

**NITI Aayog  
DM&A**

**Manual -9**

**Details regarding Committees/Working Groups**

**(i).Constitution of Scientific Advisory Council for NITI Aayog – Wadhvani AI Anthropometry Project :** The Frontier Technology Vertical of NITI Aayog is collaborating with Wadhvani AI to undertake a pilot projects on Artificial Intelligence enabled Smartphone based Anthropometry solution developed by Wadhvani AI to identify low-birth-weight in babies from the images and video collected from a phone/tablet, thereby improving their chance to get access to timely medical interventions and a consequent healthy life.

**(ii) Setting up of Data & Strategy Unit & Action Plan:** In order to create better mechanisms for digitization of processes related to implementation and monitoring of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other non-schematic interventions of Ministries/Departments, an institutional mechanism in the form of a “Data and StrategyUnit” may be set up within each Ministry/Department. The Data and Strategy Unit shall drive the process of building and harnessing existing as well as augmenting the monitoring, statistical, technological and data analytics capabilities of the respective Ministry/ Department. Accordingly, it is proposed to set up a Data Strategy Unit (DSU) in NITI Aayog which will be headed by Ms. Anna Roy, Sr. Adviser, DM&A who would report to CEO NITI Aayog.

**(iii). Constitution of Expert Committee to formulate a National Cancer Biobank Scheme :** National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence set forth a roadmap to facilitate AI research and innovation in India to solve country’s pressing problems of access, availability and affordability. This was envisaged to be achieved via creation of foundational datasets for AI, access of these datasets through platforms and data marketplace, computation infrastructure and data sharing mechanisms. A pathway towards democratization of data as envisioned by the strategy proposes Government's enabling hand towards creation of such framework. Paucity of funding has often been quoted as a barrier to Indigenous research in the field of Cancer genomics and imaging bio-banks. Given the public good nature of these resources a Government funded scheme that enables building of these mass data base will be revolutionary for the Indian R&D ecosystem, especially for the start-up community. To address this gap, a proposal to draft a National Cancer Biobank Scheme has been proposed.

It is envisioned that this scheme may serve as a blueprint for other health-sector databases and prove to be an actionable guide-map towards creation and democratization of foundational datasets to empower AI research in the country. In this regard, an Expert Committee is proposed to be constituted to develop modality of implementation, data privacy requirements, standards, sharing protocols, outcome parameters, etc

**(iv). Constitution of Working Group to streamline procurement of Drones-As-A-Service:** Union Budget 2022-23 proposed that Startups will be promoted to facilitate ‘Drone Shakti’ through varied applications and for Drone-As-AService (DrAAS). For this purpose, the required courses for skilling will be started in select ITIs, in all states. NITI Aayog is the nodal organization for implementation of the announcement in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. A Working Group has been constituted to finalize the proposed framework for

implementation of the budget announcement.

**(v) Constitution of Task Force on Indian Statistical System:** A Roundtable discussion was held on March 29, 2022, under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman NITI Aayog to discuss data-related issues in India in the context of recommendations of the World Development Report (WDR) 2021. In the meeting, it was decided to constitute a Taskforce to examine issues relating to Indian statistical systems and creating a cohesive strategy for leveraging data for governance