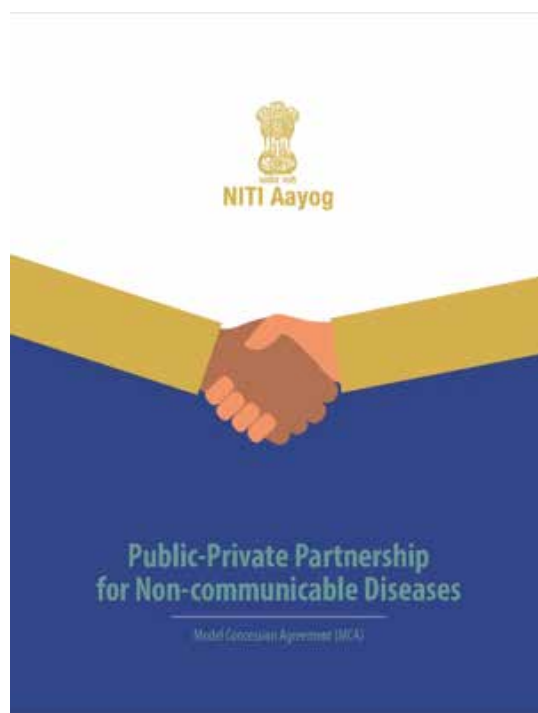
V. NITI Aayog has launched the Development of Support Services for States (DSSS) rechristened as SATH Programme for transforming the health sector, to foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives with States on a continuous basis. The objectives are to identify future role model States through a well-defined process, create best practice models in the chosen states and

collate and disseminate implementation models. It is a unique, one of its kind program designed to initiate transformation of the health systems of three States over a 3 year period.

A consortium of technical partners comprising McKinsey & Company and IPE Global, who have been selected through a competitive process have been providing services under the programme. The three states which have been selected under the programme are Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam.

VI. Developing model concession agreements for the provision of prevention and treatment services for Non-Communicable diseases at the district level on PPP mode

NITI Aayog has been mandated to develop model concession agreements for the provision of prevention and treatment services for Non-Communicable diseases namely Cardiac Sciences, Oncology, and Pulmonary Sciences at the district level on PPP mode, with a focus on Tier II and Tier III cities. As part of the exercise, consultation with stakeholders such as Industry, MoHFW and States have been carried out and Working Groups comprising representation from Industry, MoHFW and States have been constituted to provide inputs on developing model concession agreements for the provision of prevention and treatment services for Non-Communicable diseases at the district level on PPP mode. The draft MCA has been developed and has been shared with States and hosted on NITI's website to seek public opinion.



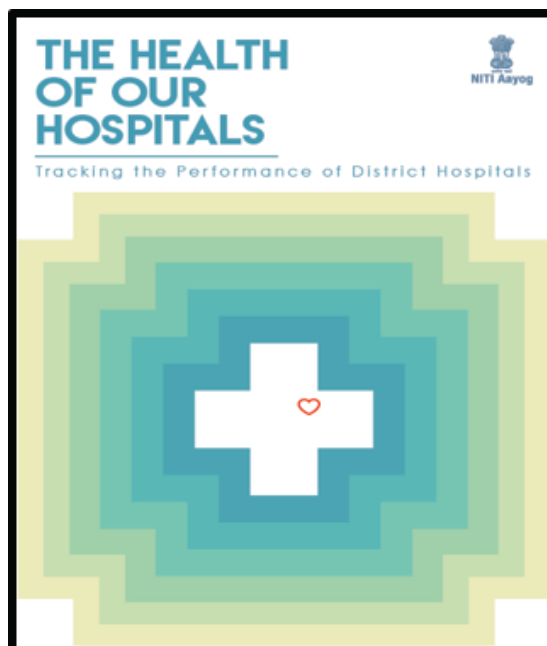
VII. Tracking the performance of District hospitals

During the review of health Sector in March, 2016 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, it was decided that an online portal for tracking the performance of government hospitals based on outcome metrics be created and NITI was mandated to create the framework. It has been felt that despite large funding allocation for District Hospitals, as well as their critical role in healthcare provision, there is no comprehensive system to assess their performance based upon their outcomes. In order to undertake this exercise, consultations with stakeholders such as Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, State Govts., WHO have taken place. The framework has been designed to determine the holistic assessment of hospitals. It includes selected indicators based on which performance of district hospitals would be measured. Indian Statistical Institute has been selected to develop portal and use analytics for assessing the performance of district hospitals. This will be simultaneously followed by validation of the data in the field through a third party validation agency.

VIII. Reforms in Pharma sector:

As mandated during the meeting on 'Review of Pharma Issues' held in PMO in March 2017, CEO, NITI had chaired a committee to suggest changes in the proposal relating to the National

Pharmaceutical Policy. NITI reviewed the draft policy and recommended the policy to be more inclusive and have linkages with National Health Policy 2017, Universal Health Care, AYUSH drugs, vaccines, rational use of Drugs, improving centralised government procurement, repurposing of pharma PSU with public private partnership for creating centres of excellence, emphasis on technology and e-governance, R&D and innovation. It also recommended encouraging growth of private pharmaceutical industry, facilitating 'Make in India', developmental approach for becoming a hub of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), Job creation, Skill development and Export promotion. It suggested having a forward looking policy creating opportunities for growth, a clear roadmap for establishing a robust public procurement system and strengthening of the quality assurance regulatory mechanism is required. NITI is also under the process of review of opportunities for growth of medical device sector.



IX. Evaluation of NIPERs:

The Ministry of Finance had requested NITI Aayog to carry out an evaluation of the existing NIPERs and recommend a suitable roadmap, after undertaking the following exercise:

- Evaluate the performance and utility of the existing NIPERs;
- Appraise the financial requirement and recommend ways to make them completely self-financing;
- Assess whether India currently needs more NIPERs or existing ones can be consolidated.

NIPERs are institutes set up under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. NITI had given a detailed evaluation report and interalia, recommended that the NIPERs need to re-engineer their business model and do an objective assessment of the outcomes to ensure highest standards of pharmaceutical education and research in the country.

X. Electronic Health Records

NITI Aayog is currently working on a creating a roadmap for implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR) across India. The envisioned EHR system will help create a longitudinal medical record for every individual and enable sharing of the same across health facilities. This will not only improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery but also assist in public policy formulation and medical research by providing rich insights through health informatics. As part of the project, NITI Aayog is looking at the IT requirements, defining data privacy and security guidelines, ensuring inter-operability, establishing the institutional framework and measures to drive adoption of EHR systems.

3. WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The WCD Division is the Nodal Division in NITI Aayog that oversees policy and programmes of the Ministry of Women & Child Development for ensuring overall survival, development, protection and participation of women and children, broadly guided by twin objectives to empower the women to live with confidence, dignity and economic and educational ability and to nurture children to develop to their full potential, make them safe, healthy and protective environments. During the year of Report major activities undertaken by the Division are summed up below:

1. Release of National Nutrition Strategy- The strategy has been released by WCD Division with an intention for stage of bringing Nutrition Centre in Development Agenda.

2. Papers on Gender & Nutrition for the Development Agenda, 2022; The Division held meetings with stakeholders on Nutrition and Gender for getting inputs for preparation of Development Agenda Papers, 2022. The papers on both issues were accordingly prepared.

3. Anchoring the work of NNM:- The WCD Division is working on setting of Technical Support Unit under recently approved National Nutrition Mission and Constituting a National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairmanship of Niti Aayog for policy direction, review and effective coordination and convergence between Ministries which all will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition.

4. Evaluation of PMMVY: As per the announcement of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Maternity Benefit Programme has to be implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013. All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) who have their pregnancy on or after 01.01.2017 for first child in family except those receiving maternity benefit are eligible. The objective is to: i) provide partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child, and ii) the cash incentive provided would lead to improved health seeking behavior amongst the PW&LM. As per the PMO mandate, NITI Aayog has been assigned for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Maternity Benefit Programme. Accordingly, first Quarterly Report and Dashboard have been prepared with inputs received from MWCD and State and shared with PMO.

5. Conduct of Field Visits; A team comprising of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office and WCD Division of NITI Aayog undertook field visits to four States - Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat - in September and October 2017, to document the State's initiatives on Take Home Ration (THR) and managing severely acute malnourished (SAM) children. In this study initiative on composition, supply, use and uptake of routine THR under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was documented, and alternatives were suggested to strengthen the system and have deeper impact on nutrition.

6. Appraisal and examination of MoWCD Schemes:- The WCD Division, in collaboration with Project Appraisal and Management Division, examined Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memorandum Appraisal of the Scheme "Umbrella Scheme of Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women" for continuation during the Fourteenth Finance Commission cycle i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20 Reg. (Beti Bachao Beti Padaho, NMEW, Swadhar Greh, Ujjawala, Working women Hostel, Gender Budgeting) Draft EFC Memo for the Scheme Mahila Shakti Kendra, Continuation of on-going sub-schemes and introducing a new scheme 'Mahila Shakti Kendra' under Umbrella Scheme 'Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women' during the 14th Finance Commission period 2017-18 to 2019-20 and EFC in respect of Family Counseling Centre scheme of Central Welfare Board.

The Division subsequently also examined the draft **Cabinet Note** for setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) and Draft Bill on Anti-Trafficking.

7. Representation of NITI Aayog at various Fora: The Division represented NITI Aayog in different Sanctioning Committees constituted by Ministry of Women & Child Development under their various schemes i.e. STEP, Ujjawala, Swadhar Greh. The Division also represented NITI Aayog as a Member of Governing Board of Rastriya Mahila Kosh(RMK) and General Body and Executive Council of 'National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development' (NIPCCD), and 'Central Social Welfare Board' (CSWB).

8. The Division also constituted a **Committee to Deliberate on Data Collection Issues on Nutrition** and organized its meeting and also prepared the **District level guidelines for the monitoring of Nutritional status** after several round of discussions.

9. Brief for P.M. Visit in States; The Division also prepared briefs on major schemes of Ministry of WCD for PMO for PM's visit to States. Besides providing information about the performance of the Flagship Scheme i.e. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), it also highlighted the issues concerning the sector in the States and UTs and reiterated the need for close monitoring of the implementation of the scheme.

10. Parliament Questions and RTI Applications; The Division handled Parliament questions and also provided inputs for preparing reply to parliament questions received from other Divisions of NITI Aayog as well as other Ministries/Departments. VIP references relating to the sector were also dealt in the Division. The Division also handled RTI matters and prepared reply to RTI applications concerning the WCD Sector.

4. GOVERNANCE AND RESEARCH

Grants-in-Aid for Research

In line with the NITI's mandate to develop as a Knowledge and Innovation hub, a new set of guidelines viz. "Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2015 (RSNA-2015)" were framed in December 2015 with provisions for providing funding for research studies, seminars/ workshops/conferences, publications, NITI fellowships and use of NITI Logo Support for various events. In the last two years, the scheme has helped in getting a large number of research studies conducted besides supporting public debates on issues of national importance. The entire set of guidelines issued under RSNA- 2015 is available on the website of NITI Aayog.

During the year 2017-18 (up to December 2017), a total Grant of Rs. 106.39 lakh was released which comprised Rs.96.09 lakh on Research Studies and Rs.10.30 lakh on Seminars/Workshops/ Conferences.

Proposals for funding 8 new research studies (Table 1.1) and financial support for 6 Seminars (Table 1.2) were approved during the year 2017-18. During the year, 5 ongoing Research Studies, as per the old guideline, have also been completed and are listed at Table 1.3. The organisations, permitted to use NITI Aayog Logo for specific events, are given in Table 1.4.

The study reports/seminars proceedings are received both in hard and soft copies. All these research study reports are uploaded on the website of NITI Aayog for easy accessibility, exchange of views and wider use in research as well as development. Copies of these reports and seminar proceedings are also circulated to concerned verticals/divisions within NITI Aayog. The concerned divisions in the NITI Aayog examine these reports and send them to their concerned Ministries/Departments for further action.

Networking with Other Think Tanks

NITI Aayog has 14 Chair Professor Units which are located at various universities/Institutions (Table 1.5). Further NITI has launched a major initiative viz. SAMAVESH aimed at networking and partnership with knowledge and research institutions using a hub and spoke model. The brainstorming session on SAMAVESH was convened in December 2016 under the chairmanship of Principal Adviser (Social Sector) which was followed by a focused meeting on IMPRINT (Impacting Research, Innovation and Technology) in February 2017 wherein a lot of Inter-Ministerial issues regarding research proposals were resolved. In May 2017, first meeting of the National Steering Group on SAMAVESH was held under the co-chairmanship of CEO and Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog to discuss the roadmap for SAMAVESH, policy theme groups and Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) to be signed between NITI and the partner institution. By December 2017, a total of 38 reputed institutes/ think tanks across different sectors have been identified for partnership under Samavesh and

34 MoUs have been signed. Over a period of time, SAMAVESH is expected to help in NITI's role as the apex Think Tank of the Government while at the same time the partner institutions can be developed as Centres of Excellence for specific thematic priorities and can further reach out and mentor similar institutions that would together help create a knowledge ecosphere in the country.

Policy Perspectives

The Governance and Research Vertical is the nodal Division for 7 Departments of Government of India viz. Personnel & Training, Public Grievances, Pensions, Food and Public Distribution, Consumer Affairs, Fertilizer and Chemicals & Petrochemicals. During the year 2017-18, the Vertical examined a number of policy references from these Departments. The Vertical has also been represented in many Inter-Ministerial Committees on the subjects handled by it.

1. DBT in Fertilizers: A Committee was constituted by PMO in March 2016 under the Chairmanship of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog to recommend and finalize modalities of the pilot roll out of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Fertilizer. Phase-I of DBT in Fertilizers envisages transfer of fertilizers subsidy to companies on sale of fertilizers at retailer point through Point of Sale (PoS) device. A number of meetings of the Committee were held during the year guiding the pilot roll out in 17 districts, which was followed by prospective Pan India roll out in Phases. NITI Aayog conducted an evaluation study of DBT in Fertilizers through M/s Microsave, which has shown encouraging results and remarkable success in implementation.

2. Revival of closed Urea units: Three closed urea units of Fertilizers Corporation India Limited (FCIL) and two closed units of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) are being revived by consortium of PSUs. An IMC under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog has been actively monitoring the revival of these units and resolving the issues encountered during the process. Another Committee under the Chairmanship of NITI Aayog has been reviewing the issue of technology selection for revival of Talcher unit of FCIL being set up through the coal gasification route. A Committee has been constituted by NITI Aayog to examine the issue of formulation of policy for payment of subsidy for urea produced through coal gasification route.

3. Committee on Millets in PDS: A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog for Introduction of millets under PDS to provide Nutritional Support. The Committee has held its first meeting recommending several measures to promote the millets under PDS.

4. Working Groups on issues related to National Development Agenda for New India @75: NITI Aayog decided to hold consultations on wide ranging subjects to evolve a way forward for the National Development Agenda for New India @75. To facilitate the same under Governance and Research Vertical Working Groups on "Civil Services Reforms" and "Legal, Judicial and Police Reforms" with participation of outside experts were constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal,

Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog. Brainstorming sessions were held and recommendations were submitted by both Working Groups.

5. National Law Day Conference: A two day Conference was organised by NITI Aayog in November 2017, in association with Law Commission of India, on the occasion of the National Law Day 2017. The theme of the conference was “Balancing Roles of Three Wings of the State towards India’s Development”. Hon’ble President inaugurated the Conference in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker and Chief Justice of India, while Hon’ble Prime Minister delivered the valedictory address. The Conference was attended by over 1700 persons including senior Ministers in the Central Government including Minister of Finance and Minister of Law, Justices of Supreme Court, High Courts & other Courts, advocates, academia, Government Officials and law students.

6. Review of duty structure on Yellow Peas: The matter of import duty structure on yellow peas was examined in a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog. The Committee examined the issues in a holistic manner and suggested the duty structure togetherwith development of a trigger mechanism wherein trade policies respond to sharp fluctuations in prices both upward and downward, also taking into account difference between domestic and international prices.

Review of Autonomous Bodies

The Ministry of Finance had requested NITI Aayog to undertake an in-depth review of the Autonomous Bodies (ABs) of Union Government. Accordingly, NITI Aayog has constituted a Committee in January 2017 under the chairmanship of Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog to review the ABs and make recommendations for enhancing their outcomes, effectiveness, efficiency and governance through consultative process. Eight Meetings of the Committee have been held during the year so far. In Phase-I, the Committee has reviewed ABs set up under the Societies’ Registration Act under the Ministry/ Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ayush, Higher Education, Culture, Sports, Information & Broadcasting. The draft report of Phase-I of the review has been submitted during the year. Phase II of the review has commenced covering Ministries/ Departments of MSME, Textiles, Tourism, External Affairs, Women & Child Development and School Education & Literacy. Preliminary discussions were held with the concerned Ministries/ Departments during the year.

Transform India’s Gold Market

The gems and jewellery industry of India contributes around 7% to India’s GDP and has 15% share in India’s merchandise exports. About 90-95% of units in the sector are MSMEs which provide jobs to around 61 lakh people. In order to support this sector and push manufacturing & exports as part of the “Make in India” strategy, NITI Aayog has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser for looking at ways and means to transform the India’s Gold Market. The Committee held various meetings during the year and different sub-groups were set up to address specific areas concerning the sector. The draft report of the Committee is in the process of being finalized.

Table 1: Research Studies Approved during the year 2017-18 (up to 31st Dec, 2017)		
Sl. No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	Central Transfer to States in India: Rewarding Performance while Ensuring Equity	National Institute of Public Finance & Policy, New Delhi
2.	Judiciary Reforms & Education	DAKSH Society, Bangalore
3.	Judicial Case Studies in India	Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi
4.	Highlighting Impact of decision in Highway Matter Economy in General & Stake Holders	Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur
5.	Development of Conceptual Framework to Rationalize Trains using Operational Research Tools	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay
6.	Development of an Enhanced Version of India Energy Dashboards	Prayas, Bengaluru
7.	Impact of Special Package for Drought Mitigation Implemented in Bundelkhand Region of UP & MP.	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
8.	Diagnostic Study for Power Distribution	CRISIL Infrastructure Advisory, Gurugram

Table 2: Seminars approved during the year 2017-18 (up to 31st Dec, 2017)		
Sl. No.	Title of the Seminar	Name of Institution
1.	International Conference on “The SCOSTEP/ISWI International School on Space Science”	Smt. Kasturba Walchand College, Sangli
2.	National Conference on “Role of Biological Science in Sustainable Development & Biodiversity Conservation”	Arni University, Kangra (HP)
3.	International Seminar on “Transforming India 2030: Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals”	Symbiosis International University, Pune
4.	Workshop on “Effective & Efficient Realization of the Extensive Bioenergy Resources of India”	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
5.	Workshop on “Merger of Plan & Non-Plan Expenditure and Future of SC Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan.	CDS, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
6.	National Conference on Revisiting Agricultural Extension Strategies for Enhancing Food and Nutritional Security, Sustainable Livelihoods and Residence to Climate Change “	Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS), Hyderabad

Table 3: Studies completed during the year 2017-18 (up to 31st Dec, 2017)		
Sl. No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	Coal Mining, Displacement & Rural Livelihoods : A Study in Mahanadi Coalfields, Odisha	National Institute of Technology, Rourkela
2.	Use of ICT (Information Technology) in Secondary Schools in Six States	Education Quality Foundation of India, New Delhi
3.	Socio Economic Impact Study of Mining and Mining Policies on Livelihoods of Local Population in Vindhyan Region of UP	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun (Centre for Social Forestry & Eco-Rehabilitation)
4.	Effectiveness of PRIs in Health Care System in the state of Madhya Pradesh	Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations & Human Resources, New Delhi
5.	Socio Economic Empowerment of Rural Fisherwomen SHGs Through Enhanced Market Access.	Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Nagapattinam

Table 4: NITI Logo Support for Non-financial events: (up to 31st Dec, 2017)		
Sl.No.	Title of the Study	Institution / Researcher
1.	Intercollege Entrepreneurship competition Cum Award show on Women Entrepreneurship	Indian Business Chamber, New Delhi
2.	Air and Water Pollution : Innovations in Regulation, Abatement and Monitoring	Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago, New Delhi
3.	LoT India Congress 2017	The Institute of Engineering and Technology
4.	The Business of Govt. Learnings from the India & US Experience	FICCI, New Delhi
5.	India Healthcare : A patient View	FICCI, New Delhi
6.	Envisioning Skills 2022: Scoping Opportunities for India's Engagement with Global Skill Eco-System	YES Global Institute (YGI), New Delhi
7.	National Consultation on Gender, Political Economy and Energy.	M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai
8.	The Shared Value Summit 2017	The Institute for Competitiveness, Gurugram

Table. 5: Chair Professor Units of NITI Aayog

Sl.No.	Name of University/Institution
1.	Jadavpur University, Kolkata
2.	University of Allahabad, Allahabad
3.	Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi
4.	Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
6.	Punjabi University, Patiala
7.	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
8.	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics Research, Pune
9.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai
10.	Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
11.	University of Mysore, Mysuru
12.	University of Madras, Chennai
13.	M S University of Baroda, Vadodara
14.	Visva-Bharti, Shanti Niketan

5. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Human Resources Development (HRD) Division, restructured as HRD Vertical in the Team India Hub of NITI Aayog, is dealing with issues related to School Education & Higher Education. However, education related to agriculture and allied sectors, public health, and medical are not the domain areas of HRD Vertical. The HRD Vertical covers (a) pre-primary, elementary, secondary, senior secondary, higher, technical, teacher education and adult literacy; and (b) areas of special focus such as education for girls, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and also Children with Special Needs.

The different Ministries/Departments dealt in HRD Vertical are in Table 1.

Table 1

SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY	HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)	Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)
Mid-Day Meal in Schools (MDMS)	Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)
Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)	Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT)
Vocationalisation of Secondary Education	Scholarships
Teacher Education	National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT)
ICT @ Schools	Book Promotion
Saakshar Bharat Programme	Languages Development
National Bal Bhavan, KVs, NVs, NIOS, NCERT etc.	Technical Education including IITs, NITs, IIMs, IISERs, NITTRs, II Sc etc,

Proposals Examined/ Appraised

During the year 2017-18, the HRD Vertical developed of 3 year agenda regarding education sector. The Vertical examined proposals and notes for the approval of Standing Finance Committee/ Expenditure Finance Committee/ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet in respect of the schemes of Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education (both under MHRD).

Appraisal of SFC/EFC/ Draft Cabinet Note/ Note for Cabinet/ Supplementary Notes for Cabinet Proposals

I. HIGHER EDUCATION:

- (i) Draft Cabinet Note on Revision of Pay-scales of teachers and other equivalent academic staff in higher educational institutions under the purview of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and in Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) following pay revision of Central Government employees on the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission;
- (ii) Cabinet Note for approval for creation of one Post of Director (Rs.75,000/- (fixed) + Rs.5000/-Special Allowance) and three non-teaching posts (Registrar, Librarian and Principal Students Activity & Sports (SAS) Officer) carrying Grade Pay of Rs.10,000/- for the newly established National Institute of Technology (NIT), Andhra Pradesh;
- (iii) Draft EFC for Revised Cost Estimates for the setting up of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Management (RGIIM) Shillog and minor expansion;
- (iv) Draft Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for construction of permanent campus for NIT Andhra Pradesh;
- (v) Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir-Draft EFC for continuation-comments;
- (vi) Expenditure Finance Committee on Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT);
- (vii) Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA): Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Proposal;
- (viii) SFC on National Initiative for Design Innovation for Setting up of Quality Design Innovation Centres, Open Design School & National Design Innovation Network;
- (ix) SFC for Continuation of the scheme for SWAYAM: the National Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) portal;
- (x) Draft Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for appraisal and Approval of continuation of Higher Education Statistics and Public Information System (HESPIS), a Central Sector Scheme;
- (xi) SFC for National Mission for Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT) Phase-II;
- (xii) Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for Interest Subsidy and Contribution for Guarantee Fund;
- (xiii) Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Appraisal of Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students;
- (xiv) Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on "Scheme of Adult Education for Eradication of Illiteracy";
- (xv) Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for Appraisal of Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students;
- (xvi) SFC Memorandum on 'One-time Additional Funding (Capital) to IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Chennai in F. Y. 2017-18;

- (xvii) EFC on IMPacting Research Innovation and Technology–II(IMPRINT-II);
- (xviii) Draft EFC on IIT Hyderabad-Japan collaboration project of Rs. 1776.50 crores to be financed out of the ODA loan of Rs. 1501.50 crores by Government of Japan and balance of Rs. 274.77 crores to be met from grants by MHRD over a period of 10 years (2013-14 to 2022-23)-extension of time.;
- (xix) SFC for setting up of IIITDM - Kurnool in the state of Andhra Pradesh and in-principal approval for cost estimates for commencing of Institute in permanent campus;
- (xx) Training and Research in Frontier Areas of Science and Technology (FAST) Scheme; and
- (xxi) Draft EFC for Establishment and Operationalization of Permanent Campus of Seven New IIMs at Bodhgaya, Nagpur, Sirmaur Amritsar, Sambalpur, Visakhapatnam and Jammu.

II. SCHOOL EDUCATION

- (i) EFC of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (ii) EFC of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM);
- (iii) EFC of Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE);
- (iv) EFC of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMS);
- (v) Draft EFC for Extension of Integrated Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA);
- (vi) FEC regarding Extension of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) from Secondary Education to cover Higher Secondary Education;
- (vii) EFC regarding National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE);
- (viii) SFC regarding Innovation Fund for Secondary Education;
- (ix) SFC for Scheme for Providing Education to Madrasas /Minorities (SPEMM);
- (x) Draft Note for Cabinet Committee On Economic Affairs (CCEA) for continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) from 1st April 2017 to 31st March, 2020 along with modifications in the scheme;
- (xi) Draft Cabinet Note regarding National Council of Educational Research and Training Bill, 2017-grant of Institution of National Importance (INI) status to NCERT; (xii) Draft Cabinet Note for Proposed Amendment to the ‘No Detention’ provisions of ‘The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009’.

Participation in Meetings & Contribution in Policy Issues

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

The officers of the Vertical represented NITI Aayog in various meetings organized by institutions like National University of Educational Planning the Administration (NUEPA), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), etc.

The HRD Vertical took various initiatives on policy issues during the year including analyzing the progress of major flagship programmes (viz. SSA, MDMS, RMSA, Autonomous Colleges, reforms in Higher Education including UGC & AICTE) and deliberating on outstanding issues in school and higher education for the preparation of folders for PM's Domestic visits. NITI Aayog has conducted regional workshops at Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Guwahati and Raipur covering all the States/UTs for sensitizing about the programme and also for furnishing the requisite data for SEQI.

Other Significant Achievements of the Vertical

1. School Education Quality Index (SEQI): The SEQI is in the final stages of development by the NITI Aayog in consultation with the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), State Education Departments of all States & UTs and various stakeholders, including educationists.

2. Development Support Services for States/UTs (D3S) for Education Projects: The NITI Aayog has initiated a policy to provide institutional support to 3 States to attain excellence in Education sector through an initiative of Development Support Services for States (DSSS) for Education. The scheme has named as Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH). The key objective of this policy is to identify and build three future 'Role Model' States for education systems. The first workshop under the initiative for the State of Odisha has been taken place at Bhubaneswar on 7th December, 2017. The similar workshops for the other 2 States will be held shortly.

3. Reforms in Higher Education: A Committee for Reforms in Higher Education was constituted based on NITI's presentation on 'Proposed Reforms in Regulatory Frameworks of the UGC and AICTE'. It was headed by Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog. The committee made recommendations for examining short-term measures for reforms in higher education. The Committee report is under consideration of the Government.

4. Involved in the exercise of preparation of “Development Agenda India @ 75” and conducted 4 working groups meeting with experts from across the country for Departments of School Education and Literacy, Higher Education (MHRD).
5. The Vertical has coordinated the Output-outcome budget exercise for Departments of School Education and Literacy, Higher Education (MHRD).
6. Involved in the 12th Plan appraisal exercise.

Miscellaneous Activities

Vertical also examined (i) proposals sent by NGOs and trusts for funding research studies/evaluation studies and (ii) Research Reports on education submitted by various researchers to SER Division. The Vertical also handled VIP/PMO references, public grievances, RTI related matters, preparation of outcome budget and provided material for inclusion in the President's Budget Speech. Under NITI Internship Programme, interns from various leading institutions from across the country have been provided internship training.

III. YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

India has a population of about 70 percent of below the age of 35 years. To harness the “Yuva Shakti” in nation-building, various programmes/ schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is focusing on problems related to adolescent and youth by having various schemes/programmes in both the Departments of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The Vertical has examined the EFC/SFC/DCN proposals on (i) Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports; (ii) Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations; (iii) Scheme for the Dhyanchand Award for the Life Time Achievement in sports and games; (iv) National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons; (v) Scheme for the Arjuna Awards for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games; (vi) Scheme of Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches including Scheme for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award; (vii) Scheme for the Dronacharya Award for the Outstanding Coaches in sports and games; (viii) Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (ix) National Centre of Sports Science and Research (NCSSR); (x) National Centre of Sports Coaching (NCSC); (xi) Draft Cabinet Note on Proposal for re-naming Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), an autonomous body under the Ministry, as National Yuva Kendra Sangathan; and (xii) Draft Cabinet Note on ‘Proposal for transfer of the subject 'Sports' from the State List to the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India’-reg.

During the period 2017-18, officials of the Vertical attended the meetings of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on different issues including SFCs and EFCs.

IV. CULTURE

India is a vast country having a rich and diverse cultural heritage providing creative expression to thousands of communities. The expression of cultural tradition not only creates a vibrant and dynamic society but also provides livelihood to a large number of people which also contributes to the country's economy. A variety of cultural traditions and diverse historical legacies join together, to provide our country, a unique identity in the world. The government through its network of institutions and grants-in-aid schemes has been supporting the preservation, popularization and promotion of the culture and cultural heritage. Different activities and interventions create a link between the past and present that lays the foundation for future development of the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. This is done through museums, archives, libraries, performing arts and organizing a variety of cultural events and festivals within the country and across the world. HRD Vertical coordinates with Ministry of Culture in the above mentioned areas.

The Vertical examined the EFC/SFC proposals on (i) Museum Grant Scheme; (ii) Scheme for setting up of Science Cities/ Science Centres/ Innovation Hubs; (iii) Continuation of the National Mission on Libraries-upgradation of Libraries providing services to the Public; (iv) Appraisal of ongoing five Schemes after merging them in a single Scheme namely "Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art & Culture"; (v) Dandi related Projects and Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission; (vi) Scheme for Promotion of International Cultural Relations; and (vii) Appraisal of ongoing two Schemes after merging them in a single Scheme namely "Scheme of Financial Assistance for creation of Cultural Infrastructure" .

The officers of the Vertical attended the meetings of SFC/EFC for various proposals, Project Appraisal Boards of Festivals of India Abroad and National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) and other such meetings of Ministry of Culture.

The Vertical conducted review meetings with Archaeological Survey of India and Akademies (Lalit Kala Academy, Sahitya Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy) and CCRT under Ministry of Culture and provided useful inputs for improvement of their functioning for showcasing the Indian Culture.

6. SKILL DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT UNIT

I. Responsibilities

The Skill Development and Employment unit deals with issues of skill development, job creation, labour reforms and social safety net. The unit closely works with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour and Employment in coordinating, formulating, processing, appraisal, analysis and monitoring of various schemes, programs and projects with major focus on making India the skill capital of the world and improving labour market conditions both for the employer and the employees. 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.

II. Initiatives

1. Best Practices in Skill Development: NITI Aayog's mandate has been to disseminate best practices across States. As an effort towards this, the Skill Development & Employment Division published a Compendium 'Skilling for Employability: Best Practices' highlighting best practices overcoming challenges such as equity, access, quality and relevance in the government, civil society and private sectors.

2. New India Agenda: The SDE unit organised Working Group meetings and drafted chapters on Employment, Skill Development and Labour Regulations for the Development Agenda for New India @75.

3. Appraisal of Cabinet Notes, SFCs and EFCs: 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 competent authorities to the administrative ministries.

Some of the important proposals appraised include:

Schemes/Programmes

- Strengthening the Apprenticeship Ecosystem in India
- North East Rural Livelihood Project.
- Upgradation of Existing Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Model Industrial Training Institutes
- Re-structuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework
- Memorandum on National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled
- National Career Service Project/Employment Exchanges Mission Mode Project (EEMMP)

Labour Acts

- Amendments to the certain provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951

4. Research

The Skill Development & Employment Vertical worked on various policy papers:

- ‘Road map for Improving Employment Statistics in India’: the paper examines the existing sources of data on employment, their advantages and shortfalls and suggests alternative data sources for capturing changes in employment trends.
- Streamlining Apprenticeship Training in India: Recommendations were made for streamlining the apprenticeship ecosystem, particularly the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS).
- Parameters for Monitoring the Progress in UTs under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the Flagship Scheme for skill development.
- Draft Paper on National Training Fund- A Special Purpose Vehicle: The paper recommends the Setting up of a National Training Fund for optimum utilisation of scarce resources and improving the output and outcome of skill training in the country.
- PPP Models in Skill Development across the World and their applicability to India
- Skill Development Indicators - An approach towards monitoring the skill delivery system: The Skill Development Indicators conceptualised by SDE unit, NITI Aayog aim to help the states to quantify the output, outcome and impact of the programmes. The indicators would serve to be an effective monitoring mechanism on the performances of skill development.
- Analysis of data on employment generation through the MUDRA scheme
- Youth: A Change Agent: published in Yojana
- Rural Transformation & Digital Technology: published in Kurukshetra
- India’s Women in the Workforce
- Job Creation in India- Challenges and Strategies - CII publication
- ‘Revitalising the Skill and Employment Ecosystem: Budget 2017-18,’ Blog for NITI Aayog website, Available at: <http://niti.gov.in/content/revitalising-skill-and-employment-ecosystem-budget-2017-18>

5. Miscellaneous Activities

Besides the above activities, database was compiled for over 50 entrepreneurship schemes of GoI and a proposal was submitted for the development of a web/mobile application. There are regular interactions with ILO experts on issues concerning labour market reforms, Skill Development Indicators, formalisation of the informal sector, strengthening social security and so on.

7. MANAGING URBANIZATION

Managing Urbanization (MU) Vertical in NITI Aayog deals with urban sector/issues and works in close association with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The Vertical collaborates with various departments of Centre and State Governments, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Knowledge Bodies/Institutions, Think Tanks, Experts, Policy Makers in planning, coordinating, formulating, processing, appraisal, analysis and monitoring of various urban sector schemes, programmes and projects along with designing suitable policy and pragmatic intervention based on real time data for strengthening India's urban transformation. Vertical also coordinates with other countries/universities for providing capacity building of urban leaders.

The major activities/works carried out during the year 2017-18 are specified as under:

1. Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Smart Cities & Informed Urbanization

NITI Aayog in collaboration with Smart Cities Research Cluster, University of New South Wales and Australian Government organised a knowledge sharing workshop on smart cities and informed urbanization for urban leaders who are implementing Smart Cities Mission in India on 27 April, 2017. This workshop facilitated cross learning between well-developed Australian cities and emerging Indian smart cities. The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development. As follow up action to implement the actionable agenda, a committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, cochaired by Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog was formed to finalize the possible areas for research in smart cities.

2. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to promote Digital Payments

Government of India has initiated a scheme/proposal of Rs. 50 crores to incentivize the states/UTs to undertake Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to promote Digital Payments for day to day financial transactions like depositing money, withdrawing money, buying and selling goods/services, transferring money etc. The incentive fund has been released directly to the district collectors in two installments for undertaking IEC activities to promote digital payments. So far, Rs. 21.33 crore has been released to various districts in the country subject to bank detail information received and their approval on PFMS.

3. Constitution of Working Group on City Governance & Smart Cities

MU vertical has constituted a working Group to deliberate on the issues pertaining to i) City Governance and ii) Smart Cities as part of National Development Agenda for New India@75 (2022) under the Chairmanship of Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Ex-Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. The consultation meeting of the working group was held on 26.09.2017 and the second meeting on 04.10.2017.

Based on the deliberations and inputs received from the experts of the group, draft reports on City Governance & Smart Cities were drafted in consensus with Chairman & Members and submitted to Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.

4. Guidelines for selection of sites, locations for various projects/institutions through a challenge method

On direction of PMO, MU vertical, NITI Aayog has prepared guidelines for selection of sites/location for projects/institutions through challenge method in consultation with states/UTs and Cabinet Secretariat. These guidelines have been notified by Cabinet Secretariat.

5. Workshop on “Municipal Finances”

MU vertical of NITI Aayog is in the process of organizing a one day workshop on “Municipal Finances”. Participants include officials dealing with urban development, Urban Local Bodies, Municipalities and municipal finance experts. This knowledge sharing workshop would cover issues related to enhancement of own revenues of ULBs, Municipal bonds, Audit & Accounting reforms etc.

6. Appraisal/Examination of SFC/EFC/ EAP /Metro Rail & other Project Proposals

- Cabinet note on Metro Rail Policy, Restructuring of Government of India Press and Restructuring of NIUA etc are examined and comments were sent to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- EAP Project Proposal of Government of Assam on “Assam Municipal Development Project (AMDP) seeking financial assistance from World Bank received from Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DONER) through state plan division, NITI Aayog and the comments were sent to state plan division, NITI Aayog.
- MU vertical in consultation with SCE and MEA facilitated the proposal of Govt. of Assam regarding Signing of MoU with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise on Development of Old Jail Land to be converted to Botanical Garden under the banner or Guwahati Open Spaces and Park Integrator Network (GOPT). NOC sent to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam on 29.09.2017.
- Proposal for seeking external loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Indore Metro Rail Project phase-1 received from Ministry of Urban Development was examined and the comments sent to Department of Economic Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
- The comments on Varanasi Metro Rail project were sent to Ministry of Urban Development.
- The comments on the draft note for COS regarding compensation payable by Delhi Rail Corporation for the land taken over from Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Ltd.,(HVOC) were sent to Department of Food & Public Distribution.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)’s paper on ‘Initial Engagement Strategy for Sustainable Cities’ received from Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) was examined and the comments sent to DEA & AIIB.

8. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Rural Development Vertical of the NITI Aayog provides overall policy guidance to the D/o Rural Development, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in programmes and schemes implemented by them. Vertical also monitors the progress of the various schemes/programmes implemented by the above Ministries and Department.

2. Monthly & Quarterly Dashboard on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Quarterly Dashboard on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM):

To monitor and fast track the progress of housing sector and rural livelihood mission, NITI Aayog has developed Monthly & Quarterly Dashboard on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Quarterly Dashboard on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Vertical also provides monthly inputs to the Prime Minister's office in respect of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

3. Support for Developing Water Sources in Arsenic/ Fluoride Affected Areas in the Country:

On the recommendations of NITI Aayog and Ministry of Finance, Government of India released Rs. 1,000 crore, in March, 2016 as one time assistance towards installation of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) in 19 arsenic/ fluoride affected States. Assistance was also provided for surface water projects in Rajasthan and West Bengal for ensuring last mile connectivity in arsenic/fluoride affected villages. Against this, Rs. 475 crore has been utilised as on November, 2017 for covering 2290 arsenic/ fluoride affected habitations. Regular review meetings are being held under the Chairmanship of Member, NITI Aayog to monitor the progress of arsenic/ fluoride affected areas.

4. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA):

A review meeting to discuss the action plans of the Ministries/Departments for implementation of the recommendations of Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan constituted by NITI Aayog was held under the Chairmanship of Member, NITI Aayog in the month of January, 2017. The recommendations of the Sub-Group as approved by the Prime Minister were shared with the concerned Ministries for their implementation. The recommendations in respect of- (i) Swachh Bharat Cess (ii) Revised standard of IS 383:2016 Coarse and Fine Aggregates for Concrete-Specification permitting the use of recycled products of Construction & Demolition waste in Construction industry (iii) Compulsory procurement of 100% power produced from all waste to energy plants and (iv) Market Development Assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost have been implemented. (v) A significant improvement in the area of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status has also been achieved. Since October 2, 2014, 5.50 crore household toilets have been constructed. 2.81 lakh villages, 1.22 lakh Gram Panchayats, 240 districts and 6 States and 1 Union Territory has been declared as ODF as of November, 2017. Out of 4471 villages situated on the banks of river Ganga, 4464 villages have been covered with household toilets.

5. Rural Development Vertical provided inputs for the Chapter on 'Rural Transformation' for Three Years Action Agenda released by NITI Aayog in August, 2017 covering inter alia convergence between schemes, employment generation, housing, drinking water and sanitation etc. for quick policy changes and its implementation.

9. ENERGY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

I. Power Unit

1. Joint Research Projects between NITI Aayog and Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) - A statement of intent (SOI) was signed between NITI Aayog and IEEJ in December, 2015 wherein both the institutions agreed to analyze various issues related to energy sector of India and Japan. During 2017-18, under aforesaid SOI, six studies has been undertaken. Out of these power unit is working on project namely "High Penetration of Renewable Power: Comparative Study of Japan and India by year 2032".
2. Collaboration with the IEA: International Energy Agency (IEA) and NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) for collaboration on energy sector related joint study projects. Under this SoI, NITI Aayog in collaboration with IEA had organized one day workshop focusing on best practices adopted worldwide on flexible generation and storage solutions for renewable energy (RE) integration on 9th March, 2017 in NITI Aayog. This workshop was convened in view of India's aggressive target of exploitation of 175 GW RE by 2022 which will bring grid stability issues due to intermittent nature of RE. NITI Aayog & IEA (with help of ADB) are planning to organize two regional workshops during the year.
3. Collaboration with EPIC India: NITI Aayog and Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) India has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) for collaboration on energy sector related joint study projects. Under this SoI, EPIC India has chosen Uttar Pradesh and Assam for starting of pilot projects on distribution reforms.
4. GIS based Energy Map of India - NITI Aayog has entrusted the responsibility of formulation of GIS Energy Map of India to Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The consolidated energy map would provide requisite energy related information to all stakeholders which would help in better decision making. Prototype of energy map is under formulation by ISRO.
5. Research Studies: NITI Aayog has awarded "Diagnostic study for power distribution sector" to CRISIL Infrastructure Advisory. Under this study the focus would be to study privatization model of Odisha and Delhi to understand and workout workable financial model for distribution utilities.
6. Output-Outcome Budget 2017-18 Monitoring: The unit handles the work related to Central Sector Schemes / Output-Outcome Budget 2017-18 monitoring of Ministry of Power in collaboration with DEMO team.
7. Updation of NITI Aayog Dashboard for Power for All: The unit coordinate with Ministry of Power for up-dating of NITI Aayog Dashboard for "Power for All" for making presentation to Hon'ble Prime Minister on quarterly basis.
8. Project: Varanasi to be 100% Renewable Energy Powered by 2022: The unit represent NITI Aayog in the Central Monitoring Committee for Varanasi to be 100% Renewable Energy Powered by 2022. The committee is chaired by Secretary, MNRE.

9. G20 (Energy related issues): Department of Economic Affairs has assigned the work related to energy sector in G20 to Energy Vertical. In G20 meetings issues related to energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy penetration etc. are deliberated pertaining to G20 nations.

10. Launch of India Energy Portal - NITI Aayog has launched the India Energy Portal (IEP) (www.indiaenergy.gov.in) which presently houses its flagship initiative India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047, with new added features and content. An offering of the Energy Division of NITI Aayog, the Portal is intended to provide a common platform for all energy related data and research from different sources across the country. The portal aims to reach not only policy makers, but to a wider audience who want to get an overview of India's energy scenario. This is a platform where even a novice can gain basic understanding of India's energy sector. It is aimed to be a source that researchers/energy enthusiasts can use to get access to Indian energy databases and reports.

11. The unit examines proposals of CCEA/PIB/EFC/SFC projects and other policy issues related to power sector and atomic energy (electricity generation) to convey views of NITI Aayog to the concerned.

12. The unit examines status of implementation of major ongoing projects related to power sector and convey views of the NITI Aayog to the respective Ministries.

13. The unit examines VIP references/ parliament questions / parliament assurances and other inter-sectorial policy issues related to the development of power sector.

14. The Officers in the unit represent NITI Aayog in Monitoring Committee meetings on Integrated Power Development Scheme, Deen Dayal Grameen Joyti Yojana and other power sector schemes.

15. The officers of the unit attend various meetings related to Power Sector in Ministry of Power and its CPSUs, CEA and Department of Atomic Energy and its CPSUs.

II. Coal Unit

1. Undertaking studies, independently or jointly through national and international likeminded think tanks or through setting up of Working Groups, Expert Groups, etc. in this process, coal unit Coordinated Joint Research Projects between NITI Aayog and Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ). During the year, three research on different issues with common interest of India and Japan was undertaken and a detail report on findings was published. For the year 2017-18, NITI Aayog has undertaken six studies which are underway.

2. Estimated sectorial and total coal demand for Annual Plan 2017-18 for Ministry of coal by undertaking Inter-Ministerial discussion.

3. Regional Workshops on Building Energy Efficiency - NITI Aayog in partnership with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted five regional workshops across India to create awareness and sensitize the policy makers in government departments on how to integrate energy efficiency design and construction practices in buildings and adopt ECBC in their states. Based on the discussion, a report was prepared indicating latest status of rolling out ECBC in the states, constraints faces and way forward to implement the same. The report has been sent to concern Ministries in the states.

4. Representation at Inter-Ministerial Committee on strategies and policy related emerging issues for coal and lignite sector development, for example, Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC), Clean Coal Technologies underground & Surface Coal Gasification etc. NITI Aayog has constituted a Technical Committee to recommend suitable technology on surface coal gasification which is being served by coal unit.
5. Representation on various Standing Committees, Working Groups for decisions on short, medium and long-term issues at Inter- Ministerial levels, for example, Inter-Ministerial Group on allotment of Coal blocks, Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) for Coal Supply to Power Stations, Cement Plant, etc., Performance Review and MoU meeting pertaining to coal sector.
6. Output- outcome Budget (2017-18) monitoring and evaluation in close coordination with DEMO unit of the programmes/ achievement of physical targets pertaining to coal sector to appraise PMO/ Cabinet.
7. Examination of proposals /CCEA/ PIB/SFC/EFC and preparation of comments, dealing with papers/notes for high level Committees relating to decision making at highest levels, preparation of technical notes and status papers etc.
8. Coordination with Ministry of Coal and DEMO unit of NITI Aayog for preparation of coal related material related to target, achievement and constraint if any, for Infrastructure review by P.M
9. Maintaining of resource/ data base for coal and lignite Sector and Co-ordination with other Divisions of NITI Aayog for supply/ exchange of data / information.
10. Examination of VIP references / parliament questions / parliament assurances and other inter-sectoral policy issues related to the development of coal and lignite sector.

III. Renewable Sector

1. Advisory Group - Implementation of India's Renewable Electricity Roadmap 2030, meeting held on 01.08.2017 in NITI Aayog. It was decided that the present initiative - Implementation of India's Renewable Electricity Roadmap 2030 - would be led by the Steering Committee only, and that the Advisory Group can be dissolved.
2. Under the above exercise, Ten States (Punjab, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) were selected for preparation of State Action Plan related to RE roadmap for tackling issue related RE-integration into grid. The SAP is under finalisation in consultation with the respective states.
3. Examined the various project proposals for Standing Finance Committee/Expenditure Finance Committee/ Cabinet proposals for approval and investment decision. PIB proposal were also examined.
4. Coordinated with Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for policy initiative for renewable sector.
5. Finalized output-outcome budget for 2018-19.

IV. Petroleum Sector

1. Examined various CCEA/Cabinet Notes of Petroleum & Natural Gas Sectors

2. Represented in various committees of MoP&NG and provided valuable inputs to these committees.
3. Examined the various project proposals for Standing Finance Committee/Expenditure Finance Committee approval and investment policy issues. Also examined PIB proposal for technical and financial feasibility.
4. Energy Vertical organised meeting of Prime Minister with about 25 Global Oil and Gas Experts and CEO on 9th October, 2017.
5. NITI Aayog official participated in Task Force Group on Clean Fuel, Biomass Management.
6. Finalised output-outcome budget for 2018-19.

V. National Energy Policy & Research

1. NITI Aayog has been entrusted with task of framing National Energy Policy. A draft Cabinet Note of the policy was circulated for Inter-ministerial consultations. The comments received so have been incorporated and final cabinet Note is being finalised.
2. Energy Vertical has been pursuing setting up integrated energy modelling – MESSAGE platform in support with IASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis), Austria. NITI Aayog deputed Young professional for one month capacity building at IASA, Austria.
3. Energy Vertical has collaborated with World Bank for updating and enriching India Energy Security Scenario- 2047.
4. The Sustainable Growth Working Group (SGWG) which is a joint Government of India (GOI) – U.S. Government (USG) initiative, has three focal areas: energy data management, energy and environmental modelling and geospatial analysis to support deployment of solar and wind energy. Under this joint effort, following topics have been awarded to think tanks for research study. The final report is under finalisation by these agencies.
 - Energy-Water Nexus and Efficient Water cooling Technologies for Thermal Power Plants in India by CEEW
 - Energy, Food and Water Nexus – analysis in a Macroeconomic consistency framework by IRADe
 - Research Study Assessment of Water foot prints of India’s Long-term Energy Scenarios by TERI
 - Integrated Modelling Study of Energy-Water-Food Nexus in India by TERI
 - Impact of Public Transport on Pollution Emissions by C-STEP
 - Impact of Power Sector Growth on Water Resources by C-STEP
 - Development of Energy Information Portal for India by Prayas.
5. NITI Aayog has set up Energy Dash Board- an endeavour towards assimilating all energy related data at one place in first phase. In the 2nd phase, the endeavour is now to create online system of data management and also setting up energy data management cell with required manpower, publishing periodicals and energy statistics biannually/annually as advised by MOSPI.

VI. Overseas Engagements

1. Statement of Intent signed with the Institute of Energy, Economics, Japan to promote co-operation for the purpose of analysing issues related to the energy sector on the mutual understanding and co-operative basis for a credible and respected energy policy and research. The issues related to “setting up pan Asia LNG gas trading hub” and “penetration of variable renewable energy in both Japan and India” are being pursued policy advocacy
2. Under the bilateral cooperation between NITI Aayog and Government of UK, the initiative to develop state energy calculator have been taken up. In the first phase three states- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam was taken up. State Energy calculator was launched by the Chief Minister Sh. N. Chandrababu Naidu. Calculator for other two states are ready for launch. In second phase of the exercise, three states Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamilnadu have been taken up.

10. INDUSTRY

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

The main activities of the Industry vertical during the current year have been in the following areas:

- Make in India
- Ease of Doing Business
- Major events
- International cooperation
- Interaction with stakeholders
- Preparation of discussion/ approach papers to facilitate high level/ IMC meetings
- New initiatives
- Representation of NITI Aayog in various Committees and Development Councils

1. Make in India Initiatives in Defence and Aerospace sector:

Industry Vertical was involved in preparation of status paper and recommendations in the following areas:

(i). A comprehensive paper analyzing the warship building industry was prepared after discussions with Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Shipping, public sector shipyards and private sector shipyards. A presentation was made by CEO NITI Aayog to Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and the PMO approved NITI Aayog recommendations for revitalising the sector. These include discontinuation of the practice of nominations by MoD and capacity assessment by the Navy and opening up smaller projects for SMEs in the shipping industry.

(ii). A study on the present acquisition procedures was undertaken at NITI Aayog. The report was presented by CEO, NITI Aayog to Principal Secretary to Prime Minister in the presence of the National Security Advisor, Defence Secretary, Finance Secretary, Secretary IPP and Secretary Defence Production. The key point was that demands need to be aggregated and piecemeal orders be discontinued so as to create a sustainable defence industrial base in the country. A decision support system for defence acquisitions has been proposed to reduce the number of acquisition stages.

(iii). A paper on promoting FDI in the aerospace and defence sector was prepared based on disaggregated sub categories aligned with the NIC Code, ITC (HS) code and the Industrial licencing policy. The paper has been forwarded to DIPP, for examination.

(iv). CEO NITI Aayog chaired a team, including Defence Secretary to provide a roadmap for utilization of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) assets to attract FDI in manufacturing of small arms. A paper on this matter was prepared and the same was circulated to Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and D/o Industrial Policy and Promotion. MHA will steer the matter being the nodal agency for the 'small arms'.

IMC on Coastal Economic Zone:

In pursuance of discussion held in the 3rd meeting of Sagarmala Co-ordination and Steering Committee held on 25.11.2016 under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was constituted by Ministry of Shipping under the chairmanship of CEO NITI Aayog for preparing a road-map for the Coastal Economic Zone (CEZ) development and for steering the development of the related CEZ. NITI Aayog was nodal agency for the committee.

IMC constituted two sub-groups – one for making recommendations for a comprehensive package of incentives for CEZs and another to have discussions with the senior officials of the State Governments on the availability and suitability land for the development of CEZs. The IMC, in its 3rd Meeting held on 3rd November 2017 made comprehensive recommendations regarding parameters for the proposed challenge method for selection of CEZs in the 1st phase, institutional mechanism, draft state support Agreement (SSA) and shareholders agreement, and package of incentives. As the primary objective of the proposed CEZs is employment generation, IMC has recommended that the proposed zones may be renamed as Coastal Employment Zones. Ministry of Shipping would be following up on the recommendations of the IMC.

2. Ease of Doing Business Initiatives:

NITI Aayog released the report on Ease of Doing Business based on an Enterprise Survey, conducted jointly with the IDFC Institute. The survey was conducted between April 2015 and April 2016. The survey indicates that the government's efforts to improve business environment are showing results on the ground. The experiences of start-ups, or enterprises started during or after 2014, suggest a significant improvement in doing business over time. Overall, the NITI Aayog-IDFC Institute Ease of Doing Business report shows that many of the actual experiences of enterprises are better than expert perceptions reported in past surveys.

Further, Industry vertical coordinated with 14 Ministries/ Departments on for implementation of 72 recommendations on Procedural Simplification and Dismantling of unnecessary controls received from private sector. Action has been completed on the 25 recommendations while 19 recommendations are under different stages of implementation. The periodic progress in this matter was shared with PMO.

3. International cooperation:

(i) . Signing of Statement of Intent with Australian Treasury:

A Statement of Intent on bilateral economic partnership for mutual understanding and cooperation between NITI Aayog, and the Australian Treasury, Australian Government was signed on 14th July, 2017 in the presence of Australian High Commissioner in India and CEO, NITI Aayog. The SOI envisages a partnership founded upon pragmatic cooperation, bilateral discussion, and sharing of developmental policy experiences. The SOI also include constitution of a joint working group and meeting annually at an "Annual Economic Policy Dialogue" both in India and Australia alternatively to discuss the topics related to macroeconomic environment and cooperation priorities of the day.

(ii). 3rd Development Research Council of China -NITI Aayog Dialogue:

The 3rd Dialogue between the NITI Aayog of India and the Development Research Council of China (DRC- NITI Aayog Dialogue) co-chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog and Mr Li Wei, President (Minister), DRC was held in Beijing on 5 December, 2017. On the sidelines of the Dialogue, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog called-on Chinese Vice Premier Mr. Zhang Gaoli. The 3rd Dialogue enabled an in-depth interaction between the two delegations on the world economic prospects, India-China economic cooperation and practices for sustainable growth. Both sides exchanged views on policies and measures to address the challenges for attaining sustainable growth. The discussions were also held on sharing of experiences and best practices in the areas of Electric mobility, clean energy, Higher education and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The dialogue took place under the MOU between NITI Aayog of the Government of India and the Development Research Centre (DRC), State Council of the People's Republic of China that was signed during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to China in May 2015.

(iii). Participation in Innovate 2017 event in Birmingham, UK

Adviser (Industry) attended UK's flagship innovation event, Innovate 2017 and UK-India Next Gen workshop on Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Internet Things. The event was also involved participation of Invest India and NAASCOM. India U.K. Future Manufacturing Report was also launched during the Innovate 2017 event.

4. Interactions and Meetings with Stakeholders

Following meetings/ discussions/presentations/ were organized by Industry Vertical in NITI Aayog:

- Talk on "BlockChain, Cryptocurrencies and impact on Governance" on 4th August, 2017 by Professor Bhagwan Chowdhry, UCLA Anderson, Los Angeles.
- Presentation on "Strengthening the Apparel Exports and Job creation" by Apparel Export Promotion Council on 16th September, 2017.
- A meeting to discuss 'Way forward for addressing the issues relating to financing in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)' held under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (KIH), NITI Aayog on 08.09.2017.
- A meeting to discuss the issues hampering the growth of MSMEs in India under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman NITI Aayog on 04.10.2017
- A meeting to discuss the way forward for warship building in India under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog on 08.05.2017
- A meeting to discuss issues relating to Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAVS) and steps required to ensure better governance, enable innovative commercial applications and encourage manufacturing was held under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog on 25.07.2017. Following the meeting, MHA had prepared a draft Drone Regulation Act and the DGCA has issued the draft circular on UAV operations.

- Adviser (Industry), NITI Aayog made a presentation on the 'MADSS' during a meeting taken by DG (Acquisition), MoD on 'Business Process Re-engineering in Defence Acquisition' on 26.07.2017 at South Block, New Delhi.
- A interaction meeting with senior officers of Ethiopian Government was held in NITI Aayog on 25.07.2017
- A presentation by Adviser (Industry) on "Rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Impact on economy and government policies" on 11th August, 2017.
- Brainstorming of ideas for 'Make in India' as part of the preparation of Development Agenda for India@75 had been carried out in NITI Aayog with different stake holders on 05.10.2017.
- Brainstorming on ideas for improving 'Ease of Doing Business' as part of the preparation of Development Agenda for India@75 had been carried out in NITI Aayog with different stake holders on 06.10.2017.
- A meeting to discuss availability of data and possible use cases for adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in the health sector under the chairmanship of Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul, Member, NITI Aayog on 17.1. 2018.
- A lecture by Joe Lubins, the cofounder of Ethereum and the founder of Consensus on applications of Block Chain Technology in Governance on 16.01.2018

5. New Initiatives:

Creation of GST Cell and Women Entrepreneurship Cell

A GST Cell under the Industry Vertical was created for the smooth functioning and roll out of the Goods and Services Tax reform. The Cell examined the representations received from different industry bodies and took up the matter with the concerned agencies. The impact of GST on specific sectors namely Defence industry, Textiles, Electronics and Leather sectors were prepared and shared with Department of Revenue.

A new Cell under the Industry Vertical, NITI Aayog to promote Women Entrepreneurship in the Country has been setup under Adviser (Industry & DM&A). The immediate focus of the Cell will be on leveraging the existing initiatives of the Government and institutions.

6. Preparation of discussion/ approach papers to facilitate high level/ IMC meetings;

The Industry vertical was involved in the preparation of the following approach papers :

- Streamlining Defence procurement - Decision Support System developed
- Promoting 'Make in India' in Defence – case for small arms
- Building database for MSMEs
- Shipbuilding in defence sector
- FDI in defence sector

- Impact of GST on specific sectors prepared and shared with D/Revenue; specifically in Aero & defence industry, Textiles; Electronics, Leather; several recommendations already adopted
- Development Agenda for India@75
- Make in India and Ease of Doing Business
- Report on comprehensive package of incentives for CEZs

The industry vertical was involved in preparation of Development Agenda for India@75. As a part of this initiative an approach paper namely Make in India and Ease of Doing Business was prepared.

7. Representation of NITI Aayog in various Committees and Development Councils

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

- Review Committee on Public Procurement Policy constituted by MSME
- Steering Committee of MSE- Cluster Development Programme (CDP)
- Project Appraisal and Monitoring Committee (PAMC) of North East Region (NER) Textile Promotion Scheme by Ministry of Textiles
- Project Scrutiny Committee for Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)
- Project Scrutiny Committee for Integrated Textile Processing Development Scheme (IPDS)
- Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) on Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
- Empowered Committee constituted under Indian Leather Development Programme constituted by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on MOU constituted by Department of Public Enterprises
- Empowered Committee Chaired by Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion on Capital Investment Subsidy under North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007
- Apex Committee constituted for scheme on 'Enhancement of Competitiveness in the 'Indian Capital Goods Sector' by Department of Heavy Industry
- Project Approval and Monitoring Committee (PAMC) for Mega Clusters for Handloom and Handicraft Sector under chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles)
- Development Council for Automobiles and Allied industries (DCAAI) under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry
- Development Council for Machine Tools Industry
- Development Council for Textile Machinery Industry

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

- High Power Committee (HPC) on MOUs with CPSEs
- Apex Committee of Secretaries for recommendations on conferment/divestment of Navratna status to CPSE.
- Board of Trustees of National Industrial Corridor Development Authority (NICDA).

11. INFRASTRUCTURE

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. Some of the important activities undertaken by the vertical in the year 2017-18 are as follows:

1. India's Development Agenda @75

Infrastructure connectivity vertical was actively engaged in preparing India's Development agenda @75. The vertical conducted working group meetings with industry and government experts to prepare reports on Rail Transport; Ports and Shipping; Inland Waterways; Civil Aviation; Road; Logistics.

2. Port Ecosystem Efficiency

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog chaired a meeting on the Port Ecosystem Efficiency on 28th June, 2017. The meeting was attended by officials from Ministry of Ports and Shipping, Custom and Central Excise, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Railways, and industry players. Aggressive targets were set for various parameters such as target time for export and import, import customs, railways and CISF. During the review notable achievements were reported in cutting down delays in customs processing, loading of railway rakes in Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, and documentation.

3. Appraisal of Investment Proposals

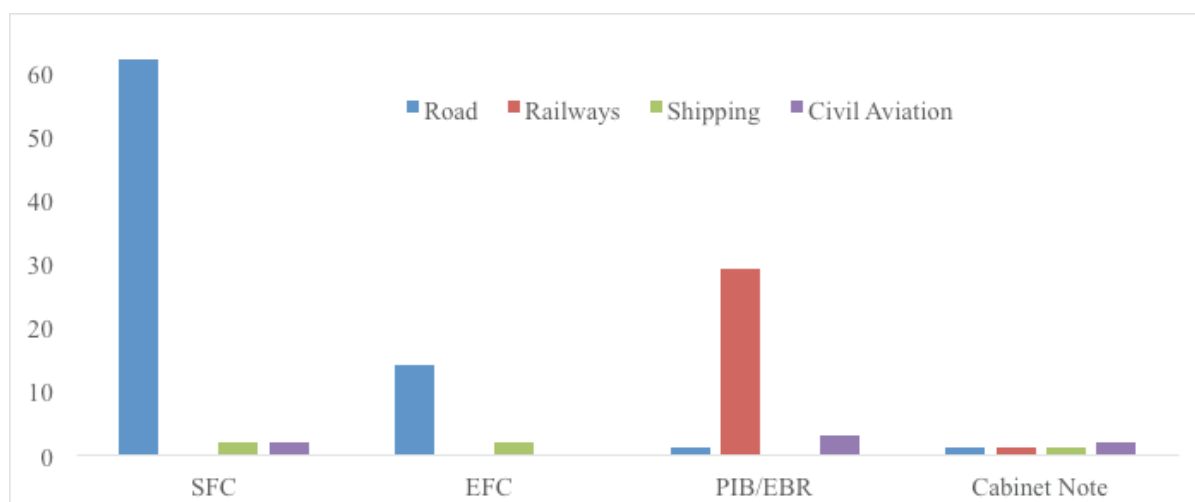
During the year, investment proposals received from Ministries of Railways, Road Transport and Highways, Ports and Shipping, and Civil Aviation were examined in association with Project Appraisal and Management Division, NITI Aayog. The details are shown in the table below.

Sector	SFC	EFC	PIB/EBR
Road	62	14	1
Railways	0	0	29
Shipping	2	2	0
Civil Aviation	2	0	3

The following revised cost estimates (RCEs) of Civil Aviation were also appraised:

- RCE for Development of Tezu Airport in Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh
- RCE for Construction of Greenfield Airport at Pakyong, Sikkim

Number of EFC, SFC, EBR and PIB notes examined by the Infrastructure Connectivity vertical for various sectors, during the year 2017 - 18



4. 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 cabinet notes. A total of four such notes were examined during the year as per the details given below:

Ministry of	Cabinet Notes examined
Road Transport and Highways	1
Railways	1
Ports and Shipping	1
Civil Aviation	2

5. Report on Transformative Mobility Solutions

A report titled “India Leaps Ahead: Transformative Mobility Solutions for All” was unveiled by CEO, NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan on 12th May, 2017. It was prepared in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). The report identifies and explores emerging technologies and business models that can allow India to “leapfrog” traditional approaches to passenger mobility.

6. Policy Briefs

The two policy briefs, viz., India's Energy Storage Mission: A Make in India Opportunity for Globally Competitive Battery Manufacturing, and Valuing Society First: An Assessment of the Potential for a Feebate Policy in India, were released by CEO, NITI Aayog on 22nd November, 2017. They were prepared in collaboration with RMI. The former outlines a strategy for India to become a global hub of battery manufacturing, while the latter evaluates a “feebate” policy to incentivize the supply and demand of electric vehicles in India.

7. Indo-French Workshop on Electric Mobility

Under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, a workshop on electric mobility was conducted on 10th November, 2017, in collaboration with the Embassy of France in India. The topics included in the workshop were Electric Vehicles Supply; Infrastructure: Charging, Storage, Grid Management; Electric Mobility in Urban Planning and Public Transportation

8. Quick pilot on electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure

Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog released a proposal to develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Delhi, on 10th November, 2017. This was developed in collaboration with AC2SG Software. The proposal for the quick pilot could be used to provide a structure for EV infrastructure rollout in the Gurugram – Indira Gandhi International Airport - South Delhi - NOIDA corridor. The proposal for developing the pilot includes 55 locations with 135 charging stations of which 46 are DC quick charging stations and 89 are slower AC charging stations.

9. Setting up of EV Charging Station for a pilot at NITI Aayog

ABB and ChargePoint have put up an EV Charging Station at NITI Aayog for demonstration purpose that would be inaugurated in December, 2017.

10. Signing of Statement of Intent (SoI) with International Road Federation (IRF) on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

NITI Aayog and Geneva based IRF signed a SoI on 21st September, 2017, to cooperate in the field of ITS. The objective of this SoI is to create a national platform, involving all relevant Government of India stakeholders, Indian and foreign companies active in the sector, and relevant technical experts for the purpose of developing a National ITS Policy covering Traffic Management; Parking Management; Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Rules and Regulations; Fleet Management and Monitoring; Innovation in the field of ITS; Education in the field of ITS.

The objectives of this national ITS Policy will be to contribute to reducing urban traffic congestion, improving the situation around parking of vehicles in cities, improving road safety, and improving the security of passenger and goods traffic. The work of this National Platform will provide a coherent and consistent National ITS Policy covering domains such as traffic and parking management, enforcement, and security.

11. Monitoring Committee for Railway Safety Fund

An independent ‘Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) Monitoring Committee’ is created under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog. Other members of the committee are Additional Member Planning, Railway Board; Joint Secretary, PFC-II, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The Adviser (Infrastructure – Connectivity) is the Convener of this Committee. The first meeting of the committee was held on 23rd November 2017.

12 Resolving issues for Proposed High Speed Rail Corridor

A meeting on implementation of the decision taken at the 27th meeting of Southern Zonal Council on extension of high speed rail corridor between Thiruvananthapuram and Mangalore (up to Udipi) was held under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Infrastructure - Connectivity) on 11th August, 2017. The meeting was conducted to help the State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka reach a consensus on the issue of the proposed extension of the high speed rail.

13. Monitoring of Progress of Metro Projects

PMO had directed NITI Aayog to monitor progress of metro projects in India. Therefore, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog on 17th October 2017. The Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Managing Directors of metro rail companies participated in the meeting to discuss the various issues hindering the growth of metro projects.

14. Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs)

NITI Aayog conducts the quarterly review of the two ongoing DFCs. Three meetings have been held so far on 23rd August, 15th November and 20th November, 2017.

15. Development of Infrastructure in Airports

Pursuant to PMO’s RoD dated 3rd February 2017, Infrastructure Connectivity vertical is monitoring the progress of development of infrastructure in airports, undertaken by Airports Authority of India, on quarterly basis. The first report was sent to the PMO by NITI Aayog on vide letter dated 13th June 2017.

16. Resolving Issues

A meeting was held on 10th August, 2017, under the chairmanship of Adviser (Infrastructure – Connectivity), of all the stakeholders of Krishnapatnam Railway Company Limited (KRCL) and Ministry of Railways on issues regarding non-payment of terminal charges to KRCL by South Central Railways/Ministry of Railways.

17. State Co-operations (States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh)

Infrastructure – Connectivity vertical is also looking after the States of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and Himachal Pradesh (HP). The activities undertaken during the period are as under:

- A meeting was held on 27th April, 2017, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Home Minister of India at New Delhi to review the progress of Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) - 2015 of Rs. 80,000 crore for J&K.
- Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, and Adviser (HP), NITI Aayog visited HP on 23rd- 24th June, 2017 and had a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister and other Ministers and Senior officials of the State Government. They also interacted with civil society organizations and academia. The deliberations focused on the transition from Planning Commission to NITI Aayog, policy making initiatives of NITI Aayog such as National Energy Policy, Roadmap on Poverty Elimination, Atal Innovation Mission, National Nutrition Policy, Agricultural Revitalization, Digital Payments, three Sub Groups of Chief Ministers namely Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Skill Development and Swachh Bharat, outcomes in infrastructure sectors, monitoring through dashboards, monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals, Science and Technology Roadmaps, and key indices on Health, Water, School Education Quality, Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reform Performance of Himachal Pradesh.
- Adviser (J&K), NITI Aayog visited Srinagar on 31st July, 2017 and attended a meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary to review the progress under PMDP. In the meeting it was decided that NITI Aayog would do the physical verification of the projects for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure to assess their progress on ground. Accordingly, a team of officers from NITI Aayog visited some of the projects sites from 5th to 9th September, 2017. In co-ordination with the State Government they reviewed the financial and physical progress of the projects. Based on the observations, the team submitted its report to the Ministry of Home Affairs (nodal Ministry for monitoring the progress of PMDP) on 4th October, 2017.
- VC, NITI Aayog had a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K on 28th October, 2017 at Srinagar which was attended by State Finance Minister, Senior Officers from the State Government and Adviser (J&K), NITI Aayog. Various issues regarding the developmental paradigm of Jammu and Kashmir were discussed in the meeting.
- A meeting was held on 27th November, 2017 in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary to review the progress of projects under PMDP, which was attended by Adviser (J&K), NITI Aayog. In the meeting, the issue of release of Rs.170 crore (under 3rd tranche of projects) for Permanent Restoration of Damaged Infrastructure was discussed.

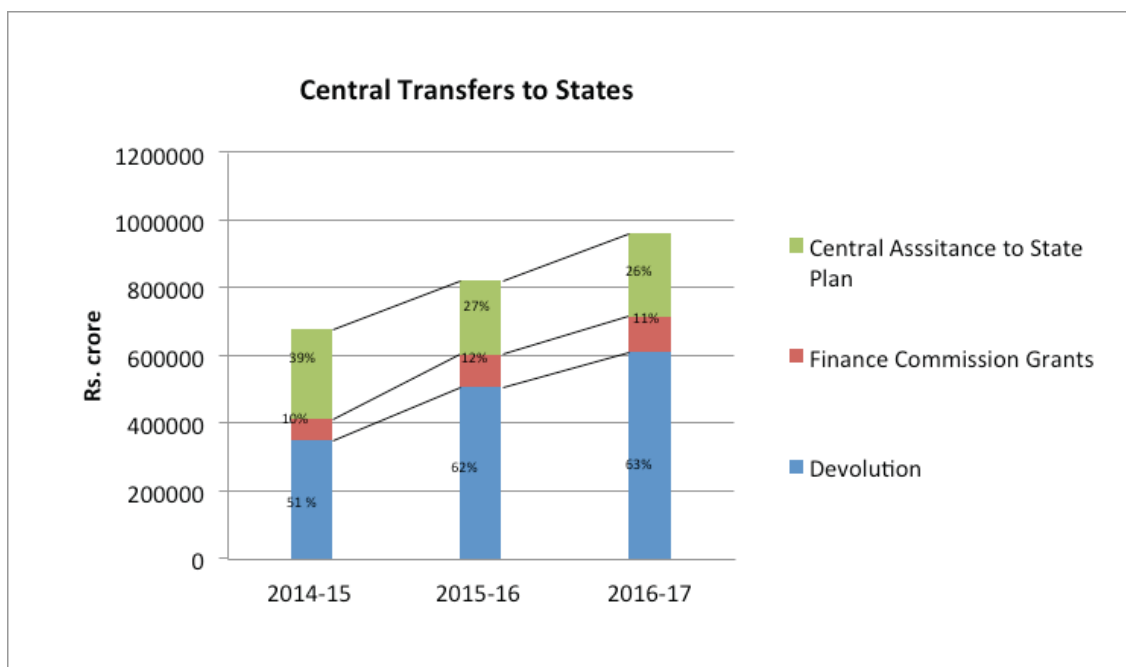
12. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

To foster co-operative and competitive federalism among States, the Financial Resources Division of NITI Aayog has assumed the role of assessing financial health of the States, including assessment of transfers to the States from Centre, social sector expenditure by States, analyzing closely the financially unhealthy States, critical review of the fund transfer mechanism for appropriate policy interventions. With this role, the major activities and studies undertaken by the Division during 2017-18 are as follows:

i. An analysis of change in Central Transfers to States

With change in quantum of tied and untied funds to the State from Centre, and as an extension to similar analysis performed in 2016-17, change in central transfers to each state was assessed. It was found that the increase in total transfers to states in 2016-17 over 2015-16 was 17% against increase of 21.2% in 2015-16 over 2014-15. Largest percentage change is witnessed by Sikkim (32%), Gujarat (29%), Chhattisgarh (26%) and Jharkhand (24%) in 2016-17 over previous year. The share of untied transfers (Devolution + Finance Commission grants) have been increasing since 2014-15 from 61% in 2014-15 to 73% in 2015-16 and further to 74% in 2016-17 reflecting the stress of centre on enhancing the autonomy of States'. The change in central transfers for all states is shown in the chart below. This data was shared with the Prime Ministers' Office and state wise analysis of their finances.

Chart: Central Transfers to States over last three years & its composition



ii. State of State Finances - Post 14th Finance Commission

Data on various fiscal indicators including fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, outstanding liabilities were compiled for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17(RE) from state budget documents and states position on various fiscal indicators pre & post 14th Finance Commission was assessed. Fiscal deficit in 2016-17 was recorded at 2.9% which is within the 3% specified threshold but more than fiscal deficit recorded in 2015-16

(2.6%) & 2014.15 (2.6%). The debt-GSDP ratio in 2016-17 was higher at 23% against 19% in 2015-16. There was 3 percentage point increase in the capital expenditure as percentage of total expenditure over the period compared (2015-17 over 2012-15). States were also ranked on the basis of 6 indicators namely, share of social sector expenditure in total expenditure, share of capital expenditure in total expenditure, own tax revenue contribution in total revenue receipt, fiscal deficit to GSDP, outstanding liabilities to GSDP share of interest payments in total revenue receipts. Chhattisgarh was at the top while Punjab stood at the bottom among large states in FY17. This was presented before the chief secretaries of the States in the National Conference held on 10th August, 2017.

iii. Moving towards Performance based Fund Transfers

With the background of Sub Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalisation of CSS (2015) recommending creation of transparent formula for each scheme for state wise allocation, drawing lessons from international experience and the need to depart from the current system of micro managed allocation with more than 1500 budget lines say under National Health Mission (NHM) an exercise has been undertaken proposing linking of fund allocation to performance. The mechanism proposed allocates funds under NHM to states under a two window system – Block grant, employing the current mechanism of allocation followed by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, largely based on area, population and socio economic backwardness of the state and performance allocation, say 30% (variable), based on an index score calculated using key health indicators and an appropriate methodology to assign score (NITI's Performance Outcomes in Health Index) to the States. The mechanism devised is expected to drive competition among states to perform and deliver. The study is a proposal and open for review and suggestions.

iv. Assessment of Study commissioned by NITI on State Finances of Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal

As an initiative to provide structured support to the State and foster their finances recognising the fact that stronger States are important to make a strong nation a study is being commissioned in 2016-17 for three States, namely Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal whose financial indicators were found as worrisome. The Report on Kerala State Finances has been finalized. While the report for Punjab and West Bengal are in finalization stage.

The recommendations in the report and its findings will facilitate NITI to suggest policy implications to reduce mounting revenue and fiscal deficit of these poor performing State Governments and propagate the best practices and policies of better performing States.

v. Analysis of Social Sector Expenditure of States

To analyze the trend in States' social sector expenditure over last three years (post 14th Finance Commission) with more untied funds being awarded to the States a study has been undertaken. A similar study was undertaken in previous year. The exercise seeks to examine change in states' social sector spend as percentage of Total expenditure and as percentage of their own GSDP. The exercise also seeks to depict the state-wise health and education spend scenario in particular.

13. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

A. Environment and Forest

The Environment and Forest division of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Vertical is involved in formulation of policies and development of strategies for sustainable management of forests; protection of wildlife and their habitats; and maintenance of a clean, green and healthy environment. It coordinates activities with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). During the year 2017-18, the following major activities were undertaken by the division:-

1. Formulating suitable strategies for Achieving Self Sufficiency in Timber Production:

Forestry products valued at crores of rupees are being imported every year. This is a serious concern for the country which needs to be addressed by planning and implementing suitable interventions. With effective implementation of well-planned scientific measures, India's forestry sector can sustainably produce sufficient timber to be self-reliant. In addition, boosting indigenous production of timber sourced from non-forest lands, particularly under farm-forestry, would contribute substantially to meet the vision of doubling the farmer's income. There is need to incentivize farmers to grow trees just like a crop. In this regard, a draft paper highlighting the issues and possible measures for addressing these challenges was prepared and shared with concerned Central Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders. A series of high level consultation meetings were also held with the concerned Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders to finalize the strategies for achieving self-sufficiency in timber production. After these deliberations, action points were finalized and shared with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments for implementation.

NITI Aayog supported the promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Indian Forest Act 1927 with an objective to exempt the bamboo species grown on non-forest land from the requirement of felling and transit permissions. This will encourage particularly the farmers to grow bamboos and earn additional income.

2. "Cleaner Air Better Life" Initiative:

Formulation of appropriate strategies for maintaining a clean, green and healthy environment being a priority for NITI Aayog. It has been working closely with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and other stakeholders for controlling air pollution especially in Delhi NCR. On the World Environment Day 5th June, 2017, NITI Aayog and CII organized the first meeting of their joint initiative "Cleaner Air Better Life" with an objective to address the issue of air pollution in the Country with active participation of the Government agencies, the industries and other stakeholders.

Subsequently, four Task Forces were constituted in NITI Aayog with experts as members to recommend suitable interventions for Clean Fuel, Clean Transport, Clean Industries and Biomass Management. The reports are expected to be finalized soon.

3. Appraisal of Notes for the Cabinet

The following draft Cabinet Notes proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) were examined and observations sent to the Ministry:

- a. The draft Note for the Cabinet seeking the approval of the Cabinet for the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury with the objective to protect human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.
- b. The draft Note seeking approval of the Cabinet for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among Ministries on Environment of BRICS nations, on Environmental Cooperation. The proposed draft MoU aimed to enhance cooperation among the BRICS nations in the field of air quality, water environment, biodiversity and conservation, waste management and promoting “green” economy.
- c. The draft Note seeking approval of the Cabinet for Amendment of Section 2(7) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The proposed draft Note aimed to exempt the bamboo species grown on non-forest land from the requirement of felling and transit permissions.
- d. The draft Note seeking approval of the Cabinet for Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats which included: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Project Tiger, CSS-Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat and CSS-Project Elephant, for its continuation beyond 12th Plan.

4. Appraisal of Memorandums for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/ Standing Finance Committee (SFC)

i. The following draft Memorandums for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for continuation of the schemes for three years 2017-18 to 2019-20 (beyond 12th Five Year Plan) were examined and observations sent to the Ministry:

- a. Draft Memorandum for Umbrella Scheme: Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems (CNRE)
- b. Draft Memorandum for the Umbrella Scheme: National Mission for a Green India
- c. Draft Memorandum for the Umbrella Scheme viz: Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH)

ii. The draft Memorandums for Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for new scheme “Green Platform” proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was examined and observations sent to the Ministry. In the draft memorandum, it was proposed to setup “Green Platform” in the Ministry, which would be a Geographical Information System (GIS) based dynamic, spatial database of more than 111 environmental parameters along with status and source of its availability.

iii. In addition, the following draft Memorandums for SFC proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for continuation of the schemes for three years 2017-18 to 2019-20 (beyond 12th Five Year Plan) were examined and observations sent to the Ministry:

- Draft Memorandum for the Scheme “The Eco-Development Force (EDF).

- Draft Memorandum for the Scheme of Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) under Environment Education-Reg.
- Draft Memorandum for the Scheme of National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)
- Draft Memorandum for the Scheme of Climate Change Action Programme.
- Draft Memorandum for the Scheme of National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change
- Draft Memorandum for the Scheme on Creation of Management Structure for Hazardous Substances.

5. Appraisal of Projects/Programmes:

In addition, the following proposals were examined and comments were submitted to the concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies:-

- The revised project on Innovations in Green Growth Management (IGGMA) with an estimated cost of about ₹1610 crore proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for implementation with financial assistance from World Bank was examined and observations were sent to the Ministry. The project would help to re-establish multiple ecosystem services in degraded landscapes, striving for a balance between restoring environmental services and improving the productive capacity of land for forestry, agriculture and other land-uses within the landscapes.
- The Project on Community Based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resources Conservation in Manipur with an estimated cost of about ₹137.47 crore forwarded by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for implementation with financial assistance from World Bank was examined and observations were sent to the DEA. The project aims at restoration of the forest eco-system and sustainable management of the forests, particularly in water catchment areas.
- The Project on Gujarat Forestry Development – Phase III with an estimated cost of about ₹ 905 crore proposed by the MoEF&CC for implementation with financial assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was examined and observations were sent to the Ministry. The project aims to improve hydro-logical services through intensive Soil and Moisture Conservation for increasing forest cover and social –economic development of forest dependents.
- The Project on Landscape Community Forest and Water Management”, Meghalaya with an estimated cost of about ₹ 1632.6 crore forwarded by the MoEF&CC for implementation with financial assistance from JICA was examined and observations were sent to the Ministry.

6. Research Projects

The following research studies in the E&F sector were completed under the NITI Aayog's Research study grant scheme -

- Coal Mining, Displacement and Rural Livelihoods: A Study in Mahanadi Coal Field, Odisha conducted by the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela.
- Socio Economic Impact Study of Mining and Mining Policies on Livelihoods of Local Population in Vindhyan Region of Uttar Pradesh conducted by the Centre for Social Forestry and Eco-rehabilitation, Allahabad.

14. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science and Technology Vertical is playing a catalytic role in promoting Science & Technology in the country in association with the Central Scientific Departments/Agencies. The key initiatives of the Vertical are as follows:

1. “Make in India” in body armour: Several round of meetings with industries, research organizations and the concerned ministries/agencies were held to identify their capabilities and capacities, strengths and weaknesses along with major issues of concerns and also the status of programmes being implemented by them in this field. Based on these discussions, a Report “Road Map for “Make in India” in Body Armour was prepared and submitted to PMO in August, 2017. A presentation on the recommendations of the Report was made to the PMO on September 19, 2017. While accepting all the recommendations contained in the Report, PMO decided to set up a high level Empowered Committee to under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Hon’ble Member, NITI Aayog to drive implementation of the recommendations with a view to promote Make in India in body armour.

2. Methanol Economy: Methanol and Dimethyl Ether (DME) have emerged as potential substitutes of oil and natural gas as their technology has now matured and can be produced indigenously. This will in turn lead to reduction in oil import bill. Pursuing this initiative, an Apex Committee on Methanol Economy and five Task Forces on the following aspects are working on fast track:

- (a) Production of Methanol using High Ash Coal.
- (b) Production of Methanol using Biomass/Municipal Solid Waste/ sources other than coal.
- (c) Utilization of Methanol and DME.
- (d) Dissemination of information and creating Public Awareness about Methanol/DME.
- (e) Conversion/design of Methanol/DME based Engines.

Hon’ble Minister, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping chaired meeting on July 31, 2017 wherein a large number of decisions were taken to drive methanol economy in India. A key decision was taken to initiate actions for using methanol as a fuel in shipping and inland waterways transportation for which Ministry of Shipping will moot a Cabinet Note for approval. It was also decided that coal to methanol pilot plant would be set up for which Western Coal Fields and Coal India Limited would allocate specific mine.

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

4. Further, the Vertical is facilitating S&T initiatives such as National Supercomputing Mission; Preferential Market Access (PMA) to promote procurement of domestically produced goods and services and manufacturing in India; breaking silos between academia and national R&D labs; ranking and ratings of public funded national R&D labs; effective commercialization of technologies and cyber security technologies in critical sectors of the economy. S&T Vertical represented NITI Aayog in various committees of the Central Scientific Departments like Science & Engineering Research Board, Governing Councils, and EFC/SFC meetings of S&T Departments viz, DST, DBT, DSIR/CSIR, DOP, and DOS.

15. STATES COORDINATION AND DECENTRALIZED PLANNING

1. Matters handled related to Ministry of Panchayati Raj Ministry of Law & Justice

- A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to examine the existing schemes of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as well as the proposal on Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). Report of the Committee was finalized in May, 2017.
- Draft proposal from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) for Technical Assistance loan to Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the purpose of the capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from World Bank was examined and comments offered to Ministry of External Affairs.
- Recognizing the need for preparation of a Strategy Paper aiming at creating employment and growth in Panchayati Raj by 2022, a working group was constituted related to Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of Shri Meenakshisundrum, Chairman, MYRADA and after discussions in the Working Group, the recommendation for the Development Agenda for New India @ 75 for Panchayati Raj were finalized.
- Inter-Ministerial Consultations under the Chairmanship of Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog Mr. Ratan P. Watal and Co-Chaired by Secretary to PM and Law Secretary to finalize the Rules for the Tribunals, Appellate Tribunal and other Authorities and Inclusion of Institutions/Authorities u/s 187 read with Eighth Schedule of Finance Act, 2017 were held.
- Revised EFC Memorandum from the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice on the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary was examined and comments furnished.
- Revised Draft Cabinet Note from Legislative Deptt., Ministry of Law & Justice for amending the law under Specific Rules Act, 1963 relating to certain kinds of specific Relief granted for enforcing Civil Rights was examined and comments offered.
- NITI Aayog contributed constructively in the deliberations of and discharge of the duties assigned to important committees of the Ministries, namely Empowered Committee in the Department of Justice, Central Executive Committee (CEC) on Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and the Committee constituted the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog to examine the existing schemes of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as well as the proposal of MoPR on RGSA.
- Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Law & Justice and Ministry of Panchayati Raj was finalized.

2. Governing Council Meeting

3rd Meeting of the Governing Council of National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) was held at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on 23rd April, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. 27 Chief Ministers of States/UTs attended the meeting.

3. Promotion of Digital/Cashless Society

Organized Celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti and culmination of the 100th Day of the Digi Dhan Mela on 14th April, 2017 at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

4. Research Study

A study was awarded to National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) through Dr. M.Govind Rao, Member, FFC regarding “Central Transfers to States in India: rewarding performance while ensuring equity”. Dr. Rao submitted the final report of the study in August, 2017.

5. Special Plans

Special Assistance was provided to the State Govts. of Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 from Demand Nos. 37, 32 and 40 of the Union Budgets respectively for completion of ongoing projects being undertaken under the under Special Plans for KBK of Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar as per details given under :

Special Plans	Year	Amount Released (Rs Crore)	Demand No. of Union Budget
Special Plan for KBK Districts of Odisha	2015-16	132.07	Demand No. 37
	2016-17	367.93	Demand No. 32
Special Plan for West Bengal	2015-16	836.77	Demand No. 37
Special Plan for Bihar	2015-16	1887.53	Demand No. 37
	2016-17	1329.40	Demand No. 32
	2017-18	2064.00	Demand No. 40

The Special Plan for KBK Districts of Odisha, Special Plans for Bihar and Special Plan for West Bengal were being implemented under the State Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) till 2014-15. As the BRGF became a part of the devolution, no funds were allocated for the scheme under the Union Budgets from 2015-16 onwards. Financial and Physical progress reports along Utilization Certificates received time to time from the State Govts. of Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar under the Special Plans are examined and the recommendations of NITI Aayog are sent to the Ministry of Finance for consideration of allocation of funds from Special Assistance for completion of ongoing projects.

6. District Innovation Fund

Due to non-utilization of the funds recommended by the 13th Finance Commission under the District Innovation Fund, DIF was discontinued under 14th Finance Commission. A Group of Secretaries made a presentation on ‘Governance’ before Hon’ble Prime Minister and recommended that District Innovation Fund has to be created to foster innovations in Governance and the allocation under District Innovation Fund may be increased from earlier Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 5 Crore per District. In the follow up action, a meeting of all State Finance Secretaries and Department of Expenditure under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (States Coordination) was held to deliberate upon in details the reasons for poor Utilization of Funds (under DIF) by the Districts and the issues involved with it. After the discussions, the Guidelines for the District Innovation Fund (DIF) are being finalized.

16. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

The Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E) Division in NITI Aayog is actively functioning to provide inputs in formulation and strengthening of policies and programmes to promote and safeguard the interest of the socially, educationally and economically weaker sections of the society such as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Safaikarmacharies, Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), Nomadic, Semi Nomadic & De-Notified Tribes (NT,SNT & DNTs), Minorities and other Social Defence 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), Special Central Assistance to SCSP & TSP and Grants under Article 275(l) and deals with policy issues relating to the sub-plans.

The Social Justice Division is Nodal Division in NITI Aayog for Department of Social Justice & Empowerment [Department of Social Justice & Empowerment & Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities], Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Minority Affairs and also State Departments dealing with the welfare and development of the socially and economically backward communities and other vulnerable sections of society.

Some major specific activities undertaken by the division during the period under report are as follows:

i. Revamping of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs);

The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs had made a presentation before the Prime Minister on 20th January, 2015. One of the decisions was that TRIs have large role in policy making pertaining to the Scheduled Tribes. Policy inputs from TRIs to be collected and TRIs to be developed into Top Class Research Centres. The follow up action on this is to be taken by the NITI Aayog. A Sub-Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.M. Jharwal, Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University. The report submitted by the sub-group as directed by the Senior Management Committee (SMC) has been circulated to States /UTs and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for their views.

ii. Institutional mechanism for Monitoring & Review Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP);

Guidelines for effective implementation of SCSP & TSP by the Central Ministries/Departments and States /UTs were issued earlier by the erstwhile Planning Commission. Guidelines have been reiterated by NITI Aayog in April 2015, in response to a letter from the Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). The task of monitoring and review of SCSP and TSP has since been entrusted to the nodal Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs respectively vide amended ABR dated 27th January 2017, NITI Aayog, developed a Monitoring Framework and circulated to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs to monitor SCSP & TSP respectively.

iii. A Concept paper on Leftwing Extremism Areas and livelihood opportunities for tribal;

A meeting of Committee of Secretaries was held under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary on 17.09.2015, to discuss the development issues of Scheduled Tribes one of the recommendation was pertaining to NITI Aayog which obligate NITI Aayog that “NITI Aayog along with M/o Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) will examine the possibility of developing the aroma industry, honey, dairying etc., as sustainable means of livelihood for the tribal population especially in LWE areas”. A concept paper on the same has been finalized and circulated for consultations with stakeholders.

iv. Consultations with NITI SAMAVESH forum

The SJE Division held two consultations to seek suggestions / opinions of States and independent agencies on Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan and also working the field of research and development for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Bhopal with Tribal Research Institutes and at Thiruvananthapuram with Centre for Development Studies.

V .The SJE Division Participated

- National Workshop / Consultation on MSP for MFP held in Delhi, consultation with stakeholders to decide the prise for MFPs
- Meetings of the Empowered Committee to consider proposals under Multi Sector Development Programme (PMJVKY)
- Meeting with Chairman & Members of the National Safaikarmacharies Commission with Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog.
- Participated in the meeting of the Research Advisory Committee to consider the proposals of Social Defence issues.
- Attended the meeting of National Council for Senior Citizens organised by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Participated in the National Conference on donor syndrome organised by the National Trust.
- Participated in the Inclusive India campaign organised by the National Trust for PwDs.

EFC/SFCs

- EFC Proposal for enhancement of Authorised share capital of National Safaikarmacharies Finance & Development Corporation was examined and supported.
- EFC Proposal for SCA to SCSP was examined and supported with certain modifications to benefit the SCs.
- EFC proposal for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups was examined and supported the scheme to continue beyond 12th Five Year Plan and till 2019-20.
- EFC proposal for scheme of implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016 (SIRPDA) was examined and supported with certain modifications to create awareness and adequate implementation mechanism in the field.

- EFC proposals for scholarship schemes (Pre-Metric, Post-Metric, Merit -cum- Means Scholarships) for Minority Students were examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and ensure DBT Provisions.
- EFC proposal for construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls was examined and supported with certain modifications to ensure adequate safety provisions and timeframe to complete the projects.
- EFC proposal for Umbrella Program for Scheduled Tribe Students was examined and supported with suggestions to improve the service delivery and avoid duplication of benefits etc.
- EFC proposal for continuation and revision of Post-Metric Scholarship scheme for OBC students was examined and suggested to implement DBT provisions and ensure avoid duplication of benefits by OBCs of Minority Communities.
- EFC proposal for scheme of Seekho aur Kamao for Minorities was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and DBT Provisions.
- EFC proposal for modification and continuation in the scheme of National Fellowship for SCs Students was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and DBT Provisions.
- SFC for TRIs was examined and supported the proposal to strengthen them as Top Class Research Institutes.
- SFC Proposal for continuation and revision of MSP for MFP was examined and supported.
- SFC Proposal for continuation and revision of Institutional Support for development and Marketing of Tribal Products / Produces beyond 12th Five Year Plan till 2019-20 was examined and supported with certain modifications to benefit the tribals.
- SFC Proposal for continuation of scheme of National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher education was examined and supported with certain suggestions to enhance the number of slots, DBT Provision, Aadhar linking of beneficiaries etc.
- SFC proposal for Rashtriya Vayoshreshtha Yojan was examined and supported the scheme for continuation till 2019-20.
- SFC Proposal on Northeast Rural Livelihood Program was examined and supported the proposal.
- SFC proposal for continuation and revision of the scheme of Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme and suggested certain measures to improve the service delivery to PwDs.
- SFC proposal of the Scheme for Assistance to Persons with Disabilities to Purchase and Fitting of Assistive Devices was examined and supported to enhance the service delivery system and create more awareness and camps in rural and remote backward areas.
- SFC proposal for revision and continuation of National Fellowship scheme for OBCs students was examined and supported with suggestions to enhance the number of slots and ensure DBT provisions.
- SFC proposal for establishment of District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRS) was examined and supported the proposal with suggestions to discontinue the overlapping activities and certain modifications to ensure DBT provisions.

- SFC proposal for revision and continuation of Pre-Metric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students was examined and suggested certain suggestions to implement through National Scholarship Portal and ensure DBT provisions.
- SFC proposal for continuation and revision of Pre-Metric Scholarship scheme for OBC students was examined and suggested to implement DBT provisions and ensure avoid duplication of benefits by OBCs of Minority Communities.
- The SFC proposal for revision and continuation of equity support to Minorities Finance Development Corporation was examined and supported with suggestions to ensure service delivery with DBT Provisions and extend its base to RRBs and Micro Finance Institutions.
- SFC proposal for revision and continuation of Free-Coaching and Allied Scheme for Minorities was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and DBT Provisions.
- SFC proposal for revision and continuation of Maulana Azad National Fellowship scheme for Minority Students was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and DBT Provisions.
- SFC proposal for prevention of Alcoholism and substance (drug) Abuse and Social Defence services was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and DBT Provisions.
- SFC proposal for Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes was examined and supported with certain suggestions to phase-out old NGOs and adopt best practices and cover the most backward and remote rural areas to deliver the services.
- SFC proposal for continuation and revision in the Scheme of Babu Jagjeevan Ram Chatarvas Yojan was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and fix the time limit to completion of the projects etc.
- SFC proposal for continuation and revision of the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons was examined and supported the proposals to ensure certain provisions support the State Agencies and phase-out Old NGOs and assist new NGOs with Best practices which deliver the services genuine and needy.
- SFC proposal for revision and continuation of Top-Class Education Scheme SCs was examined and comments were sent for modification in certain components, ensure DBT Provisions and harmonise the rates and others assistance with similar schemes for STs, Minorities etc.

Cabinet Notes

- The Cabinet Note for revision and continuation of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs students was examined and supported.
- The Cabinet Note for Establishment of National Institute for Mentally Handicapped at Bhopal was examined and supported with suggestions to ensure convergence with other National Institutes like NIMHANS etc.
- The Cabinet Note for revision and continuation of MSDP (PMJVKY) Scheme was examined and supported with certain suggestions to improve the service delivery and convergence.

State Issues

- A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman NITI Aayog to address the pending issues of State of Odisha with officials of Govt. of Odisha and Central Ministries / Departments and certain issues were resolved to clear the pending arrears stuck due to operational difficulties.
- PAC Meetings of the MOTA were attended to provide assistance to States/UTs under SCA to TSP, Grants under Article 275(1) and other schemes of MOTA.

Parliament Matters

- Inputs were provided for the Standing Committee on Finance on implementation of SCSP & TSP
- Inputs were provided to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Minority Affairs and also Ministry of Finance in-respect of questions relating to welfare of weaker sections.
- Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 34, for 06.02.2017 on Human Development Index for SCs and STs by Shri P.L. Punia, was answered.

VIP & PMO References

Various references from VIPs, PMO and President were taken with appropriate authorities and replies / action taken was communicated to the applicants.

RTI Matters

About 90 RTI applications and two RTI appeals received under RTI Act-2005 in the Division were disposed of.

Other activities undertaken

During the year the Division represented NITI Aayog in the Price Fixation Committee of TRIFED for revision of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produces (MFPs). Other Committees which the Division represented NITI Aayog during the year were, (i) Standing Committee for Tribal Welfare and National Council for Tribal Welfare; (ii) Central Monitoring Committee for Monitoring the implementation of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and other Rehabilitation Act-2013; (iii) Technical Advisory Committee for Nai-Manzil scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs; (iv) Selection committee for selection of Coaching Institutions for Grant of Central Assistance under the scheme of Pre-Coaching for SC and OBC students; and (iv) Project Approval Committee for sanction of Projects under Grant-in-Aid under Article 275(1) and under the Scheme Special central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). The Division also represented NITI Aayog in the Research Advisory Committees (RAC) of Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, and Ministry of Tribal Affairs in addition to the Project Approval Committee of Multi Sectoral Development Programme / PMs 15 Point Programme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.

17. VOLUNTARY ACTION CELL

1. A good partnership between Government and NGOs/VOs helps government to find out innovative solutions many problems and to effectively implement social sector initiatives especially in the area of poverty, deprivation, exclusions, etc. The Government of India recognizes the collaborative role of Voluntary Sector in the socio-economic development of the Country. The task of the Voluntary Action Cell is mainly to promote Voluntarism in the country. The functions of the cell include preparation of Policy Guidelines for Voluntary Sector; operationalization of the National Policy on Voluntary Sector, 2007; preparation of guidelines for implementation of various schemes of the Government through Voluntary Organizations, maintenance of database of NGOs/VOs etc.

2. An important initiative of the VAC is maintaining an electronic database of VOs/NGOs which is done through the NGO Darpan Portal. The NGO-DARPAN (NGO-PS) Portal is an e-governance application to electronically maintain data regarding Non-Government organizations (NGOs)/ Voluntary Organizations (VOs) in the country. The portal is also an attempt to create scope for NGOs/VOs to operate in the Country with transparency.

3. In order to transact business with the line Ministries/ Departments, an NGO has to first sign-up on the NGO-DARPAN Portal of NITI Aayog for obtaining a Unique Identity Number by furnishing the required details like registration number of the organization, PAN of the organization, PAN and Aadhar details of the office bearers/trustees etc. The portal which was earlier known as NGO-PS (NGO-Partnership System) portal has been revamped and the NGO-DARPAN Portal is in operation to facilitate NGOs/VOs to sign up for the unique ID. It is a dynamic portal which keeps on getting updated as and when the NGOs sign up. Ministries/Departments implementing schemes through the NGOs are also required to develop their own portal and integrate the same with the NGO-Darpan Portal to facilitate seamless flow of information regarding the fund flow, projects implemented etc. about the NGOs. The Ministries/Departments can also verify the antecedents of the NGOs through this integrated system before considering any application from NGOs for grants.

4. During the period of report the following specific actions were taken with respect to the portal.

- Before December, 2016, the portal had about 85000 NGOs in its database. However after mandating PAN and Aadhaar details of office bearers, there has been reduction in the number NGOs in the portal. Till 7th December 2017, a total of 24035 NGOs have signed up on NGO Darpan Portal.
- 18 Ministries/ Departments have developed and integrated their portal with the NGO-Darpan portal. Five Ministries are also in the process of developing their portal. The MIS report generated from NGO-Darpan Portal suggests that as on date (07.12.2017) 10 ministries/departments have released grants of Rs. 267 crore to 356 NGOs under 42 Schemes

- However, NGO Darpan Portal has been successfully integrated with the PFMS. As per PFMS window a total amount of Rs. 1895 crore has been released to 1029 NGOs under 221 Schemes of 34 ministries / departments during 2017-18 up to 07.12.2017.

5. Strengthening Partnership between the Government and Civil Societies Organization in Service Delivery has been an important initiative of the VAC during 2017-18. In this regard, meetings were organized on 1st March, 2017 and 23rd June, 2017 (NGOs) under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog with some service delivery organizations having specialization in their respective areas and representative from key central ministries. The meeting provided forum to NGOs to share their grass root level experience with NITI Aayog and the participating Ministries/Departments. The NGOs have been advised to share their views on challenges being faced in implementation of various social sector programmes/schemes of the government. This may help in presenting the issues and concerns of the voluntary organizations in a bigger forum of concerned Central Ministries and the service delivery organizations. It is a good medium to move the government policy forward and also take action oriented initiative for the welfare of weaker sections.

18. DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE (DMEO)

I. Introduction

The need for an efficient and independent evaluation mechanism in India was recognized by the planners and policy-makers right from the introduction of planning process in the country and resultantly, the Programme Evaluation Organization was established by the Government in 1952 to carry out independent and objective impact evaluation of the Central Government funded programmes.

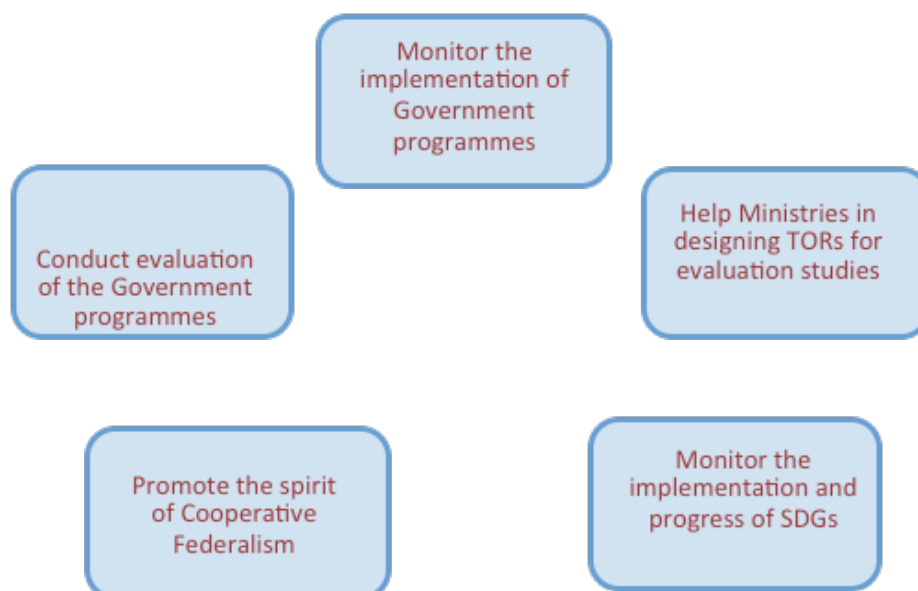
II. Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

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 Organization and the Independent Evaluation Office. The DMEO is headed by the Director General who is equivalent to an Additional Secretary to the Government of India. To ensure that DMEO is able to function independently and effectively, it has been provided with separate budgetary allocations and manpower in addition to complete functional autonomy. It has total 157 posts out of which 102 are professional staff and the remaining are support staff.

III. Functions of DMEO

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

The functions of DMEO are broadly represented through the diagram given below:



IV. Organizational Structure of DMEO

At the NITI Aayog level, the programme evaluation work is being looked after under the overall guidance of the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. In addition to the Director General, the DMEO has been provided with 4 Deputy Director Generals (SAG level) to look after the functional mandate in addition to the Joint Secretary (Adm.& Fin.) who is to provide administrative and logistics support. The Headquarter of DMEO is in NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

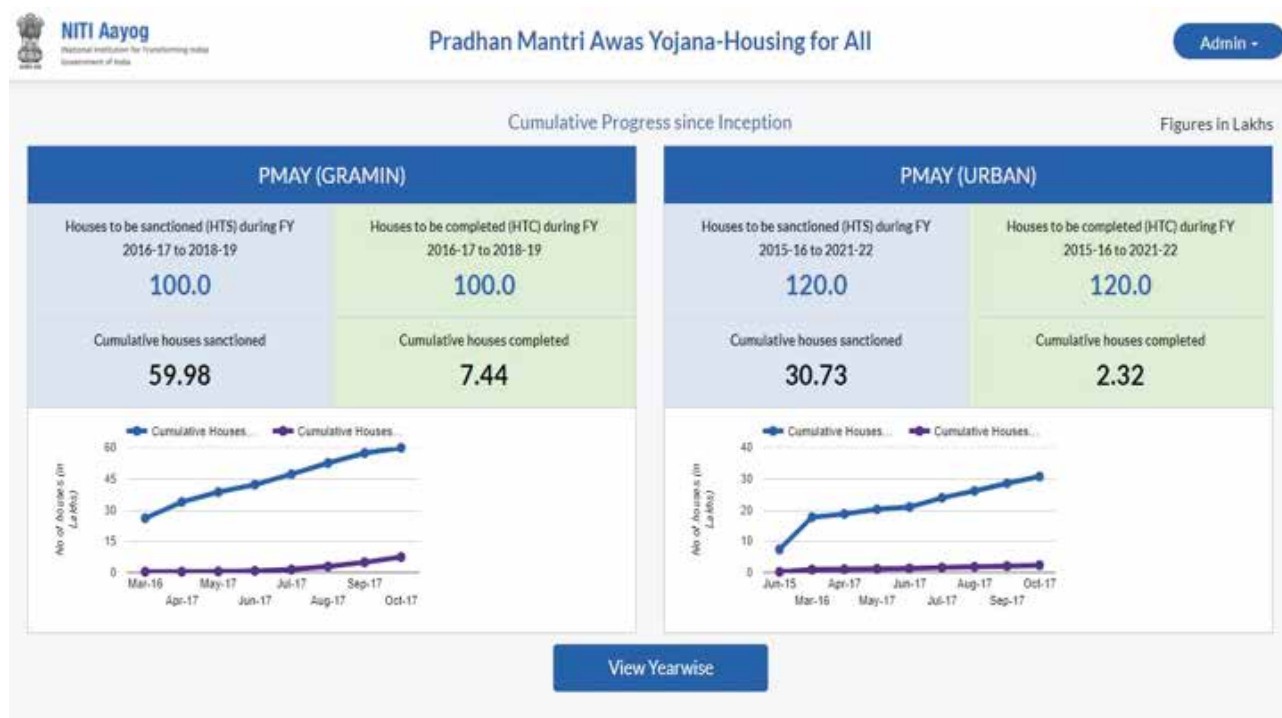
DMEO had 15 Regional Offices known as Regional Development Monitoring and Evaluation Offices (RDMEOs). Each RDMEO was headed by a Director level officer. RDMEOs conducted field surveys and data/ information collection work for evaluation studies, and they also played an important role in promoting cooperative federalism by their interaction with the States and UT administrations. However, keeping in view the changed functional requirements, they were closed w.e.f. 30-Sep-2017 and the staff were transferred to DMEO Hqrs in New Delhi.

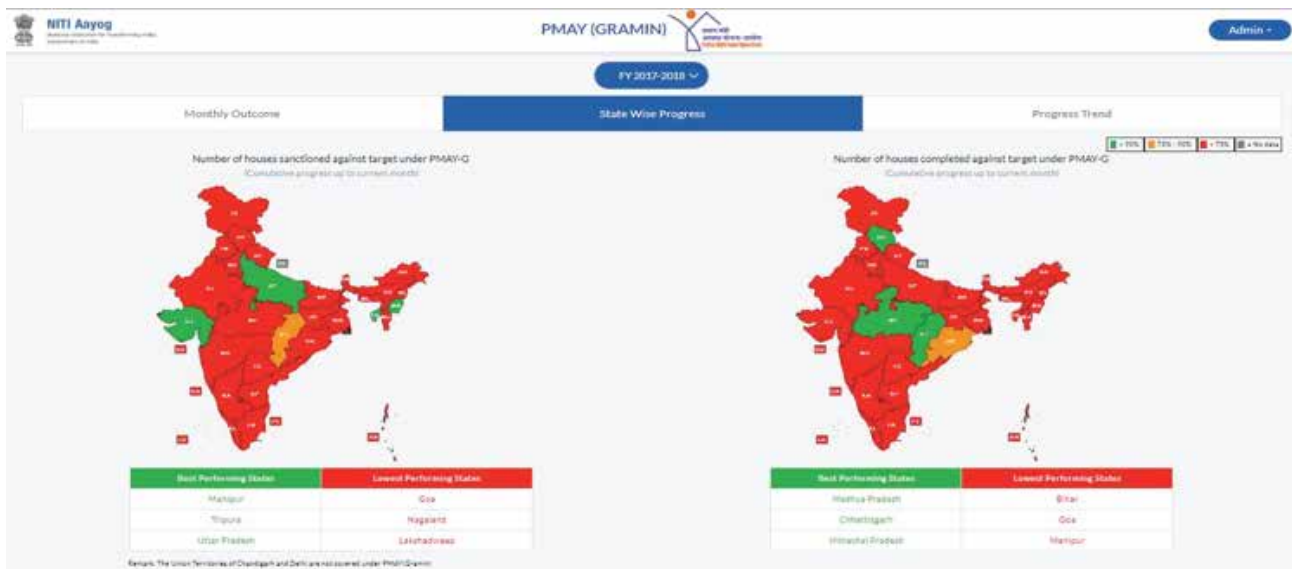
V. Programme Monitoring

(a). The primary responsibility for monitoring the implementation of Central Government funded programmes rests with the implementing Ministries of the Government of India. The DMEO has also been given the responsibility to monitor the implementation of the Central Government programmes and initiatives. During the year 2017, the following monitoring activities were carried out in DMEO:

(b). Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana

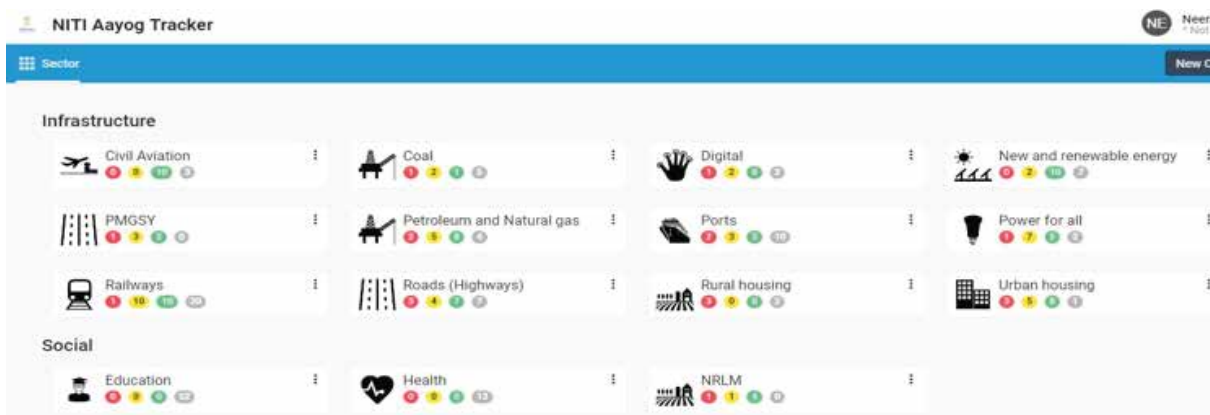
- PMO has asked DMEO to monitor the progress of houses being sanctioned and constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (Rural and Urban). For this purpose, DMEO has developed a web-based interactive dashboard which is accessed by the concerned Ministries to upload data on the progress made by them in the implementation of PMAY.
- Work is in progress to upgrade the dashboard enabling it to automatically fetch PMAY data from MIS of the Ministries and also to have granular information i.e. State and District level PMAY data.
- The screen shots of PMAY dashboard are as below:

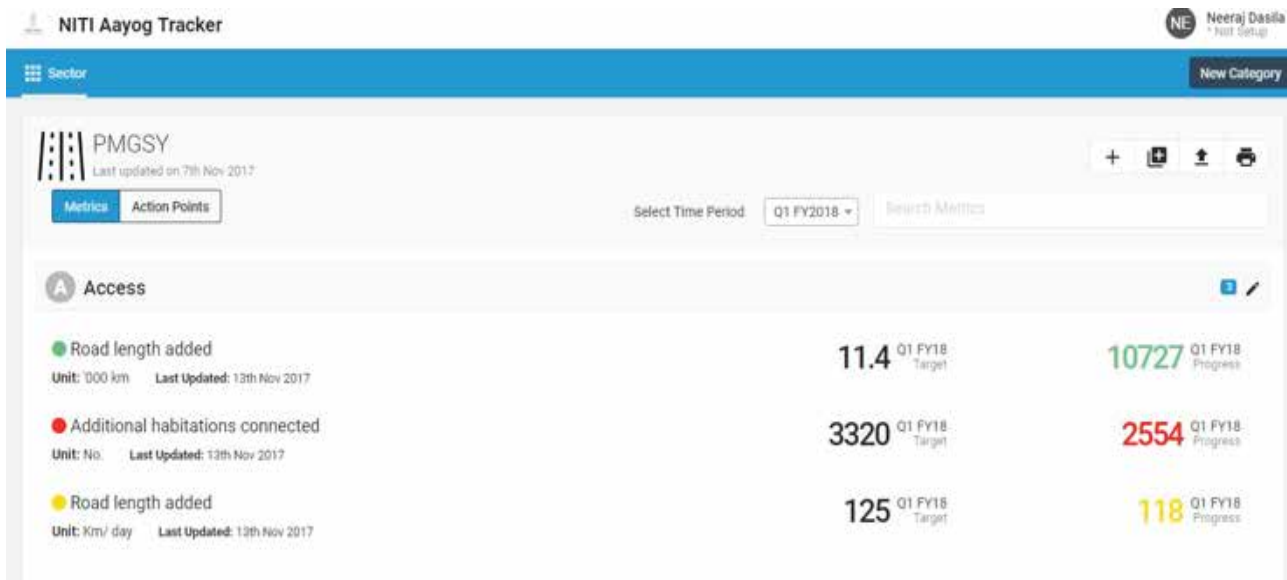




(c) Sectoral Reviews by PMO

- PMO has been carrying out sectoral reviews to assess their activities and the DMEO has since April 2016 been given the responsibility to monitor the implementation of major decisions taken in the review meetings. DMEO has developed an interactive dashboard for this purpose and all the major action points have been uploaded to the dashboard. The dashboard has been made accessible to the concerned Ministries/Departments enabling them to upload programme implementation data online. At present there are 15 sectors (12 infrastructure and 3 social sectors) which are being monitored through the dashboard.
- DMEO collected annual and quarterly targets and implementation data for 2017 from the Ministries and uploaded it to the dashboard. The information collected was reviewed in DMEO and Action Taken Reports were prepared periodically and sent to PMO, Cabinet Secretariat and VC, NITI Aayog for their information.
- During 2017 the sectors reviewed by PMO were: Road, Railways, Airports, Ports, Digital India and Coal on 25-Apr-2017; PNG, Power, NRE, Urban Housing, Rural Housing and PMGSY on 08-May-2017 and Power, PMGSY, Coal, Roads and Urban Housing and Rural Housing on 16-Nov-2017. The major decisions arrived at in these meetings have been uploaded to the dashboard for monitoring.
- Screen shots of Sectoral Review dashboard are as below:





(d). Thematic Departmental Action Plans

DMEO has also been monitoring the implementation of thematic Departmental Action Plans prepared by the Ministries/ Departments for implementing the recommendations from 8 Groups of Secretaries on 8 thematic areas. However, this work on the direction of Cabinet Secretary was transferred in March 2017 to the Sectoral Group of Secretaries.

VI. Programme Evaluation

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

(b). To ensure that the work done by DMEO is relevant and useful to the programme implementing organizations, all possible efforts are made to involve the planners, funding party and implementing agencies at various stages of the evaluation process. Whenever required, domain experts from outside are also consulted to finalizes 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 put in the public domain by uploading it on the website of NITI Aayog.

(c). Evaluation Studies Completed

(i). The evaluation of the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), a conditional maternity benefit programme run by the Government of India, was finalized and the Evaluation Report was furnished to the Ministry of Women and Child Development for taking corrective measures on the study findings. Some of the major findings included:

- 99% of the sampled beneficiaries had received Mother Child Protection Cards enabling them to avail benefits under IGMSY programme.
- Benefits under IGMSY are given to ensure reduction in the workhours of the pregnant women. However, it was found that in the case of 22% beneficiaries, there was no reduction in their working hours.
- 17% of the beneficiaries across the states were of the opinion that the amount of Rs.6,000/- under IGMSY is inadequate.



(ii) Evaluation of the introduction of Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) in Food in 3 Union Territories of Chandigarh, Puducherry and Dadra & Nagar Haveli was carried out to assess the outcomes of initiative in delivering the programme benefits and also to assess the response of the beneficiaries to DBT. The major study findings included:

- 65% of the sampled beneficiaries across 3 UTs preferred cash transfer over food grains. The beneficiary preferences are influenced by the choice and flexibility that DBT affords them and higher quality of grain that they can now purchase.
- The challenge introduced by DBT was that now beneficiaries purchase higher quality of grains, which may make them believe that the amount of subsidy is inadequate, making this a potential source of grievance in future.

(d). Evaluation Studies near completion

- Evaluation of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMGP) is near completion. The report once approved, would be furnished to the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) for taking necessary action on the study findings.
- The Evaluation Report on National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) is under finalization. After approval of the report, it would be furnished to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for necessary action on the findings.

(e) Evaluation Studies in progress

- The study design including stakeholder schedules for the Evaluation Study of Decentralized Procurement Scheme of Paddy & Wheat under MSP rates is in progress. After approval of the questionnaires by the Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC), the study would be launched in the field for data/information collection.
- An Evaluation Monitoring Committee has been constituted to conduct the evaluation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban & Rural). Work on the study design is in progress.
- DMEO has taken on the task assigned by PMO of conducting quarterly monitoring and a process evaluation of the Maternity Benefits Programme to identify bottlenecks and recommend course corrections in the implementation of the scheme. DMEO is working with an external group of academicians based in the United States to develop an appropriate M&E design and infrastructure to fulfil this requirement.

VII. Sustainable Development Goals

- (i). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related Targets were resolved in September 2015 in the UN General Assembly by 193 countries including India and came into effect on January 01, 2016. At the Central Government level, the DMEO, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs. Following activities were carried out during 2017:

(ii) Sensitization and Awareness Development

National Consultations were held on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). A regional Consultation was organized on SDG 14 (Life Below Water). The focus of the consultations was to discuss implementation strategies, best practices and future directions. Relevant Central Ministries, States, UTs, civil society organizations, academia, UN and other international organizations participated in these consultations.

(iii). Voluntary National Review (VNR)

As a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, India is committed to participate in the international review of progress of SDGs. The central platform for international follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which meets annually under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). India presented its 1st VNR Report on 19th July, 2017 in the HLPF at United

Nations. As per the decision of HLPF, the VNR report focused on 7 SDGs: SDGs 1 (No Poverty); 2 (Zero Hunger); 3 (Good Health and Well-Being); 5 (Gender Equality); 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 14 (Life Below Water) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

(iv). Monitoring Progress on SDGs

In the light of the global SDG indicators endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, the Ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed an elaborate list of National SDG Indicators, which are at an advanced stage of finalization. A Task Force on SDGs has also been constituted by NITI Aayog involving participation of Central Ministries, State governments and think tanks to review progress of implementation of SDGs from time to time.

VIII. TORs Vetting

Draft TORs prepared by the programme implementing Ministries/Departments for evaluation of their programmes are required to be vetted by a Committee of Secretaries headed by the CEO, NITI Aayog. During 2017, TORs for evaluation of 13 programmes of the following Ministries/Departments were vetted by DMEO:

- a. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (1 programme)
- b. Ministry of Corporate Affairs (2 programmes)
- c. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (7 programmes)
- d. Ministry of Minority Affairs (3 programmes)

VIII. Other Activities

DMEO has been helping NITI Aayog in various activities which included CEO, NITI Aayog's presentations ranging from the Governing Council meeting, to the Holistic Development of Islands, to the State presentations, etc. DMEO also worked extensively on two Champions of Change Conferences held on 16-17th and 21-22nd August, 2017. DMEO has also assisted NITI Aayog on 100 Backward Districts project, recommending the selection of infrastructure indicators to be monitored in these districts. DMEO was also involved in other initiatives as well, including Sankalp-se-Sidhhi.

19. APPRAISAL OF PROGRAMMES/SCHEMES/PROJECT

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

Appraisal work undertaken during 2017-18

2. 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 Rs.500 crore which are considered by the Expanded Board of Railways (EBR). The timeframe for issue of appraisal note by PAMD is four weeks from the date of receipt of EFC/PIB/EBR memo.

3. During 2017-18 (upto 11.12.2017), 209 appraisal notes on EFC/PIB/EBR proposals involving outlay of Rs. 17.06 lakh crore have been issued. The sectoral distribution of projects appraised during 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto 11.12.2017) is enclosed at **Annexure**. Information pertaining to major groups of sectors is summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Sector group-wise projects appraised during 2016-17 & 2017-18 (Upto 11.12. 2017)

S.No.	Sector	2016-17			2017-18 (Up to 11.12.2017)		
		Nos.	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	%	Nos.	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	%
1	Agriculture	5	46886.71	4.32	11	102399.55	6.00
2	Energy	19	312335.24	28.80	8	53176.06	3.12
3	Transport	59	120747.82	11.13	64	262032.65	15.36
4	Industry	6	43128.65	3.98	24	408833.60	23.96
5	S&T	1	1500.00	0.14	5	4143.20	0.24
6	Social Services	44	504959.67	46.56	55	515997.67	30.24
7	Communication	1	2351.00	0.22	4	20252.22	1.19
8	Others	6	52706.05	4.86	38	339268.81	19.89
	Total	141	1084615.14	100.00	209	1706103.76	100.00

4. During 2017-18 (upto 11.12.2017) 18 Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects with a total cost of Rs.12465.47 crore have been appraised by the PPPAU. This includes 16 Central sector projects and 2 State sector projects. The sector-wise distribution of the PPP projects appraised are given in Table 2 and the State wise distribution of State sector projects are given in Table 3 below:

Table 2: PPP Projects appraised in 2017-18 (Upto 11.12. 2017)

Sl.No.	Project Appraised	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
A	Central Projects		
1	Road	11	11175.06
2	Port	1	734.58
3	Food Storage	3	82.92
4	Airport	1	323.60
	Sub Total (A)	16	12316.16
B	State/UT Projects		
1	Road	2	149.31
	Sub Total (B)	2	149.31
	Grand Total (A+B)	18	12465.47

Table 3: State-wise PPP Projects appraised for Grant of VGF in 2017-18 (Upto 11.12. 2017)

Sl.No.	Project Appraised	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1	Rajasthan	2	149.31
	Total	2	149.31

ANNEXURE**Sector-wise number and costs of EFC/PIB/EBR proposals appraised during 2016-17 to 2017-18
(Upto 11 December, 2017)**

S.No.	SECTORS	2016 - 17		2017-18 (Up to 11, December 2017)	
		No.	Cost (Rs cr.)	No.	Cost (Rs cr.)
	AGRICULTURE				
1	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	5	46886.71	11	102399.55
	ENERGY				
2	Power	5	15272.63	5	42302.06
3	Coal			2	9074.00
4	Petroleum & Natural Gas	4	31563.31		
5	New & Renewable Energy	10	265499.30	1	1800.00
	TRANSPORT				
6	Railways	25	73052.44	28	58713.12
7	Surface Transport	25	34438.17	28	191551.51
8	Civil Aviation	2	1620.00	4	5635.53
9	Shipping	7	11637.21	4	6132.49
	INDUSTRY				
10	Industry	3	29614.00	12	76675.40
11	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises			5	50228.93
12	Steel & Mines				
13	Petro Chemicals & Fertilisers	1	9965.00	6	279600.28
14	Textiles	2	3549.65	1	2328.99
15	Food Processing				
	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY				
16	Bio-Technology	1	1500.00	1	990.00
17	Science & Technology			4	3153.20
18	Scientific & Ind. Research				
19	Ocean Development				
20	Earth Sciences				
	SOCIAL SERVICES				
21	HRD	13	143193.36	17	253632.24
22	Culture	2	3497.34		
23	Youth Affairs & Sports			2	6012.00
24	Health	14	173298.68	17	126930.82
25	Women & Child Dev.	2	110261.00	2	4128.61
26	Labour	1	7552.07	1	850.00
27	Social Justice	2	7219.55	4	6508.58
28	Urban Development	7	41010.51	2	2685.00
29	Rural Development	1	10483.00	3	56385.45

30	Minority Affairs	1	7745.00	4	9180.00
31	Tribal Affairs			2	13109.97
32	Drinking Water Supply	1	699.16	1	36575.00
33	Food & Public Distribution				
	COMMUNICATION				
34	Information & Broadcasting				
35	Post			3	6589.00
36	Information Technology	1	2351.00	1	13663.22
37	Communication				
	OTHERS				
38	Home Affairs	2	35577.05	14	145672.79
39	Personal				
40	Tourism			4	13741.77
41	Commerce				
42	Environment & Forests			4	3880.20
43	Law & Justice	1	3000.00		
44	Water Resources	1	6000.00	9	137420.90
45	North Eastern Region			3	13685.00
46	Consumer Affairs				
47	Finance/Corporate Affairs	1	839.00		
48	Planning Commission/NITI Aayog				
49	External Affairs	1	7290.00	1	1286.00
50	Statistics & Program Implementation			2	22882.70
51	parliamentary Affairs			1	699.45
	Total	141	1084615.14	209	1706103.76

20. WATER RESOURCES

A. Water Resources

The Water Resources and Land Resources Vertical of NITI Aayog is involved in formulation of policies, development of strategies and appraisal of programmes for sustainable management of water resources in the country. A brief on important works undertaken by the vertical during the year 2017-18 is given below:-

1. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

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 the much desired rural prosperity. It has four components namely (i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme (AIBP) for major and medium irrigation including National projects; (ii) Har Khet Ko Pani which includes command area development and water management works, surface minor irrigation, irrigation through groundwater and repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies; (iii) per drop more crop for promotion of micro irrigation; and (iv) watershed development for rain water harvesting, effective management of the run-off water, prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation and re-charging of the ground water table.

a. The second meeting of the Council of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was held under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog on 15.05.2017. In the meeting, the progress of various components of PMKSY was reviewed and decisions were taken to expedite the implementation of various components so as to deliver the objective of Har-Khet-Ko-Pani.

b. Among the 99 prioritized projects under PMKSY-AIBP scheme, the MoWR, RD &GR has informed about the 7 completed projects. The Inter-Ministerial Team constituted by the NITI Aayog has conducted the evaluation of the projects and the reports have been shared with the PMO, MoWR, RD & GR, State Governments & Rain-fed Area Authority.

c. Development of Hybrid Annuity PPP model

In order to accelerate the pace of Micro irrigation development of the country, NITI Aayog-Water resource division has assisted in the development of Hybrid Annuity model with Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) to provide water to every field. The pilot project based on that concept is likely to be implemented in Haryana.

2. Implementation of the Inter-State North Koel Irrigation Project benefitting Bihar and Jharkhand.

With an objective of expeditiously completing the balance works under the North Koel irrigation Project and to provide irrigation to the command areas in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand, an empowered committee to monitor the project has been constituted under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog. A review meeting was held during the year with various stakeholders (MoWR, RD&GR, Central Water Commission, MoEF & CC and State Governments). In this meeting, the decisions were

taken to resolve the issues relating to the implementation of the project, R&R status, Land Acquisition, and indication the share costs by the states.

3. The Model Central Ground Water Bill has been proposed by the MoWR, RD &GR after the consultation with states. A presentation was made in NITI Aayog wherein certain suggestions have been made by NITI Aayog to the Ministry for consideration.

4. Siang Multi-Purpose River Valley Project

To harness the hydro power potential in North-East part of India, the Multi-Purpose River Valley Project on Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh has been proposed by MoWR, RD&GR. It is apprehended that run of the river type hydro-electric projects being envisaged on Siang river would become unviable if non monsoon flow decreases because of unforeseen reasons and therefore the single storage project of 9.2 BCM may be developed. Subsequently Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog held a meeting with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and his cabinet colleagues along with the Central Ministries.

5. Water Management Index

In order to access the existing status as well as incremental efforts made by the State/UTs in the recent past in the water sector, a Composite Water Management Index has been developed in NITI Aayog with 28 Key Performance Indicators covering source management, supply and demand side management - inter-alia covering irrigation, drinking water (rural and urban), watershed development, and policy and governance. The index will rank the States on the basis of verifiable data provided by them.

In this regard, 24 states have already furnished the information on web portal. The data validation part is in process by the expert agency.

6. 15 Year Vision Document - Water Resources

The water resources part of the 15 Year Vision Document has been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

7. Development Agenda for New India@75

The water resources part of the “Development Agenda for New India” has been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

8. Output-Outcome Budget

The Water Resources Vertical has assisted DMEO, NITI Aayog in the preparation of Water Resource part of Output-Outcome Budget (2018-19). The same is communicated to the Ministry of Water Resources, RD &GR.

9. Best Practices in Water Sector

The document “Best Practices in Water Sector” has been prepared in consultation with TERI University, New Delhi. The “Best Practices in Water Sector” are to be uploaded on web portal.

10. Examination of Cabinet Notes and draft Legislative Bills in the water sector Appraisal of EFC proposals etc.

- A draft SFC memo for continuation of centrally sponsored scheme “Irrigation Census” with an estimated cost of Rs. 257.78 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft EFC Memo “incentivization Scheme for Bridging Gap (CADWM)” with an estimated cost of Rs. 61,237 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft SFC memo on “Research and Development Programme in Water Sector and Implementation of Water Sector Mission Scheme” with an estimated cost of Rs. 454 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft EFC memo on “Flood management and Border Area programme (FMBAP)” with an estimated cost of Rs. 8215 Crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft EFC Memo for continuation of “River Basin Management Scheme” from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an estimated cost of Rs. 1118 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft EFC Memo for the “Infrastructure Development Scheme” with an estimated cost of Rs. 454.68 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft SFC Memo for the “Human resource Development and Capacity Building Scheme” at an estimated cost of Rs. 214.65 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft EFC Memo “Development of Water resources Information System for Finance Commission” with an estimated cost of Rs. 1093.12 crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.
- A draft approach paper for “Towards Resurgent Rajasthan 2025 “ and a report for sustainable and inclusive development in the Rajasthan in partnership with the World bank was examined and communicated to the State of Rajasthan.
- A SFC memo for “Farakka Barrage” scheme under transport Sector for the period (2017-2020) at the estimated cost of Rs. 441.36 Crore was examined and comments were communicated to the MoWR, RD&GR.

B. Land Resources

The Water Resources and Land Resources Vertical of NITI Aayog is involved in formulation of policies, development of strategies and appraisal of programmes for sustainable management of land resources in the country. A brief on important works undertaken by the Vertical in land Resources during the year 2017-18 is given below:-

1. 15 Year Vision Document - Land Resources

The land resources part of the 15 Year Vision Document is being prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

2. Development Agenda for New India@75

The Land resources part of the “Development Agenda for New India” has been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments and concerned experts groups.

3. The Vertical has assisted DMEO, NITI Aayog in the preparation of Land Resource part of Output-Outcome Budget (2018-19).

4. A Draft report of the Committee on “**Land Titling- A Way forward**” has been prepared in consultation with the concerned ministries and departments, and states. The final draft has been sent to PMO for further consideration.

21. DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Major Activities in the Data Management and Analysis Vertical

1. To facilitate and promote data analytics the Vertical initiated the task of developing a data portal to leverage latest technology to collate and enable data analytics of various socio-economic indicators. A Proof of Concept was launched in 2017 and the vertical is now working on selection of a private party to work on developing the portal called “National Data and Analytics Platform”.

2. Digital Transformation Index was also instituted to measure the preparedness of States towards digital economy and share best practices.

3. The Vertical represents NITI Aayog in:

- i. Governing Council of NSSO
- ii. Governing Council of Indian Statistical Institute
- iii. Advisory Committee on National Accounts of CSO
- iv. Governing Board of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi.
- v. Advisory Committee of Planning and Policy Research Unit (PPRU) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre.

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

i. Digital Transformation Index

NITI Aayog proposes to institute a Digital Transformation index for states. The index includes parameters which can allow states to examine their progress towards digital transformation and compare it to that of others, thus acting as a catalyst to reform. The Digital Transformation Index for states covers the following three realms - Digital Preparedness & Infrastructure, Digital Economy and Digital Governance. In this regard, a National Workshop on Digital Transformation Index (DTI) with Secretary (IT) of all States, TRAI, M/o Electronics & IT, D/o Financial Services was held on 11.07.2017 at UChicago Centre, New Delhi. Based on the deliberations of the workshop, a final list of indicators has been prepared and sent to states to provide data.



ii. National Data and Analytic Platform

DM&A vertical is in the process of developing a national level data and analytics platform as a one stop reference point for a wide segment of users for authentic, comprehensive and latest data on socio-economic indicators of the country. The portal would have visualisation and analytics features where different category of users from the Government to researchers, individuals, journalists and other stakeholders can get insights from the data.

iii. Committee of Chief Ministers on digital payments

A Committee of Chief Ministers was constituted by NITI Aayog on 30th November 2016 with Shri Chandra Babu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as the Convener to promote transparency, financial inclusion and a healthy financial ecosystem nationwide and to suggest measures to seamlessly enable all sections of the population to migrate to the digital mode of payment. The aim of the committee is to recommend measures that would enable India to leapfrog into the advanced digital payment systems that compares with the best global standards.

The Committee submitted its interim report to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th January 2017. The interim report of the Committee of Chief Ministers on digital payments can be seen on:http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/new_initiatives/book.pdf.



Highlights of the Interim Report of the Committee of Chief Ministers on Digital Payments

The committee made recommendations on (i) Setting up of target and monitoring mechanism; (ii) Expanding technical infrastructure for digital payments; (iii) Increasing supply of acceptance infrastructure; (iv) Necessary institutional, policy, regulatory changes to ease adoption of digital payment; (v) Necessary institutional, policy, regulatory changes to ease adoption of digital payment; (vi) Incentivize digital transactions; (vii) Strengthening security in digital payments and (viii) Targeting specific segments for quick results.

The matter has since been transferred to MEITY after constitution of the Digidhan Mission.

- Examine poverty related issues;
- Nodal Vertical for Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

iv) All Matters relating to Advisory Committee of Development Planning Centre (DPC) of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) & Planning and Policy Research Unit (PPRU), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi. The Annual Report of the DPC of IEG for the year 2016-17 has been laid in Parliament during the Budget Session, 2016.

5. Member of Other Committees

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

- Working Group on 75th round of NSSO
- Working Group on Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

22. INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND TOURISM

The Information & Broadcasting and Tourism division examines and reviews policy issues and Infrastructural development issues concerning Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoI&B) and Ministry of Tourism (MoT). This division examines plan schemes/outcome and output budget of both the MoI&B and MoT. This division coordinates between line Ministry and States / UTs and individuals in redressing the issues concerning information, broadcasting, press, films and tourism. The division participate in various Committees, workshops and seminars relating to the Information & Broadcasting and tourism Sector.

Key activities undertaken in 2017-18 are indicated below:

- Interactions/ Meetings held with Ministry of I&B and MoT for finalizing the Annual output –outcome budget of the two Ministries.
- Appraisal of SFC Notes on Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content(DCD), Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector(IDP), Anti -Piracy Initiatives and launch of 24*7 DD Arun Prabha Channel by Doordarshan received from MoI&B.
- Appraisal of SFC on Scheme of Capacity Building for Service Promotion, Scheme of Assistance to the Institute of Hotel Management/Food Craft Institute/National Council of Hotel Management of Catering Technology/Indian institute of Tourism & Travel Management/Indian Culinary Institute, EFC on Assistance to central agency for Infrastructure Tourism Development and continuation of Infrastructure Scheme PRASAD beyond 12th plan, proposals received from Mo Tourism.
- Various meetings of Working Group (thematic areas) on Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region particularly heritage tourism were organized to prepare a concept paper on sustainable tourism.
- Organized meetings with the representatives from Mo information & Broadcasting, Mo HRD, Indian Broadcasting foundation and NCERT, to discuss proposal to introduce ‘Same language subtitling’ (SLS) as a policy intervention for improving reading skills/literacy among masses.
- Attended MoU Evaluation Meetings, SFC meeting on various projects/ proposals/schemes of M/o I&B and M/o Tourism.
- Grievances received from time to time from Associations/ individuals related to I&B and Tourism sector were examined and their issues taken up with the concerned ministries for their redressal.

23. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NILERD)

A. Appointments

Prof. Arup Mitra has taken over as Director General in the HAG Scale of Rs. 67000-79000 w.e.f 30/06/2017 for a period of two years on deputation basis.

B. Research Studies Completed

1. Efficacy and Effectiveness of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) of Board of Apprenticeship Training, BOAT, Western Region, Sponsored by BOAT-Western Region. (Final Report submitted).
2. Impact Evaluation of Strengthening of State Waqf Boards' commissioned by the National Wakf Development Corporation Limited (NAWADCO), M/O Minority Affairs. (Final Report submitted).
3. Impact Evaluation of the scheme of 'Computerization of the records of State Waqf Boards' (CWC), commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs. (Draft report submitted).
4. Ex-post evaluation of Japanese ODA Loan project on 'New and Renewable Energy Support Project' and 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Saving Project (Beneficiary Survey), commissioned by Overseas Project Management Consultants Ltd. (OPMAC), Tokyo. (Draft report submitted).
5. Evaluation of DC (MSME)'s Scheme Technology Centres under the Scheme of Surveys, Studies and Policy Research, commissioned by M/o MSME, Government of India.(Final Report accepted).
6. Evaluation Study of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS), commissioned by M/o MSME, Government of India. (Final report accepted).
7. Impact Evaluation of the Scheme of "Development of Urban Waqf Properties, commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs.

C. Research Studies Ongoing

1. Impact Evaluation of the Scheme of "Development of Urban Waqf Properties, commissioned by Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. Manpower Planning in Odisha, Planning and Coordination Department, commissioned by the Government of Odisha-Draft Report presented at first state-level Workshop on Manpower Planning held at Bhubaneswar, on 18th October, 2017.
3. Assessment and Ranking of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

D. Research proposals submitted

1. Review/Appraisal Of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiya (RMSA) - Presentation made in M/O HRD regarding technical bid.
2. Proposal on “Impact Assessment of Deendayal Antodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY- NRLM)”, Submitted to NITI Aayog, Government of India.
3. “Evaluation of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs”, submitted to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
4. National Sample Survey of Households for Estimation of out of School Children. Submitted to NITI Aayog, Government of India.
5. Evaluation of Ashram Schools and Tribal Hostels run by the Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Submitted to Ministry of HRD
6. Evaluation of National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) – MoHFW, submitted to MoHFW.
7. Functioning of the Finance & Development Corporations of D/o Social Justice and Empowerment” M/O Social Welfare and Empowerment, submitted to Mo Social Justice and Empowerment.
8. Outcome based Evaluation of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs)- submitted to D/o Social Justice and Empowerment.
9. Evaluation of National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE), submitted to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

E. Training Programmes conducted

1. International Training Programme (ITP) in Human Capabilities (March 27-April 24, 2017). The programme was attended by 29 participants. Field Visit to HCM RIPA was organized from 10-13 April. The Valedictory was conducted on April 24, 2017. Chief guest of the function was Ms. Sanchita Shukla, Director (Finance), NITI Aayog.
2. First training programme on Monitoring & Evaluation and Project Appraisal for the Officials of NCT of Delhi -15th May to 20th May, 2017 (6 days). The programme was attended by 22 officers working in various department of NCT of Delhi.
3. Training programme on “Competency Development” for HR Personnel of Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan was conducted during 5th to 16th June, 2017. The programme was attended by 25 participants.
4. Training programme on “Effective Office Management” for Administrative Staff of Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan was conducted during 19th to 24th June 2017. The programme was attended by 19 participants.

5. Training programme on “Effective Office Management” Batch II for Administrative Staff of Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan was conducted during 26th to 30th June 2017. It was attended by 9 participants.
6. Training programme on Monitoring & Evaluation and Project Appraisal for the Officials of Government of NCT of Delhi was conducted in the Institute during 19th to 24th June, 2017 (6 days). The programme was attended by 30 officers working in various departments of Government of NCT of Delhi. The valedictory programme held on 24th June 2017, was chaired by Dr. YogeshSuri, Adviser NITI Aayog and Director-General, NILERD.
7. Capacity Development Programme in Monitoring and Evaluation for Officials of Odisha Government was conducted during 3rd to 7th July, 2017. The programme was attended by 25 participants. The valedictory of the programme was held on 7th July 2017.
8. Three training programmes on Monitoring & Evaluation and Project Appraisal for the Officials of Government of NCT of Delhi of 6 days duration were conducted in the Institute during:10th to 15th July, 2017;16th to 21st July, 2017; 24th to 29th July, 2017. The above three programmes were attended by 77 officers working in various departments of Government of NCT of Delhi.
9. ITP in Human Resource Planning and Development (July 4 to August 28, 2017) was attended by 23 participants drawn from 14 countries. The valedictory Ceremony to award the certificates to the participants was held on August 28th 2017. The Certificates were awarded by the Chief Guest Dr. Rajesh Chadha, Senior Fellow and Research Counsellor, NCAER.
10. Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Planning and Development (1stAugust, 2017 to 31st July 2018) affiliated with Guru Gobind Singh IP University. The course is being attended by 11 participants from 7 countries. Participants attended the 14th CII Global MSME Business Summit on 19 Sept at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
11. ITP on Manpower Research (Sep. 26- Nov.20, 2017) which was attended by 22 participants from 14 countries concluded on November 20, 2017. Sh. Dinkar Asthana Joint Secretary DPA II of Ministry of External Affairs was the Chief Guest of the Function.
12. Training Programme on Contract Administration was organized from November 22-29, 2017 for Planning Officers and Engineers of Construction Development Board under Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Bhutan. The programme was attended by 5 officials.
13. Certificate Programme in Monitoring & Evaluation (Sept., 06 to November 28, 2017). The programme was being attended by 24 participants from 18 countries. The participants visited 14th CII Global MSME Business Summit, NFL Plant Panipat on 4th October 2017, and HCM, RIPA, Rajasthan. The Valedictory Session of the programme was held on 28th November, 2017. The session was chaired by Shri Manak Singhi, IES (Retd. Principal Adviser).

F. Training proposals approved for the current financial year by Ministry of External Affairs:

- Certificate Course in Human Resource Planning and Development (5.12.17 to 21.5.18)
- International Training Programme on Global Human Resource Management (12.12.17 to 22.1.18)
- International Training Programme in Manpower Information System (5.2.18 to 2.4.18)
- International Training Programme on Human Capabilities (27.3.18 to 23.4.18)

G. Training proposals submitted to Ministry of External Affairs for 2018-19

- ITP in Human Resource Planning and Development (27-06-2018 to 21-08-2018)
- ITP on Soft Skills for Managerial Personnel (11-07-2018 to 01-08-2018)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Planning and Development (01-08-2018 to 31-07-2019)
- ITP on Manpower Research (29-08-2018 to 23-10-2018)
- Certificate Programme in Monitoring & Evaluation (05-09-2018 to 27-11-2018)
- Certificate Course in Human Resource Planning & Development (29-11-2018 to 15-05-2019)
- ITP on Global Human Resource Management (05-12-2018 to 15-01-2019)
- ITP on Manpower Information System (23-01-2019 to 19-03-2019)
- ITP on Human Capabilities (27-03-2019 to 24-04-2019)

G. NILERD In-house Working Paper Series

- Growth, Inequality, Poverty and Urbanization (authored by DG, NILERD)
- Rural to Urban Migration and Urban Labor Market (authored by DG, NILERD)
- Cities and Towns in India : Judging the Quality of Urbanization (authored by DG NILERD and co-authored by Jay Prakash Nagar)

H. Hindi Cell

- Quarterly Hindi Progress Report (2016-17) prepared and submitted to Department of Official Language M/O Home Affairs, Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti and NITI Aayog.
- Town Official Language Implementation Committee meeting was attended by the Director General and Head (Hindi Cell) of the Institute on August 28, 2017.
- Hindi Phakhwada was organised in the Institute from 31st August, 2017 to 14th September, 2017. Essay writing competition, Kavita Lekhan, Hindi Debate, Workshop etc. were organised. Hindi typing and Hindi work evaluation was also done.
- Hindi Divas was organised on 15/7/17. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Jain, M.S, Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital, Narela was the Chief Guest on the occasion.
- Ms. Malti and Mr. Marshall Birua were nominated for story writing competition at Indian National Cooperative Union, August Kranti Marg which was held on 20/9/17 and Ms. Malti won the Consolation Prize. Dr. Ruby Dhar, Deputy Director was nominated for Kavita Lekhan and Competition held on 22/9/17 at Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan, Delhi.
- Quarterly Report for July to September, 2017 prepared.

I. Independence Day

Celebrated Independence Day in Narela Campus on 15th August, 2017 with employees, residents and international participants by organizing Flag hoisting ceremony, painting competition and cultural programmes.

J. Publications/lectures delivered/Sessions chaired by DG, NILERD

- Informal Sector in India on September 14, 2017 at the TERI University campus, Vasant Kunj.
- Informal sector: New Perspectives on September 18, 2017 in 52nd Refresher Course on Economics (4th September - 29th September, 2017) at the UGC-HRDC, JNU.
- Labour Market Participation in India: A Region and Gender Specific Study. Springer, 2018. (ISBN: 978-981-10-7142-3), Arup Mitra and Aya Okada (2018).
- Chaired a session at the IARIW-ICRIER Conference on “Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income, Inequality and Poverty in South Asia supported by the World Bank at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 23-24 November 2017.
- Lecture on “Rhetoric of Poverty Alleviation” at Department of Economics, Miranda House in course on the broad theme ‘Rethinking the Obvious: the Rhetoric of Development’, on 03 November 2017.

K. Institutional Publications. (Does not include individuals publications).

- Released Human Resource Profile: India Year Book(2016)
- Prepared Annual Report: 2016-17 (English and Hindi version) and submitted to the Parliament Section of NITI Aayog..

24. GOVERNING COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

The Governing Council Secretariat being one of the Core Divisions of NITI Aayog, has undertaken, inter alia, the following major activities during 2017-18:

The Governing Council Secretariat (GCS) coordinates activities of all the Subject Matter Verticals/ Units, including circulation of letters/ papers received from other Ministries/Departments as well as on the direction of higher authorities in NITI Aayog, issues meeting notices/prepares agenda note as well as minutes of the meetings of Senior Officers (SOM) of NITI Aayog. It has the responsibility of collection of materials and compilation of Appraisal Document of 12th Plan, coordinating the work related to the publication and release of Three Years Action Agenda of NITI Aayog.

The Secretariat was organized the third meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 23rd April, 2017 at RBCC, President Secretariat, New Delhi. The Governing Council, chaired by the Prime Minister with Central Ministries/ State Governments, etc. on various issues of national and regional importance. The Secretariat organized the third lecture in the “NITI Lectures: Transforming India” delivered by renowned American business strategist, economist and author, Dr. Michael E Porter at Vigyan Bhavan on May 25th, 2017. Other Important works being handled by the Governing Council Secretariat include coordination work relating to Parliamentary / RTIs / Cabinet Note, formulation of guidelines of the scheme dealt with by GCS as well as circulation for requisite material and preparation of monthly D.O letter to Cabinet Secretary, highlighting the achievements of NITI Aayog. Since, Governing Council Secretariat is the nodal division for operation of the Central Plan Scheme “Plan Formulation, Appraisal and Review” processed sanctions, payments, Audit replies etc. during 2017-18.

25. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE DIVISION (HINDI SECTION)

Hindi Section continued its efforts towards greater use of Hindi in official work during the year keeping in view the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Official Language Policy of the Union. For implementation of the Official Language Act, 1963 and Official Language Rules 1976 made there under.

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

1. Implementation of Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act

In pursuance of the official language policy of the Govt. of India, all documents covered under section 3(3) of the Official Language Act, 1963 are being issued both in English and Hindi. Annual Programme and other orders/instructions issued by the Department of Official Language were forwarded to all the Sections of the Aayog and its attached/subordinate offices for information and directives were issued for their compliance.

2. Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC)

The Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) functions under the chairmanship of Advisor (OL). This committee periodically reviews the progress made in connection with the use of Hindi and gives appropriate suggestions and recommends measures to be taken for the effective implementation of the official language policy. The meetings of this committee are held regularly and the offices under the control of the Aayog were also instructed for convening OLIC meetings regularly.

3. Incentive Scheme for original noting/drafting work in Hindi

The incentive scheme for noting/drafting in Hindi introduced by the Department of Official Language was continued. The scheme carries two first prizes of Rs.2,000/- each, three second prizes of Rs.1,200/- each and five third prizes of Rs.600/- each.

4. Cash prize scheme for dictation in Hindi

An incentive scheme for officers for giving dictation in Hindi is in operation. Under this scheme, there is a provision of two cash prizes of Rs. 2,000/- each (one for Hindi speaking and the other for Non-Hindi speaking staff).

5. Hindi Fortnight

In order to encourage the use of Hindi in official work amongst officers/employees of the NITI Aayog, message received from the Hon'ble Home Minister & an Appeal from Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Planning were circulated to the sections, officers of the NITI Aayog and its attached/subordinate offices. During the Hindi fortnight, which was organized from 1st September to 15th September, 2017, various competitions such as Hindi Essay writing, Hindi typing, Hindi translation, Hindi noting/drafting, Extempore speech and knowledge of official language were organized. A Hindi dictation competition was also organized for the Multi-Tasking Staff of the Aayog. Winners of these competitions were awarded with cash prizes and certificates.

6. Hindi Workshops

During the year 2 Hindi workshops were organized on 8th and 13th September, 2017 in the NITI Aayog to encourage the officials to undertake more work in Hindi and all together 17 officers/employees participated in these workshops.

Inspections regarding progressive use of Hindi

In order to oversee the implementation of the official language policy, 4 Divisions/Sections of different Verticals was inspected by the officers of the official language Division of NITI Aayog during the year.

26. CHARTS, MAPS AND EQUIPMENT UNIT

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

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

During 2017-18, the Charts, Maps & Equipment Unit has undertaken the following works:

- Provided technical and equipment support for various High Level Meetings organized by NITI Aayog within and outside NITI Aayog, such as:
 - "3rd NITI Lecture Series" Transforming India
 - Workshop on Champions of Change with young Entrepreneurs
 - National Conferences of Chief Secretaries
 - Vision Document
 - Three Year Action Agenda
 - Global Entrepreneurship Summit
- Designing of cover pages of various publications brought out by various Verticals/Divisions of NITI Aayog.
- Display of meetings related information on the Display Screens.
- Prinouts (Colour & Black and White), of official documents like various reports, handouts of presentations etc. were provided to different divisions.
- Execution of bulk Photocopying/Duplicating works.
- Execution of Binding work for various Verticals/Divisions of NITI Aayog.

27. LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The Library and Documentation Centre, being knowledge and information Centre of the NITI Aayog, provides comprehensive access to books, Journals, reports etc. to all staff members of the NITI Aayog. It provides reference services and lending facilities to the members of the Library. The Library is providing the accessibility of different database on the intranet of the NITI Aayog. In house consultation facility was extended to officials from other departments and research scholars enrolled with institutions/universities.

The Library Collection is made up of over 2 lakhs books, reports, bound volume Journals and audio-visual items. The Library Currently holds 174 Periodicals including English and Hindi. The Library is currently subscribing Database of World Bank e-library, IMF E-library, India Stat, India Infra Monitor, CMIE, Manupatra, CEIC. Online access facility of Journals is also given to the members of the Library. The Library is fully automated with the help of Library Software LS Premia of Libsys Ltd.

The Library is bringing out following Publications:-

- **Daily Digest:** The Library brings out Daily Digest (Part A & B). Part A contains News information pertaining to NITI Aayog. Part B provides full articles, Editorials, Comments and Analysis published in different newspapers on different topics.
- **Weekly Bulletin:** The Library compiles weekly information on following four different sectors.
- **a. Energy, b. Infrastructure, c. Rural Development, d. Health**
- **DOCPLAN:** (Monthly)-It contains abstracts of articles, taken from the periodicals received in the Library, related with core area of subjects dealt by the NITI Aayog.
- **Recent List of Additions:** (Monthly) It contains bibliographic details of books/documents added/ received in the Library for users.
- **Book Alert:** (Monthly) It contains the pictures of the front cover and a short abstract of the new books purchased in the Library.
- **Table of Contents:** (Monthly) It contains the titles of the articles published in the journals subscribed by the library.

During the period (From 1st April 2017 to date) under report 746 books have been added to the collection. In addition, 174 periodicals/magazines and newspapers were received in the Library. The Library also responded to approximately 3500 reference queries and attended to specific needs of users. About 8000 (app.) readers visited the library for the purpose of consultation and reference work.

28. PARLIAMENT SECTION

Parliament Section deals with Parliament Questions, Calling Attention Notices, Half-an-Hour discussions, Resolutions, Private Members' Bills, No-Day-Yet-Named Motions, Matters raised in Lok Sabha under Rule 377 and by way of Special Mention in Rajya Sabha, Parliament Assurances, Meetings of Parliamentary Committees, Standing Committee on Finance, Laying of Reports and papers in both the Houses of Parliament, arranging temporary and Session-wise General and Official Gallery passes for the Officers of Planning Commission; and other work of Parliament Commission related to Parliament including Issues likely to be raised in Parliament, Government Business and procurement of Budget Document, Rail Budget, Economic Survey and President's Speech to both the Houses of Parliament, for distribution amongst Deputy Chairman, Members and officers of Planning Commission. Parliament Section also do the needful regarding Prime Minister's Briefing pertaining to Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Starred Questions.

During the year, this Section arranged to get approval of MoS (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Planning for 9 Starred and 94 Unstarred Questions and got prepared sets for Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha in time and also uploaded the same number of questions on the web portal of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Necessary arrangements were made for the meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants 2017-18 of the Ministry of Planning. Follow up action on recommendations of Standing Committee was taken and statement on Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 48th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants(2017-18) was sent to Parliament. Annual Report 2016-17 of National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) , Annual Report of the Development Planning Centre (DPC) of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) for the year 2016-17. Demands for grants 2017-18 of Ministry of Planning was laid on both the Houses of Parliament. Annual Report for the years of 2015-16 and 2016-17 of NITI Aayog were circulated to MPs of both Houses of Parliament through Publication Counters. Eighteen Assurances given in Lok Sabha and Twenty-five Assurances in Rajya Sabha were fulfilled during the period. This Section also coordinated for sending reply to the concerned MPs regarding four Matters raised under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha.

29. RTI CELL

RTI Cell (Soochna Dwar) was set up in the erstwhile Planning Commission in October, 2005. Since 1st January 2015, the name of the Planning Commission was changed to National Institution for Transforming India (NITI). There is a separate link of RTI Act on home page of niti.gov.in. The RTI Queries are received online in <http://rtionline.gov.in/RTIMS/login/> and in addition to this RTIs are also received physically through post in Soochna Dwar. During the period between 01.01.2017 to 31.01.2017 RTI Cell has been received 772 queries and 760 have been disposed off so far. In addition to this 56 Appeals have been received during this period of which 52 Appeals have been disposed off. Three CIC hearings have been attended during this period.

30. CAREER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. During the financial year 2017-18 (from April 2017 to December, 2017) 77 officers were deputed to represent NITI Aayog / Government of India in international Workshops/ Seminars / Meetings/ Conferences etc. or to participate in training programmes organized by various international organizations such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan international Cooperation Agency (JICA), international Labour Organization (ILO) etc. and by DOPT under the DFFT Scheme in various countries which included foreign visits of Vice Chairman/Members to various countries during this period.
2. During this period, 23 officers belonging to IAS, IES, ISS, GCS, library staff etc. of NITI Aayog and Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) were deputed for various training programmes sponsored/conducted by Deptt. of Personnel & Training, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation Indian Maritime University (IMU), Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) etc. and at various other Government and Autonomous institutes/ Organizations at different places within India. This included the officers/staff belonging to CSS, CSCS and CSSS who were sent for various mandatory and other training programmes conducted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), New Delhi.
3. Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog has been serving as India's G-20 Sherpa since September, 2015. In his capacity, he represented India at the 3rd and 4th G-20 Sherpa meeting during 18-19 May, 2017 and during 4-8 July, 2017 in Germany.
4. As part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project with Japan, an Indian delegation comprising of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog along with JS, Department of Economic Affairs and Adviser (Transport), NITI Aayog visited Tokyo, Japan during 13-14 June, 2017 to attend the Fifth meeting of High Level Joint Committee of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail. The first 508 kms long high speed bullet train project from Ahmedabad to Mumbai will be partially financed by the Japan international Cooperation Agency. Recently Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Japan jointly inaugurated the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project in September, 2017 by laying down the foundation stone at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
5. An Indian Delegation led by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog accompanied by two JS Level officers visited China during 05-06 December, 2017 to attend the Third DRC-NITI Aayog Dialogue.
6. Under Atal Innovation Mission, 9 children from various schools in India including one Young Professional from NITI Aayog were sent to USA during 14-21 May, 2017 to attend the Intel and International Science Engineering Fair at Los Angeles and Maker Faire in San Francisco, USA.
7. In addition to this, during the above period, NITI Aayog also conducted 5 interaction Sessions: one session for delegation consisting of Afghanistan officials from Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi; two sessions for Trainee Officers of Indian Forest Service Officers from Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun and two sessions for Trainee officers of IRS from Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

31. VIGILANCE ACTIVITIES

Vigilance Section of the NITI AAYOG deals with all vigilance cases i.e., cases of corruption, malpractices and lack of integrity in respect of the officials and officers working in NITI AAYOG. It is also responsible for issuance of vigilance status certificates in respect of officials/officers in the NITI AAYOG.

During the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, around 400 vigilance clearances were issued in respect of officials/officers of NITI AAYOG. During this period, several RTIs were dealt with in the Section. The cases of disciplinary proceedings against some officials and officers in NITI AAYOG were disposed of.

Preventive Vigilance

Vigilance awareness week was observed in NITI AAYOG during 31st October to 5th November, 2016. The theme was “*PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND ERADICATING CORRUPTION*”. On this occasion, a pledge was administered by Vice Chairman, NITI AAYOG. Banners were placed at vantage locations of the NITI AAYOG with appropriate slogans. Important provisions of Conduct Rules and other issues concerning vigilance awareness were circulated to the employees through e-mail with a view to create awareness among officials/officers of NITI AAYOG regarding rules and regulations prescribed in the CCS Conduct Rules, 1964 and CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

The Internal Complaints Committee was constituted in accordance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Act 2013.

32. SECTORAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF ORGANIZATION METHODS AND COORDINATION

OM & C Section dealt with more than 1700 Public Grievance Petitions during the year 2017-18 till December 2017; received through various channels i.e by post, through online portal from DARP&G, PMO & Cabinet Secretariat etc. The Grievances are examined, forwarded to the concerned Divisions, if required and replies are given on the basis of comments received from the Divisions. The grievances not relating to NITI Aayog were forwarded to the concerned Departments and such cases are then closed under intimation to the petitioner. In addition the following activities were undertaken by the section:

- OM & C Section had also organized 3rd International Yoga Day on 21st June 2017.
- The OM&C section is nodal section for implementation of Prime Minister's 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and celebrated the 3rd Anniversary of 'Swachhta hi Seva' presentation by M/o DW&S.
- OM & C Section has also organized Town Hall Meeting under the Chairmanship Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog on 16th and 17th October 2017 for officers and staff of NITI Aayog.
- OM & C Section is playing a key role in the process of implementation of e-office in NITI Aayog by getting the old records of NITI Aayog scanned.
- OM& C Section also handle work /activities relating to the delegation of Financial & Administrative Powers, Induction material, Channel of Submission etc.
- OM & C Section also appoint Registered Medical Practitioners as Authorized Medical Attendants for the benefit of the employees of NITI Aayog and their family members, who do not have CGHS facility in the area of their residence. The section also coordinate the work relate to election duty.



सत्यमेव जयते

NITI Aayog