



NITI Aayog

A Compendium on Key Takeaways of Workshops

under

"NITI-State Workshop Series"

An initiative to support States

FY 2023-24

For

VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047



“We must align our aspirations and our efforts to ensure that the 21st century, destined to be the century of Bharat, becomes a ‘Swarnim Bharat’ (Golden India), and make ‘Viksit Bharat’ in this century and advance towards fulfilling those dreams.”

Hon’ble Prime Minister

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MESSAGE

The path to *Viksit Bharat @2047* is one that must be charted collectively-with States and Union Territories as the key engines of India's transformation. As we envision a future marked by inclusive development, sustainability, and technological leadership, it becomes imperative to empower our federal constituents with tools, platforms, and partnerships that accelerate impact at the grassroots.

The State Support Mission (SSM) is one such initiative, and this Compendium on Takeaways – NITI-State Workshop Series is a reflection of spirit of Cooperative federalism in action. Spanning over 20 thematic workshops and engaging more than 1,200 stakeholders, this series has provided a dynamic platform for States and UTs to converge, co-create, and commit to shared solutions.

These workshops brought to the forefront issues central to India's growth trajectory-such as strengthening State capacity, advancing net-zero transitions, revamping school health ecosystem, and building innovation-led economies. Sessions on inland and marine fisheries, for example, identified critical bottlenecks and mapped the way forward for sustainable livelihoods and exports. Dialogues on data ecosystems reinforced the need for decentralized planning tools. Each insight gathered, and each solution proposed, contributes meaningfully to India's long-term strategic goals.

This compendium is not only a documentation of lessons learned but a powerful signal of what can be achieved through sustained engagement, evidence backed strategies, and collaborative will. I commend all participating States, NITI Aayog divisions, and our development partners for their contribution to this national enterprise.

I congratulate the State Governments, NITI Aayog divisions, and all partners involved in these efforts. As we advance into the next phases of the State Support Mission, let us continue to act with purpose, learn from each other, and ensure that every State plays a leading role in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

-sd-

Suman Bery



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MESSAGE

At NITI Aayog, we believe that **transformational change is best achieved when driven from within the States**. The State Support Mission (SSM), under the States Division, conceptualized to strengthen the institutional architecture of planning and delivery at the State level, has evolved into a powerful driver of decentralized policy innovation.


This Compendium on Key Takeaways from the NITI-State Workshop Series (FY 2023-24) offers a consolidated view of the insights, cross-learning, and promising practices that emerged from a diverse range of policy conversations involving States, UTs, Central ministries, sectoral experts, and multilateral partners.

Each workshop was curated with a deliberate thematic focus-whether it was fostering women-led development, enabling e-mobility ecosystems, developing net-zero States strategies, or expanding access to higher education and skilling. Collectively, these workshops generated over 250+ actionable recommendations, several of which are now informing policy design, institutional frameworks, and pilot initiatives at the State level.

What sets this series apart is its emphasis on peer learning-States learning from each other through real-time dialogue, field presentations, and best practices exchange. The workshop on water body rejuvenation, for example, not only showcased successful models from Madhya Pradesh and Telangana but also seeded scalable ideas for cross-state adoption. The series also fed into strategic planning exercises like District Visioning, Export Plans, and SIT Capacity Building Modules.

As we move forward into FY 2024-25, we are confident that these knowledge products will not just inspire policy shifts, but also build institutional memory and strategic foresight across State institutions.

We thank all contributors and reaffirm our support to continue this collaborative journey towards *Viksit Bharat @2047*.


[B.V.R. Subrahmanyam]

Dated: 15th September, 2025

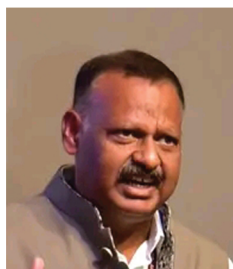


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Special Message

The launch of the NITI-State Workshop Series under the State Support Mission was guided by a singular intent: to place States and Union Territories at the Centre of India's reform and development agenda. In the past year, we have seen this intent translate into tangible outcomes through deep engagement, cross-sectoral collaboration, and a strong sense of shared purpose.

The compendium brings together the takeaways from 20 workshops held across five zones, covering themes as diverse as marine and inland fisheries, international mobility, EV-readiness, climate financing, and data-driven planning. These workshops were not merely events; they were platforms for knowledge curation, collaborative problem-solving, and strategic alignment between state and national priorities.

Over 1,200 participants, including State Secretaries, Nodal Officers, Development Partners, and Sectoral Experts, contributed to these dialogues-offering insights from field implementation, emerging research, and ongoing reforms. Several States, such as Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra and Odisha, shared replicable models that are already being considered for scale-up in other geographies.

A key innovation in this process has been the development of SSM Knowledge Notes and Policy Blueprints, many of which are rooted in the discussions captured here. These are not just academic outputs-they are being used by States for planning, budgeting, and institutional restructuring.

As Programme Director, I see this compendium as a living document-a blueprint for States to return to, refer to, and build upon. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and CEO, NITI Aayog for visionary leadership and unwavering support. I offer sincere thanks to all contributors-especially the participating Ministries, State Governments, Partner Institution, and the SSM Core Team for their tireless commitment. The work does not end here, it evolves.

Together, let us build on this momentum with an even stronger resolve to enable transformation at every level—towards *Viksit Bharat @2047*


(Rohit Kumar)

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Foreword

The *NITI–State Workshop Series* under the State Support Mission (SSM) focuses on themes relevant to the development of States and Union Territories, as well as on emerging issues of national and global relevance. Conceived to strengthen collaboration between NITI Aayog and the States/UTs, the series has evolved into a vibrant platform for dialogue, the exchange of best practices, and the translation of knowledge into action.

During 2023-24, the series demonstrated the power of this collaborative approach. Across 20 workshops participants engaged with an impressive range of themes, from strengthening school health services and advancing women-led development, to fostering State-level innovation ecosystems and expanding healthcare infrastructure through public-private partnerships. These deliberations not only generated actionable insights but also reinforced the culture of evidence-based policymaking and cross-learning among States/UTs.

This Compendium captures the essence of those engagements — the discussions, strategies, and innovations co-created by States, Union Territories, and NITI Aayog. It stands as a testament to the collective expertise and commitment of all participants, underscoring the importance of collaboration in achieving outcomes that are locally rooted yet nationally significant.

With gratitude and optimism, I trust this Compendium will serve as a valuable resource and inspiration for policymakers, practitioners and institutions dedicated to building a resilient, inclusive and prosperous India.



(K.S. Rejimon)

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Preface

With the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, an attempt is made to bring together all the stakeholders and citizens to work for the larger objective of making India developed on the 100th anniversary of Indian independence. NITI Aayog with its core mandates of strengthening cooperative and competitive federalism premeditated to strengthen planning by ensuring institutional transformation. Recognising the significance of States/UTs to further socio-economic growth, NITI Aayog launched the scheme of State Support Mission (SSM) to foster collaborative efforts for strategic implementation of National Development Agendas.

The central sector scheme, SSM is an umbrella initiative with the primary objective to assist States/UTs in achieving their socio-economic goals by 2047. The mission has been strategically designed to support States/UTs in developing a roadmap aligned with national priorities and their core strengths. States have varying capacities in driving socio-economic reforms. There is scope for the States'/UTs' Planning Departments to reinvent themselves as State Institutions for Transformation (SIT) that can play a crucial role in galvanizing partnerships, resources, ideas and synergies to drive inclusive growth. The SITs should eventually be all-encompassing resource centres which will design strategic and development strategies and implement them with a vision of achieving medium term Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 and a long-term vision of India @ 2047.

Under SSM, a series of workshops were conducted in the FY 2023-24 under the brand - "NITI-State Workshop Series" which focused on themes relevant to State Development and other areas of National and Global interest. These Workshops were planned and organised in consultation and collaboration with respective Central Ministries/Department, concerned State/UT Government, concerned vertical/division of NITI Aayog and development partners.

The workshops provided a platform for different stakeholders including States Governments, district administration, block officials, multi-lateral organisations and development partners to collaborate and cross-learn on relevant themes of socio-economic development.

List of Abbreviations

NITI	National Institute for Transforming India
SSM	State Support Mission
UT	Union Territory
SIT	State Institutions for Transformation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
MSME	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise
SATH	Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital
EV	Electric Vehicle
RBSK	Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
RKSK	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
JNV	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
PATH	Program for Appropriate Technology in Health
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
WEP	Women Entrepreneurship Platform
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
NIO	National Institute of Oceanography
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SIDBI	Small Industries Development Bank of India
ATR	Award To Reward
AIC	Atal Incubation Centres
C-CAMP	Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
SBI	State Bank of India

VGF	Viability Gap Funding
OPEX	Operating Expenses
UP	Uttar Pradesh
SSWS	State Single Window System
PMJAY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
PG	Post Graduation
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
RE	Revised Estimates
CCUS	Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage
CoEs	Centres of Excellence
IESS	India Energy Security Scenarios
MSDE	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
MMPA	Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements
NCS	National Career Service
PKVY	Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana
LMA	Labour Mobility Agreements
MD	Managing Director
GPCL	Gujarat Power Corporation Limited
MMT	Million Metric Tons
APGCL	Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited
GM	General Manager
KREDL	Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
CEEW	Council on Energy, Environment and Water
WRI	World Resources Institute
J&K	Jammu & Kashmir
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MPEDA	Marine Products Export Development Authority
CIFT	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation

NDAP	National Data Analytics Platform
NDSAP	National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
NDGP	National Data Governance Framework Policy
IDMO	India Data Management Office
DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer
LGD	Local Government Directory
MRSAC	Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre
CDAP	City Data Analytics Platform
ATECF	A.T.E. Chandra Foundation
RWB	Rejuvenation of Waterbodies
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
GIS	Geographic Information System
NEP	National Education Policy
NIEPA	The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration
MSDF	Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
BCG	Boston Consulting Group
ONDC	Open Network for Digital Commerce
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
FPO	Farmer Producer Organization
GUVI	Grab Ur Vernacular Imprints
KASE	Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence
NBCs	Nuclear Breeding Centres
BMCs	Broodstock Multiplication Centres
R&D	Research and Development
FSP	Future Skills Prime
VET	Vocational Education and Training
CCO	Chief Commercial Officer
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
GST	Goods and Services Tax
MoFAH&D	Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying
PLI	Production Link Incentive

ADP	Aspirational Districts Programme
ABP	Aspirational Blocks Programme
E-FAST	Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport
MHI	Ministry of Heavy Industries
MoHUA	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards
EODB	Ease of Doing Business
ITES	Rail India Technical and Economic Service
NREDCAP	New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh
NHEV	National Highways for Electric Vehicles
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IBSA	India Battery Swapping Association
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
RMI	Rocky Mountain Institute
RBML	Reliance BP Mobility Limited
ICCT	International Council on Clean Transportation
GT	Grand Tourer
CALSTRAT	California Strategies, LLC
PM E-Bus	Prime Minister Electric Bus Sewa
ICAI	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Services Companies
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
FLO	FICCI Ladies Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN	United Nations
SELCO	Solar Electric Light Company
GVC	Global Value Chains
MEITY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
DPIIT	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Introduction

State Support Mission is a central sector scheme that supports States/UTs to establish State Institutions for Transformation (SITs) which can act as multi-disciplinary resource centers to steer their development strategies. While States/UTs follow different paths for development, these paths are to be aligned with national priorities for achieving inclusive development. Better governance and stronger institutions in the States/UTs are crucial for India to achieve high and inclusive growth over a sustained period. SITs may comprise officials from State/UT governments and lateral entrants with sector specific expertise. All interested States and UTs will be covered under the Mission.

NITI Aayog assists interested States/UTs to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT) or reimagine the role of existing State Planning Departments/Boards, that can act as a multi-disciplinary resource to steer the development strategies in the States/UTs. Further, as part of the mission, NITI Aayog organise meetings/workshops/conferences/consultation with key stakeholders from eminent institutions, think tanks, multi-lateral agencies, civil society, etc. to bring their expertise and sectoral domain knowledge to support the Mission.

NITI-State Workshop Series was conceptualised under SSM as part of its objectives of strategic engagement and collaboration with States/UTs. To facilitate the core mandates of cooperative and competitive federalism, the workshops were designed on themes relevant to socio economic development of the States/UTs and other emerging areas of national and global interest. They provided a unified platform for partnerships, cross-learning and knowledge sharing on key development issues concerning States/UTs by sharing Policy insights and Good Governance Practices etc. across States and UTs. These workshops were anchored by Verticals /Divisions of NITI Aayog.

The objectives of the NITI-State Workshop Series was to encourage States, Districts and Blocks to initiate the process of embarking on the transformative path towards the attainment of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, while placing emphasis on the fundamental domains of National significance; to establish precise delineations of the localised domains of States and integrate them harmoniously with overarching thematic constructs, in order to enhance coherence and comprehension of pivotal concerns; and to facilitate holistic development with plans and strategies at State, District and Block levels, with the aim of realizing the broader objectives of SSM.

The Workshops were planned in different regions of the country over a course of a year. NITI Aayog anchored the workshops along with its verticals and interested States/UTs as per their sector/subject of interest and priority. The workshops ensured participation from all concerned stakeholders at National, State, District and Block levels. They were a combination of sessions, discussions and field/site visits to encourage practical learning. Verticals of NITI Aayog and interested States/UTs were requested to propose their area of interest and plan for the workshop in coordination with SSM Division. The major focus sectors were Education, Health, Livelihoods, Employment & Skilling, Water & Sanitation, Urbanization, Energy, Manufacturing, MSME, Agriculture, Sustainable Development Goals, Gender & Social Inclusion, Digital Technology, Monitoring & Evaluation, Innovation and Climate.

The workshops were a huge success in adding value to the policy sphere. They ensured demonstration of policies and best practices to facilitate knowledge transfer and ensure potential adoption by other States/UTs, thereby promoting service delivery efficacy. Through participation from subject experts, collaboration and dialogue facilitated information gathering for the future. These workshops become a platform for enhancing skills and

knowledge of concerned stakeholders through interactive sessions and field exposure and create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system for Central Ministries and States/UTs.

Comprehensive reports and White Papers summarizing the discussions, findings, and recommendations of workshops, serving as authoritative resources for decision-makers, academia, and the public were tangible outcomes of the workshops. They also added value to the comprehensive NITI for State Platform enabling the dissemination of valuable information & data to different stakeholders in the State/UTs.

It is imperative to recognise the contribution and efforts of the Divisions of NITI Aayog to collectively collaborate for the fulfilment of the objectives of SSM. Therefore, this compendium is a compilation of the successful workshops conducted across India in FY 2023-24 on significant issues and themes which were pertinent for the vision of Viksit States and Viksit Bharat. All the issues concerning different sectors and sub-sectors covered by the workshops have facilitated learnings and impactful outcomes for States/UTs. In the bid to continue the inventiveness, another set of workshops are organised in FY 2024-25 to further the hard work of NITI Aayog towards the vision and mission of Viksit Bharat @2047.

In FY 2023-24, the following workshops were conducted under NITI-State Workshop Series:

1	National Consultation on Strengthening School Health Services
2	Regional Workshop - Enabling Women-led development- reaching the last mile (Goa)
3	Building State-level Innovation Ecosystems: A Peer-learning Workshop
4	Boosting Healthcare Infrastructure: Catalyzing Opportunities for Investment and Public Private Partnerships
5	Development of net-zero roadmaps at state-level
6	Harnessing the Potential of Fisheries in Marine states
7	Leveraging State Data Ecosystems for State and District-Level Policy and Planning
8	Water Conservation: Rejuvenation of Water Bodies
9	National Workshop on the Learnings of Project SATH-Education - SATH Interventions for school education transformation
10	Harnessing Fisheries Potential in Inland states
11	Promoting Livelihoods through International Mobility of Skilled Workers
12	Empowering E-Mobility in Indian Cities: Developing 100 EV Ready Cities
13	Regional Workshop - Enabling Women-led development- reaching the last mile (Arunachal Pradesh)
14	Penetrating Global Value Chains: India's Potential and Prospects

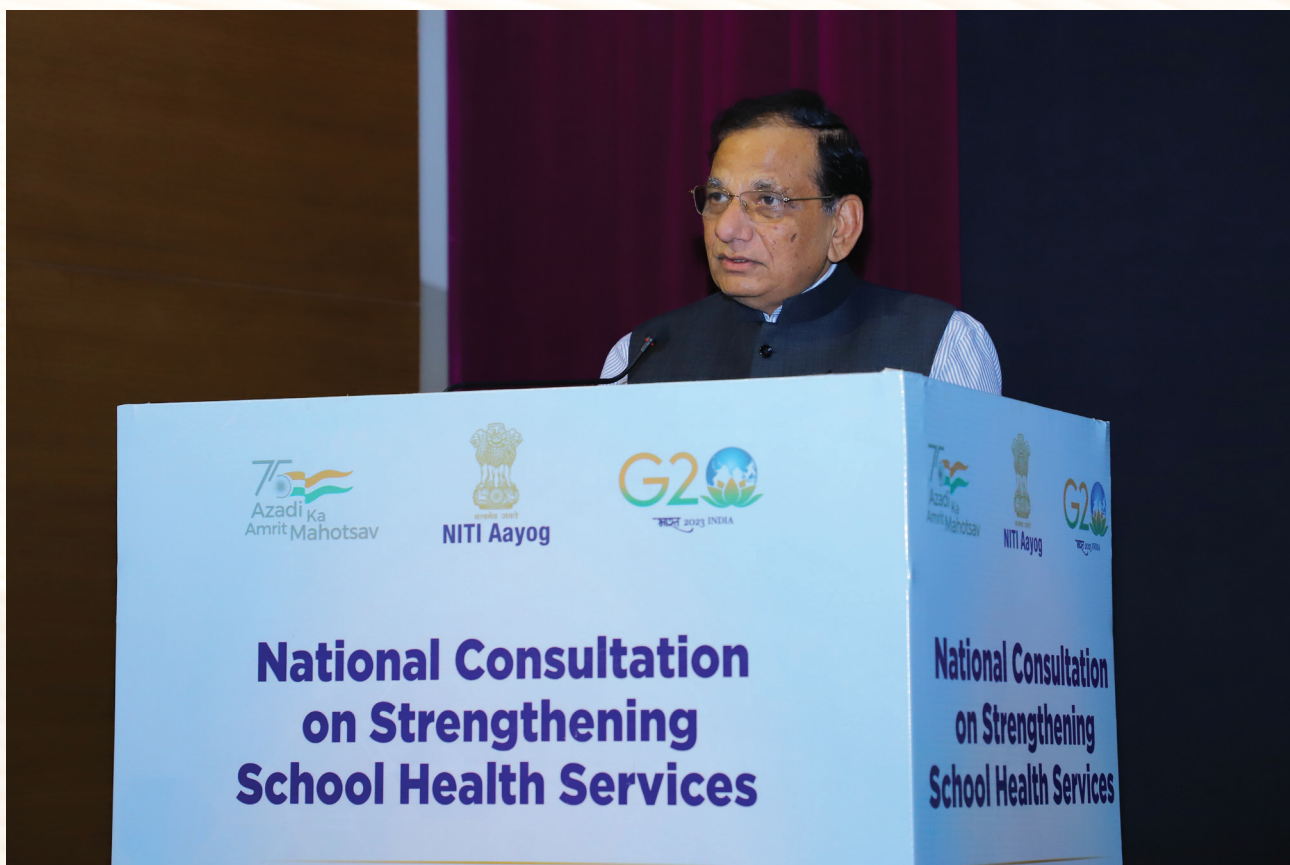
15	SDGs with all the States/UTs Planning Secretaries/Heads of SDG Cells
16	State as a driver of Export Led Growth
17	Improving the Innovation Aptitude and performance of the States and Union Territories
18	National Workshop on Strengthening Mental Health Services and Care in India
19	Accelerating Manufacturing Growth in India
20	Expanding Quality Higher Education through State Public Universities

National Consultation on Strengthening School Health Services

New Delhi

India is home to the largest population of children and adolescents (<18 years) in the world. If India has to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of good health and well-being for everyone at all ages, the unique needs of this population group must be prioritised. There is a growing trend of health issues among school-age children, including anemia, nutritional deficiencies, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental and behavioral health issues, reproductive health, and other physical issues, all of which require a comprehensive approach to address. The Hon'ble PM of India mentioned in the Second National Conference of Chief Secretaries held from 5-7 January 2023, at New Delhi that *“School health programmes need to be strengthened throughout the Country. Therefore, RBSK and RKSK need to be integrated. Link between ASHAs and schools in their area needs to be established. The weight, height, vaccination status, etc., of students at the time of school admission in Primary Schools need to be recorded for regular follow-up under RBSK and RKSK”*

Both the National Health Policy 2017 and the National Education Policy 2020 emphasise the need for increased focus on investment and initiatives aimed at improving school health. NITI Aayog reviewed and worked on revamping the ongoing health programmes that cater to the needs of the children and adolescents, to make them more comprehensive and holistic. It was felt that there is an urgent need for a comprehensive school health program to ensure better learning outcomes and also to address the health needs of the population from a very early age.



The on-ground experiences of States/UTs in delivering these programmes are crucial in understanding the challenges and identifying scope for improvement. Accordingly, the Health Vertical of NITI Aayog conducted this workshop with States/UTs to share learnings and collaboratively develop the way forward in providing more comprehensive and holistic care to children and adolescents in India. The workshops had participation from various fronts including, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Ayush, Ministry of WCD, the related autonomous bodies - NCERT, JNV, CBSE, etc., multilateral agencies - UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, etc. and the development partners: BMGF, PATH, etc. All States & UTs participated in the workshop except two UTs namely Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.

CEO, NITI Aayog set the context for the consultation by highlighting the importance of prioritizing the health needs of children in the age group of 6-18 years, as they will eventually form part of the human capital of the Amrit Kaal generation for a Smart and Healthy India. Member (Health) NITI Aayog Dr. V. K. Paul urged everyone to look at schooling through the lens of optimal health of children.

NITI Aayog and MoHFW presented on the current scenario, existing programmes, challenges and the intended outcomes of a comprehensive school health programme. A broad framework of six pillars of school health was introduced. The workshop also saw the participation of Secretary M/o Ayush, Secretary (School Education), M/o Education and Additional Secretary, M/o Health & Family Welfare.

The sessions of the workshop focused on discussion on six main areas for strengthening and sought input from different stakeholders, which included (i) Health & Nutrition Education through Curriculum and Extra-curricular Activities, (ii) Yoga, Physical Education and Wellness, (iii) Health Promoting School Ecosystem, (iv) Mental Health Promotion, Counselling and Support, (v) Health Check-ups, Referral and Treatment, and (vi) First aid, Acute Care and Special Provisioning.



Outcomes

- NITI Aayog identified 06 pillars for strengthening School Health services. The specific inputs and experiences were shared by the line Ministries, State/UT officials, multilateral,

Development partners, Teachers, and academic institutions, among others, against each identified pillar. Written submissions/ inputs were also received from many stakeholders.

- Some of the important input received during the workshop are summarised below:
 - » Health and Nutrition Education should have a separate period in the time table and should be added as a specific subject which has periodic examinations that are marked. Greater focus should be given to the consumption of nutritious and healthy diets.
 - » Teachers should be trained in health, nutrition, and mental health.
 - » A separate school health counsellor/nurse should be added to the programme.
 - » Health check-ups should also focus on non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes, anaemia, etc, and learning disorders.
 - » A comprehensive health examination should take place at the time of school admission.
 - » Preliminary check-ups can be done by school teachers (weight, height, BMI, etc).
 - » Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) should be linked with schools. A universal database of children can be created to track the screening of children and identify children who have not been screened.
 - » In the context of mental health, dedicated IEC campaigns to remove the stigma around mental health and counselling should be done in school. The privacy of children and adolescents seeking mental health counselling should be ensured. Special focus is needed to address issues of substance abuse.
 - » Schools should have a bouquet of extra-curricular activities/hobbies for children to participate in, like, music, dance, drama, home science, carpentry, etc. There should be an increased focus on Yoga and sports.
 - » There should be a separate health and wellness counselling room. Students should be made Health Champs. Good school infrastructure such as clean toilets, drinking water, and sanitation should be prioritised. Standards need to be developed for schools to ensure a clean, green, and safe environment.
 - » Greater involvement of parents through Parent Teacher Meetings (PTM) needs to be ensured.
 - » Schools should have school health clubs, which should also include parents' representation.
 - » Health data collected can be linked to UDISE to avoid duplication of efforts. Real-time data can be monitored at the National level.
 - » A holistic Report Card for students consisting of extracurricular activities and a health report of the child should be introduced.
- Subsequent to the workshop, based on the inputs received in the workshop, an extensive exercise in terms of a series of consultations and meetings with relevant stakeholders, literature review, etc. was undertaken and a framework for a comprehensive Ayushman Bharat School Health Mission has been formulated.

Enabling Women-led development- Reaching the last mile

Dona Paula, Goa

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) was launched in 2018 as an aggregator platform on a public-private partnership model to build a comprehensive ecosystem supporting women entrepreneurs across India. WEP aims at empowering women entrepreneurs by overcoming information asymmetry and providing continuum of support across different pillars- Access to Finance; Market Linkages; Training and Skilling; Mentoring & Networking; Compliance & Legal Assistance and Business Development Services.

The inaugural edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) - NITI Aayog State Workshop Series on Enabling Women-led Development through Entrepreneurship was organised at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Auditorium, Goa on 3rd October 2023. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Goa with a focus on the western region of the country.



Eminent dignitaries, including Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Shri B.V.R Subramanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, and other senior officers of NITI Aayog graced the workshop with their presence.

The workshop recorded over 500 participants, including state government officials, women entrepreneurs, local self-help groups (SHGs) and clusters, government officials, industry representatives, incubators/accelerators, financial institutions such as SIDBI, philanthropic foundations such as Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Reliance Foundation, Piramal Foundation, Ola Foundation, etc.

The role of states in fostering women entrepreneurship is pivotal to ensuring last-mile connectivity and creating a sustainable support ecosystem. The primary focus was deliberating on a hub-and-spoke model aimed at extending women-led development to grassroots levels, covering the last mile.

The workshop has reinforced the importance of state-level implementation and encouraged key stakeholders to actively participate in this initiative for establishing the Goa state chapter. The formation of a Steering Committee by the State, mirroring the central model of WEP, is a significant step in this direction. This committee will play a crucial role in identifying regional challenges, facilitating policy interventions, and enhancing capacity-building efforts for women entrepreneurs.

With Goa taking proactive steps in this initiative, the impact of such engagements is expected to translate into greater visibility, stronger networks, and improved access to financial and market linkages for women entrepreneurs. The collaborative efforts between the state and WEP will further amplify the mission of empowering women and fostering an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Women Entrepreneurship Platform

Learn more at www.wep.gov.in



Outcomes

The primary focus of the workshop was deliberating on a hub-and-spoke model aimed at extending women-led development to grassroots levels, covering the last mile. A series of new collaborations were announced to support women entrepreneurs including the launch of the first Award to Reward (ATR) cohort of WEP.

- **Flagship Initiatives Launch:** The workshop successfully enhanced awareness about WEP and introduced flagship initiatives in Goa. Several collaborations were announced, including partnerships with ICAI and Udyam Uplift, along with the launch of the first two cohorts under WEP's ATR initiative. The first ATR cohort led by WEP Partners Microsave Consulting and SIDBI titled WEP-Unnati for green entrepreneurs pan-India. The second cohort was titled WeNurture led by Atal Incubation Centre - Goa Institute of Management.
- **State-level Engagement and Institutional Framework for last-mile reach:** WEP's engagement at the state level was announced, fostering cooperative federalism by uniting key stakeholders from state-level hubs, incubators, and accelerators.
- **Inter-stakeholder Convergence:** Cross-sector collaboration was facilitated, paving the way for a robust ecosystem.
- **Government Commitments:** Hon'ble Chief Minister announced the Swayampurna e-bazaar during Dussehra, expanding market access. CEO, NITI Aayog reaffirmed the central government's commitment to women-led development and support for state-level institutions.

Building State-level Innovation Ecosystems: A Peer-learning Workshop

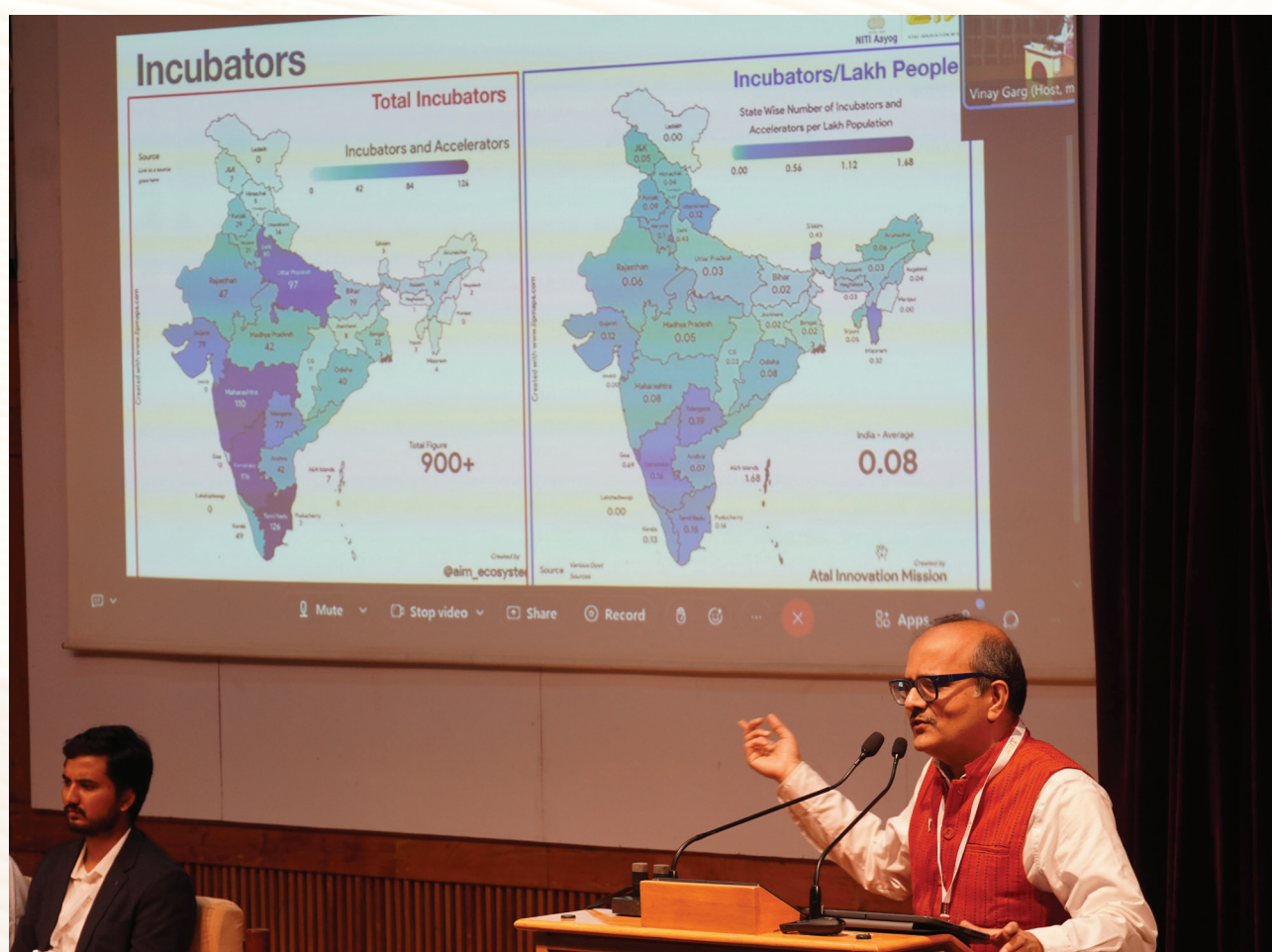
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Within a mere seven-years span, India has seen a commendable advancement from the 81st to the 39th position on the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking, reflecting our evolving innovation ecosystem. The initiatives focused towards promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship by ministries and departments have been at the forefront of leading this revolution. Achieving the next milestone of Top 25 rank requires an inclusive, concerted and collective approach to further develop India's Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) ecosystems.

It's noteworthy that all Indian states and UTs have initiated efforts to fortify their I&E frameworks, further augmented by initiatives from the Central Government's ministries and departments like yours. As a result, diverse state-specific models with invaluable lessons are emerging, and there exists a rich opportunity to foster peer learning.

In order to strengthen these existing initiatives at the state level, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the aegis of NITI Aayog orchestrated a pivotal workshop titled "Building State-level Innovation Ecosystems: A Peer-learning Workshop" between 6th November 2023 to 7th November 2023 in Bengaluru.

The workshop aimed at participation from the heads of schemes and initiatives by states and Union Territories (UTs) to foster an inclusive and progressive dialogue.



Key Sessions

The workshop two-day workshop entailed As-Is presentation by all 28 participating States/ UTs along with 8+ central govt. ministries along with some international experts. The representatives were then engaged through various brainstorming sessions where they exchanged ideas and strategies to level up the current ecosystem of startups and entrepreneurship.

1. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Presentation:** Presentations by the State representatives on their respective Innovation and Entrepreneurship ecosystems.



2. **Collaboration Initiatives:** Workshops and interactive sessions focused on fostering collaboration for a robust innovation ecosystem.



3. **Policy Frameworks:** Expert panels and dialogues analysing effective policies driving innovation and entrepreneurship at the state level.



After the workshop the participants visited AIC-Jyothy and C-CAMP, two Incubators in the Bangalore area to get first-hand experience of the incubation facilities. There were 150+ Participants across 28 States and UTs and 8+ Central Ministries / Depts. All States / UTs agreed to continue this initiative through monthly virtual connects & Regional in person sessions to be hosted by respective States / UTs

Outcomes

The workshop generated substantial outcomes, fostering agreements and commitments for joint projects among States/UTs to enhance cross-state innovation. It also led to the formulation of comprehensive policy recommendations supporting innovation at the state level and strengthened networks for future collaboration, knowledge exchange, and best practices sharing. Participants lauded the collaborative atmosphere, knowledge-sharing, and practical insights, with some suggesting more interactive sessions for deeper engagement.



The workshop underscored the critical importance of cross-state collaboration and the need for adaptable policy frameworks to sustain and scale innovation initiatives. Some important points are as:

- **Collaborative Initiatives:** Officials discussed agreements and commitments towards joint projects between States/UTs to enhance cross-state innovation.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Formulation of comprehensive policy recommendations to support and nurture innovation at the state level.
- **Networking:** Strengthening of networks for future collaboration, knowledge exchange, and best practices sharing among states and ministries.

Next Steps



Moving forward, implementation plans involve incorporating collaborative initiatives into the action plans of respective States/UTs and refining policies based on the workshop's recommendations. Building on the success, there is a keen interest in exploring opportunities for future collaborative events and knowledge-sharing platforms, setting the stage for continued efforts in fostering innovation and collaboration.

Boosting Healthcare Infrastructure: Catalyzing Opportunities for Investment and Public Private Partnerships

New Delhi

A workshop on 'Boosting Private Healthcare Infrastructure: Catalysing Opportunities for Investments and Public Private Partnerships' was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the State Support Mission of NITI Aayog. The objective of the workshop was to bring together States/UTs with stakeholders in the Healthcare Industry to discuss and delve into key issues underlying the existing gaps in healthcare infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The workshop facilitated a comprehensive discussion on investment opportunities, regulatory hurdles, financing mechanisms, workforce shortages, and public private partnerships (PPP) models, with a focus on identifying actionable solutions.

The workshop highlighted the best practices of States such as UP and Odisha, and brought forth the need for better information dissemination on the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme, streamlined compliance processes, increased private sector involvement in medical training, and improved healthcare infrastructure data mapping. The discussions emphasised practical solutions to accelerate investments and expand quality healthcare access in underserved regions, fostering collaboration between policymakers, financial institutions, and private sector players.

The stakeholder and participants included senior officers from States & UT's Health Departments; Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Economic Affairs, RBI National and Regional Hospital Entities; Industry Investors, NABARD, CII, SBI, FICCI and India Banks Association.



The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand along with the UTs of Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry. Organisations like Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), Association of Healthcare Providers Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes Association (Karnataka), Association of Hospitals of Eastern India and National Health Authority also participated in the workshops.

Outcomes

Focus of the Workshop was to understand the reasons for gaps in healthcare infrastructure in Tier 2 and 3 cities (including lack in uptake of PPP projects and VGF Scheme) and to identify potential solutions and areas that need further examination/analysis to move towards greater number and quality of healthcare facilities:



- **VGF Scheme:** Concerns about ineffective information dissemination raised by States and private sector participants. Information about the particulars of the Scheme - sub-scheme for the health sector - needs to be more effectively percolated. Such that more and more States and projects avail the same just as the states of Odisha and UP have. Suggestions about revisions in the Scheme received, need further deliberation and to be appropriately addressed: Ceiling on the overall grant amount (instead of pre-specified ceilings on / allocation of capital and operations grants) – concern that the OPEX of a hospital particularly in tier 2 and 3 cities is not very predictable; Assurance with respect to patient numbers from Project Authority.
- **PPP:** Need for model bid documents for more and different kinds of PPP models in healthcare expressed by states. Investment Meets focussing on Health sector in states – NITI Aayog can work on facilitating the same, *inter alia*, for healthcare infra projects ('medicities' et al.).
- **Financing (Banks):** Availability of capital is not an issue (per submission of SBI and Quadria Capital). But mechanisms are needed to embolden interest among smaller players, encouraging them to invest and set up facilities. Potential of NABARD in financing of healthcare infrastructure not yet fully realised. Of particular significance given their emphasis on rural and urban regions having a population of less than 50000. NABARD requested to create a concept note of how a greater role can be played by

NABARD in healthcare infrastructure financing opening up the path for visibility of such financing to the private sector.

- **Compliances** (Setting up and Operating a Healthcare Facility (Hospital et al.)): Issue of ineffectively operating State Single Window System (SSWS) highlighted in addition to overall delay in approvals, cost of compliances. cumbersomeness of the process (even renewals). Begin with classification of compliances that are generic/sector agnostic and sector specific, identify central and state compliances (highlighting as they differ from state to state). And within those identify compliances that are posing an issue in enabling 'Ease of Doing (Healthcare) Business', delve into 'who and how of resolving the same'.
- **PMJAY: Reimbursement** - Universalisation of the green channel mechanism implemented in UP and few other states that allows immediate release of payment of %50 of the claim (if not flagged as suspicious or fraud within 24 hours). Accreditation for PMJAY not in tandem with the requirements of accreditation laid down under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010. NHA, MoHFW, States to look into the reasons for dissonance and into harmonising the two.
- **Availability of Doctors:** Steps have been taken in the last 9 years taking up the number of undergraduate seats from 52,000 to 1,08,000, PG seats from 32,000 to almost 70,000. But the matter of attrition (doctors, nurses) poses an issue that needs further detailed examination and work. Private Sector urged to maximise PG training in their facilities - approximately 7 lac beds but only 8000 made available for PG training.
- **Data:** Private Sector (industry association) requested to collate the data on volume and type of presently existing private healthcare infrastructure (*inter alia*, for the purpose of tracking gaps and progress).



Development of net-zero roadmaps at state-level

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

India has made ambitious climate change commitments and is geared toward achieving net zero by 2070. It has recently submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goals to UNFCCC, which include: a) reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent from 2005 to 2030; (b) achieving 50 percent of electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030; and (c) creating an additional cumulative carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent by increasing forest and tree cover by 2030. Various initiatives are being taken at the national level to achieve these global commitments. Also, few state governments are leading from the front in the preparation of roadmaps for energy transition at the state level. It is imperative that for a country to achieve net zero, action from states is pivotal.

In this context, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Govt. of Gujarat and CII, has organised the “Workshop on Development of Net Zero Roadmap for the States” with the objective of providing state officials and stakeholders with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to develop comprehensive and effective roadmaps for achieving net-zero emissions in their respective states. The aim was that by the end of the workshop, participants would have a clear understanding of the components of a net-zero roadmap and be equipped to initiate the process in their states.

Shri Kanubhai Desai, Minister for Energy and Petrochemicals and Finance, Govt. of Gujarat, a keynote speaker at the conference, emphasised the collective responsibility of state and union governments to push forth a collective vision for clean and green energy. Smt. Mamta Verma, Principal Secretary, Department of Energy and Petrochemicals, Govt of Gujarat, highlighted the need for building greater awareness among state government officials on various technology options that are available for greening the economy.



Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, emphasised the importance of state governments' energy planning, especially in keeping power tariffs within the affordable range. Dr Saraswat also emphasised optimally utilizing the existing thermal fleet and other technological options, such as Small Modular Nuclear reactors and Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) while reducing emissions. Sh. Rajnath Ram, Advisor, NITI Aayog, highlighted that NITI Aayog will support states in the preparation of energy transition roadmaps at the state level. The workshop is just the start of deeper and strengthened engagement with state governments.

Darshan Shah, Chairman of CII Gujarat State Council, outlined that CII has developed sectoral roadmaps in electricity and transport systems besides undertaking awareness and sensitivity training across the country. He emphasised that CII Centers of Excellence (CoEs) can play a crucial role as a hub for research and collaborative work. Venugopal Mothkoor, Sr Specialist, NITI Aayog, made a brief presentation on the key considerations while preparing net zero roadmaps and sector-level options available for decarbonization. He also made a brief presentation on India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047, a tool developed by NITI Aayog.



Arun Mahesh Babu, MD, GPCL, highlighted that Gujarat aspires to produce 1 MMT of Green Hydrogen by 2030 and that Gujarat intends to create a center of excellence dedicated to net zero economy. Bibhu Bhuyan, MD, APGCL, highlighted the key barriers for RE growth in Assam, which include: i) Low untapped potential of Hydro-power, ii) Lower solar irradiance, and iii) Lower wind speed of 3 m/sec compared to 10-12 m/sec in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. G P Nagaraj, GM, KREDL, highlighted how a strong ecosystem in Karnataka has been developed to nurture and expand renewable energy in the state. The various initiatives taken include coherent policies, an Incubation center for startups, Professional internships, and a Skill development center.

The workshop had 50 participants from State Government, Industry, and Think tanks. The workshop saw participation from 7 State Governments who have actively participated in the various sessions and deliberated on various challenges in preparation for net zero roadmaps at the state level.

Outcomes

- Participation of over 50 officials from State Government Officials of Gujarat, Puducherry, J&K, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, & Assam, where states presented on Net Zero development in their respective states and could learn from the best practices of each other.
- Improved awareness of the preparation of net zero roadmaps. Some states, like Gujarat, Himachal, and J&K, have approached NITI Aayog to take forward the development of net-zero and clean energy transition pathways for their states. NITI Aayog has, in turn, assured states that support will be provided for energy transition and net zero roadmaps. NITI Aayog will also come up with national-level net zero roadmaps; similar roadmaps for states can also be developed.
- Preparation and implementation of energy transition plans or net zero roadmaps requires capacity at the state level and NITI Aayog will support interested states in developing the required capacities.

Harnessing the Potential of Fisheries in Marine states

Kochi, Kerala

India has a vast coastline of approximately 7,517 km, offering immense potential for marine fisheries. The sector plays a crucial role in food security, employment generation, and foreign exchange earnings. The sector plays a crucial role in the national economy, contributing to foreign exchange earnings through seafood exports, which reached over \$8 billion in 2022-23. Despite its vast potential, marine fisheries face challenges such as overexploitation of nearshore resources, habitat degradation, climate change impacts, and the need for better post-harvest infrastructure. To harness the full potential of marine fisheries, there is a need to promote deep-sea fishing, mariculture, sustainable fishing practices, and value addition in the seafood industry. Encouraging technology adoption, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven monitoring systems, and robust market linkages will further enhance the sector's growth. Recognizing these opportunities and challenges, there is a need for strategic interventions to develop the marine fisheries sector sustainably. Strengthening policies, fostering public-private partnerships, enhancing cold chain logistics, and improving access to institutional credit are essential to maximizing marine fisheries' contribution to India's blue economy. With targeted efforts, the sector can drive employment, boost exports, and support coastal communities while ensuring long-term ecological balance.



With this context, a national workshop entitled “*Harnessing the Potential of Fisheries in the Marine States*” was organised by the NITI Aayog on January 5, 2024, at ICAR-CMFRI (the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute), Kochi, Kerala, in collaboration with the Government of Kerala, to understand the issues and challenges of the sectors from the stakeholders and insights from the experts to come up with the appropriate policies for the development of the sector.

The one-day workshop had facilitated focused discussions among over 200 key stakeholders from central and state governments, scientists, industry representatives and practitioners on critical aspects of realizing India’s vast marine fisheries promise across the domains of sustainability, market linkages and addressing ground challenges.

Key discussion themes included assessing sustainability gaps in harvesting practices, strengthening market linkages, boosting exports competitiveness, tackling infrastructure & technology gaps in cold chains and processing, enabling responsible deep-sea fishing through policy reforms and collaborations even as emphasizing the safety & welfare of fish workers.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders including state fisheries departments, research organizations, industry experts, and regulators to discuss challenges and opportunities.

In his opening remarks, NITI Aayog’s Vice Chairman explained the organization’s role and emphasised the need to collaborate with marine states to develop the sector. Senior Adviser Dr. Neelam Patel set the context by underscoring the massive untapped potential in fisheries. Dr. J.K Jena from ICAR-CMFRI Kochi highlighted the institute’s contributions towards holistic fisheries growth while Prof. Ramesh Chand applauded the strides made by Andhra Pradesh. Shri Rejimon, Joint Secretary NITI Aayog provided an overview of the State Support Mission, an initiative by NITI Aayog and mentioned that 19 states have sought support under.

The first technical session reviewed the status, challenges and best practices for harnessing marine fisheries potential across states. Participating states included Kerala, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Key discussion points included gaps in policy, sustainability issues and initiatives by states to boost growth. The Kerala State highlighted Kerala’s successful implementation of minimum legal-size limits and a comprehensive 5-point program for fisheries management and urged the neighbouring states to consider adopting similar measures. While the representative from the state of Odisha explained the initiatives taken by the department, like cage culture, seaweed farming, and artificial reefs. Emphasis was given on providing incentives to fishers during ban periods. The Goa state presented Goa’s noteworthy achievement as the first state to implement a marine fisheries policy in 2020 which focused on sustainability and stated that the state is implementing minimum legal sizes for 20 species. Karnataka presented the status of marine fisheries in the state, explained the various subsidies extended by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) to the fishermen especially during the ban period and the new initiatives by the DoF for harnessing the potential of marine fisheries of the state. The status of marine fisheries management was presented by the state of Tamil Nadu and it was informed that the state is planning to stop further registration of new vessels. It was also mentioned that the need for incentivizing and promoting the fishermen who bring high quality landings to cater the need for buyers.

Experts from ICAR-CMFRI, NFDB, MSC and industry bodies led the next session on certification, sustainability, stock assessment and monitoring in the marine sector. They provided insights into strengthening policy, enhancing sustainability, estimating landings and assessing fish stock more accurately.

The workshop then focused on priority areas like improving market access, boosting exports and enabling higher value addition. Experts from MPEDA, CIFT, the seafood industry highlighted

issues in production, processing, cold chains and waste utilization. They also brainstormed solutions to tackle challenges in marine fishing.

The final session dwelled on critical problems of deep-sea fishing, safety of fishers, innovations in processing and cold chains. Stakeholders from BOBP-IGO and seafood organizations put forth views on addressing these gaps through policy reforms, technological interventions and private sector participation.



In summary, the workshop aligned key stakeholders to synergise efforts to harness India's promising marine fisheries potential across states through sustainable and responsible strategies. It helped assess current status, flag priority issues and emerge with recommendations. The suggestions will feed into the Strategy paper the Agriculture Vertical is currently drafting.

The high level of participation, balanced representation and focused agenda helped align stakeholders, draw insights from ongoing work, identify priority issues, assess policy and regulatory hurdles and deliberate emerging technology-led solutions - all crucial to harness the high yet underutilised potential of India's marine fisheries across states in a responsible way. The suggestions emerging from this workshop will feed into recommendations from NITI Aayog to inform India's policy-making across this vital sector.

The major stakeholders and participants in the workshop represented government agencies, research institutes, state administrations and private sector entities:

- Research Organizations - 69 research staff from leading institutes including ICAR-CMFRI along with state fisheries research institutes
- State Government Representation - 90 officials from state fisheries departments, predominantly from Kerala

- Central Government Representation - 13 representatives from various ministries and departments of the Government of India
- Private Sector - 42 entrepreneurs, industry captains and subject matter experts from private companies across fishing, seafood exports, cold chain and equipment manufacturing

The wide participation covering central and state governments, research bodies and private sector attests to the workshop's inclusive nature in aligning key stakeholders from across the fisheries value chain to harness the country's marine potential. In summary, the workshop successfully aligned key stakeholders to synergise efforts in harnessing India's promising marine fisheries' potential for sustainability. It comprehensively assessed the current status, identified priority issues, and generated recommendations.

Outcomes

Some of the expected outcomes include:

- **Sustainable Fisheries Management:** Standardised Minimum Legal Size (MLS) regulations, enhanced monitoring, and AI-driven decision-making will ensure sustainable fishing practices and better resource management.
- **Economic and Livelihood Growth:** Incentivising sustainable fishing, expanding mariculture policies, and utilizing value-added seafood products will promote economic growth and livelihood diversification.
- **Deep-Sea and Resource Exploration:** Strengthening regulations beyond 12 nautical miles, researching meso-pelagic resources, and developing alternative fish feed sources will expand sustainable fisheries opportunities.
- **Market and Trade Development:** Implementing national eco-labeling guidelines, improving seafood traceability, and addressing trade barriers with innovative solutions will enhance global market competitiveness.
- **Institutional Collaboration and Policy Support:** Strengthening partnerships among government, industry, and research institutions will ensure coherent policies and effective implementation for a thriving fisheries sector.

The overarching aim is to facilitate progressive discussions on sectoral issues that require addressing policy constraints, bridging capacity gaps and enhancing participation. The output will be a roadmap with strategies, reforms, and action points to harness the vast fisheries potential across diverse regions.

Leveraging State Data Ecosystems for State and District-Level Policy and Planning

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

NITI Aayog in partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and with the support of the World Bank convened a Data Forum under the State Support Mission with the focus on “Leveraging State Data Ecosystem for State and District Level Policy and Planning”. The Forum served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, innovation and opportunities in establishing vibrant state data ecosystems in support of the India@2047 vision.



Objectives

The workshop aimed to support the States in developing robust data systems for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of program outputs and outcomes, for planning at the state and district levels and developing State Data and Analytics Platform. The workshop focused on:

- getting a better understanding of the current situation in the states with regards to institutional arrangements, policies and procedures, and technical and organizational capabilities for data, and
- support states in developing their state data ecosystem, including state statistical systems, to enable the use of data and statistics for evidence-based policymaking and the monitoring and evaluation of state policies and programs

The inaugural session introduced participants to the broad landscape of using data for improving policy-making and governance at the state and district levels. In his keynote address, Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, emphasised the importance of data in policy making, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlighted initiatives like the National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP) and the Aspirational Districts Program and stressed

the importance of district-level planning and a bottom-up approach to data collection. Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, in his Inaugural address, discussed Uttar Pradesh's mission to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2027-28, highlighted the importance of reliable, granular data for district-specific policies and mentioned the state's efforts in estimating District Domestic Product (DDP) and the use of digital systems for targeted interventions.

The inaugural session was followed by four technical sessions, each addressing different aspects of data-driven governance. These sessions featured several presentations which showcased India's progress on digitization and data-driven governance, including many high-impact use cases. The Forum highlighted the vast potential for accelerating social and economic development by adopting data-based methods.



Session 1: Getting the Enabling Environment Right

The first session on Getting the Enabling Environment Right featured presentations by distinguished speakers who spoke about the technological infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, data governance architecture, and skills needed for data initiatives that can add value to governance, service delivery, and planning.

Session 2: Transforming Data into Knowledge – Achieving the India@2047 Vision

The second session focused on how data can bolster the India@2047 vision. Presenters gave examples of how administrative data, integrated with surveys and censuses, can enhance local planning at the district level. A standout example is the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which was initiated in 2021. Many specific use cases were given, from disaster

risk management to the building of schools in underserved areas, and the identification of locations for new charging stations for electric vehicles. Presenters also recognised the ongoing and persistent challenge of obtaining high quality statistical information below the state level.

Session 3: Transforming Data into Knowledge – Proactive and Preemptive Governance

The third session focused on using data systems for Proactive and Preemptive Governance. Presenters gave examples of how data can be used to improve service delivery to citizens and businesses. One notable example of this is the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, which seamlessly links data systems such as Aadhar, the Local Government Directory (LGD), and social registries.

Session 4: Experiments on Data Dissemination & Promoting Analytics

The concluding session emphasised the significance of making high-quality data and information accessible in machine-readable and user-friendly formats wherever and whenever needed. The session explored various methods for data dissemination and analytics, drawing on experiences from several states. These included “Chief Minister Dashboards”, Open-data platforms like data.gov.in and the National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP) along with initiatives targeting aspirational blocks and districts.

Around 100 representatives from central ministries, state governments, industries, academic institutions, and global organizations participated in the Forum. Major participants included, Eminent dignitaries - Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, senior officers of NITI Aayog and State Government graced the workshop. Participants from the other State Governments viz. Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Tripura, Telangana, Rajasthan, etc. graced the event. The workshop brought together senior officials from the Government of India, State Governments, the United Nations, and the World Bank, as well as prominent academics and researchers.

Outcomes

Some of the key initiatives emerged from the Forum which state governments can adopt to leverage data for state and district-level planning and policy making are as follows:

- **State Open Data Policy:** This policy advocates for interoperability, highlighting its crucial role in optimizing data collection and minimizing redundancy and provides clear guidelines for how to realise it. Open Data Portal that contains high-value datasets at the most granular level on various sectors and departments—for example, transport, vehicular, online sales, and weather data--can be created. By adopting this policy, states can ensure that data collected from various sources can be integrated and used more efficiently, reducing duplication of efforts and enhancing the quality of data available for decision-making.
- **State Data Governance:** A state data governance policy can enhance the quality and use of nonpersonal data so that governments and researchers can access high-quality data while ensuring privacy and trust. This would lead to better-quality data and improved operational efficiency, collaboration and communication, policy and decision-making, service delivery, transparency and accountability, as well as reduced costs, greater efficiency, and citizen engagement.

- **NITI for States:** NITI Aayog has been collaborating with several states to enhance governance and improve citizen welfare. This initiative involves providing tailored support and expertise to state governments, helping them design and implement policies that address local challenges effectively. The focus is on building capacity within state governments to use data-driven insights for better governance and service delivery.
- **State Data Portal Based on NDAP:** The National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP) is a comprehensive repository of over 2000 government data sources, encompassing information from all states. States can leverage this platform to access data specific to their needs and develop their own State NDAP using the same architecture and technical infrastructure. This enables states to create customised data portals that provide relevant insights and analytics for state-level planning and policy formulation.
- **Identification of Use Cases:** State planning departments must engage continuously with their line ministries to identify critical developmental and governance issues specific to their state. This involves conducting regular consultations and workshops to understand the pressing needs and challenges faced by different sectors. By identifying these use cases, states can prioritise their data initiatives and develop targeted solutions that address the most significant policy and governance issues.
- **Collaboration with Academia or Multilateral Bodies:** Partnering with organizations specializing in data collection and analysis can help guide the process, ensure data quality, and develop useful analytical applications for planning and policy making. This collaboration can provide states with the expertise and resources needed to enhance their data capabilities.



Additionally, the Data Forum, organised annually by NITI Aayog under its State Support Mission initiative, will facilitate ongoing engagement. State nodal officers will be identified to enable year-long collaboration leading up to the next forum, which will be designed more collaboratively. Based on interest, regional forums may also be organised as feeder forums for the national forum.

Rejuvenation of Water Bodies

New Delhi

Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24 April 2022 with an objective to construct/ rejuvenate at least 75 Amrit Sarovars (Ponds) in every district of the country. Taking the mission forward, NITI Aayog collaborated with the A.T.E. Chandra Foundation (ATECF) to rejuvenate water bodies in 11 aspirational districts across Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Over the past two years, 585 water bodies were rejuvenated through this partnership.

A National Workshop titled '*Rejuvenation of Water bodies*' was organised by NITI Aayog at New Delhi, with an objective to provide a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned from the Amrit Sarovar Mission and RWB initiatives. It aimed to discuss strategies for expanding these efforts into water-stressed blocks, particularly focusing on the 92 most water-stressed blocks among the 500 Aspirational Blocks identified by NITI Aayog.

The workshop was divided into 4 sessions. A diverse set of participants attended the workshop viz, farmers, Block Development Officers from State Governments, District Magistrates, Senior State and Centre Govt. Officers from different Departments, Developmental Partners (CEEW, IWMI, World Bank), and Officers/ officials of NITI Aayog and A.T.E. Chandra Foundation (ATECF).

The workshop witnessed participation from Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Dept., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The ATE Chandra Foundation also participated in the workshop.



Outcomes

- Promote ecological balance and conserve traditional waterbodies to address water scarcity and to mitigate the impacts of climate change through Rejuvenation of Waterbodies (RWB)
- The State Governments to carry out extensive IEC to discourage water intensive crops in summers to reduce stress on ground and surface water resources.
- NITI Aayog to promote partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders and government to support rejuvenating water bodies (RWB) initiatives.
- Convergence with forest and irrigation departments to support the water bodies rejuvenation mission to identify potential sites of rejuvenation in water stressed/drought prone districts.
- The State Governments to intensify the promotion of use of silt extracted during the rejuvenation of water bodies to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers to improve crop yield, vegetation cover, etc.
- Local mechanisms to be developed for revenue generation through pisciculture involving indigenous fishes and tourism activities around water bodies.
- Develop SOP for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the RWB activities with active engagement of Gram Panchayats and SHGs.
- The state government conducts periodic anti-encroachment, freeing up feeder channels, water bodies to increase storage.
- Capacity building and knowledge sharing exercise to address the challenges faced in RWB at grassroot levels needs to be taken up for stakeholders.
- In order to convert RWB initiative as *Jan Bhagidari* movement, state to conduct various awareness campaigns, IEC drives, workshops, etc. as part of Jal Shakti Abhiyan to inculcate sustainable water management practices among communities
- Establish robust monitoring, involving local stakeholders, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the RWB using SHGs/ Village Water and Sanitation Committees.
- State Governments keen on rejuvenating water bodies begin their excavation work between the months of January and May to prevent rainwater runoff during the monsoon season.
- The area under water bodies to be effectively mapped with GIS and formalised on revenue records to ensure no encroachment of the channels take place.
- The States to partner with premier research institutes to evaluate the pre and post impact of rejuvenation efforts on indicators such as:
 - » Agricultural Productivity
 - » Groundwater Recharge
 - » Consumption of fertilizers
 - » Area under Vegetation Cover
 - » Water Quality & Soil Health Aquaculture
- The states should encourage the use of Nature Based solutions like constructed wetlands and floating ponds to treat domestic wastewater before it is discharged into water bodies.
- The state should focus on conducting periodic desilting programs at Village/Gram Panchayat/Block to sustain water capacity.

National Workshop on the Learnings of Project SATH-Education – SATH Interventions for school education transformation

New Delhi

NITI Aayog had launched Project-Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital (SATH)-Education, in the year 2017 with 03 States (Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha) to initiate systemic transformation in School Education. The key objective of the Project SATH-Education was to build three future 'Role Model' States for systemic transformation in their respective School Education sectors with optimum contextualization. Presently the Project is under implementation in Arunachal Pradesh.

The National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 aims to address the growing educational development imperatives of our country and Project SATH-Education, in synchronization with NEP-2020, has ensured that our students not only attend schools but also learn at an incremental pace. The SATH model can help States/UTs to achieve the NEP-2020 targets in a time-bound manner.



In this regard, NITI Aayog organised a National Workshop on the “Learnings of Project SATH - Education in Synchronization with National Education Policy-2020: A Peer-learning Workshop” under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Member (Education) Dr. V.K. Paul, on 19th October 2023 at New Delhi. The purpose of the National Workshop was to disseminate SATH Interventions,

SATH Learnings and SATH Best Practices which can be replicated in other States/UTs with their own contextualization.

3 Panel Discussion involving SATH States, Knowledge partners, Education department of State/UTs were carried out during the course of the workshop. Panel 1 was on Ensuring optimal schooling structures with appropriate resourcing; Panel 2 was on Improving learning outcomes and strengthening assessments; and Panel 3 was on Strengthening institutional capacity and governance in state education departments

Stakeholder participation was ensured from the Ministry of Education and Education Department of 31 States/UTs. Related autonomous bodies: NCERT, NIEPA, Multilateral agencies: UNICEF, World bank, Development partners: MSDF, Young Lives, Piramal, BCG, Room to Read, Bharti Foundation, Tata Trust also participated.



Outcomes

- Project SATH report on Learnings for Large-Scale Transformation in School Education was launched in the Workshop.
- Best practises and learnings from the ground in the 3 SATH partner states Odisha, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh were shared

Harnessing Fisheries Potential in Inland states

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

India's inland fisheries, spanning rivers, canals, ponds, reservoirs, and other water bodies, contribute over 75% of the country's commercial fish production, supporting livelihoods, exports, and rural nutrition. The sector has witnessed a shift from marine to inland fisheries, growing from 36% in the mid-1980s to 75% in 2022-23, with culture-based fisheries driving a sustainable blue economy. Despite this progress, its full potential remains untapped. The 2023 Census of Water Bodies identified 24.2 lakh water bodies nationwide, offering vast opportunities for fish production, employment, and food security. Thus, focused development of the inland fisheries sector through a value-chain-based approach can transform the livelihoods of millions of fishers and farmers, enhance the water and land productivity of rural India, boost exports, and enable environmentally harmonious progress.

In this context, a two-day national workshop titled *"Harnessing the Potential of Fisheries in Inland States"* was organised by NITI Aayog on 14th and 15th February, 2024 in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The workshop facilitated discussions on strategies for unlocking the potential of inland fisheries across major inland states, providing key insights and paving the way for substantial development in the sector. The primary objective of the workshop was to bring together diverse stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges, showcase innovative initiatives, deliberate on collaborative solutions, and outline an actionable roadmap for transforming India's inland fisheries sector.

The workshop was held to bring together all the stakeholders in inland fisheries in the country to discuss the issues and challenges in inland fisheries and fostering symbiotic partnerships to take the sector forward. To deliberate the context, the workshop had three technical sessions: Harnessing the Inland Fisheries Potential-Perspectives from Inland Fisheries States; Sustainability in Inland Fisheries: FPOs/Cooperatives Led Development Models; and Issues and Challenges in Inland Fisheries Industry in India.



The workshop was inaugurated by Shri. Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India in the presence of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member-NITI Aayog; Shri. G V L Narasimha Rao, Hon'ble MP Rajya Sabha; Shri. Vaddi Raghuram, Co Vice-Chairman, AP State Aqua Development Authority; Dr. Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog; Dr. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR; Dr. Babita Singh, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog and Shri. K Kanna Babu, Commissioner of Fisheries, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Shri Parshottam Rupala in his inaugural address emphasised on promoting the aspirational model of development, wherein the least developed areas need to be pushed forward into a trajectory of growth. The Minister was emphatic on promoting indigenous fish species through Nuclear Breeding Centres (NBCs) and Broodstock Multiplication Centres (BMCs) and highlighted the example of black tiger shrimp facility at Andaman Islands developed by MPEDA

Dr. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR in his talk gave an overview of the inland fisheries sector of the country and highlighted the tremendous growth in the sector and its transformation from small-scale to industrial and entrepreneurial levels. He listed the 6 drivers of this growth as – Technologies, Dissemination, Adoption, Investment, Policy and Partnership.

Prof. Ramesh Chand, the session moderator, highlighted that increased R&D in fish preparation methods and value-added products is needed to attract new and non-traditional consumers of fish. It is important to understand consumer preferences in other countries and re-position our fish exports accordingly. Explore the possibility of including the fisheries sector under the Kusum scheme for solar power and explore the possibility of reducing GST on frozen fish.

To deliberate the context, the workshop had three technical sessions: Harnessing the Inland Fisheries Potential-Perspectives from Inland Fisheries States; Sustainability in Inland Fisheries: FPOs/Cooperatives Led Development Models; and Issues and Challenges in Inland Fisheries Industry in India.



The concluding remarks of the workshop was given by Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, former Secretary Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) and former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. He congratulated the organisers on the successful conduct of the workshop and was appreciative of the inputs from various states which enabled a learning atmosphere during the workshop. He reiterated all the major suggestions provided by various participants over the course of the workshop.

Around 100 participants that include delegates from NITI Aayog, ICAR, Department of Fisheries- Govt. of India, multi-stakeholders including state fisheries representatives, fisherfolks, industrialists and researchers took part in the workshop. The State representation from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Haryana, Bihar, Telangana, Jharkhand, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh attended the workshop

Outcomes

- **Inland Fisheries Development and Indigenous Species Promotion:** Promoting the aspirational model of inland fisheries development will drive growth, while supporting indigenous fish species through National Biodiversity Committees (NBCs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) will ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainability.
- **Infrastructure and Market Enhancement:** Establishing modern, mall-like fish markets will boost domestic consumption and reduce stigma. Increased R&D in fish preparation and value-added products will attract new consumers, while improved marketing strategies and targeted export re-positioning will expand global market reach.
- **Policy and Financial Support:** Uniform policies under the Amrit Sarovar initiative, enhanced unit costs under GoI schemes, and special schemes for mauns and government ponds will support fisheries growth. Financial incentives such as GST reduction on frozen fish, subsidies for solar power units, and soft credit processes will improve sectoral profitability.
- **Technology, Research, and Sustainability:** Exploring solar power inclusion under the Kusum scheme and implementing cage house provisions will enhance operational efficiency. Establishing freshwater fish seed banks in every state will ensure steady supply, while government-backed support for Black Soldier Fly (BSF) industries will drive sustainable feed alternatives.
- **Training and Institutional Strengthening:** Capacity building through marketing training for fish farmers and eliminating consultancy charges levied by ICAR institutes will facilitate skill development. Categorizing states based on inland fisheries growth rates and formulating targeted policies will ensure region-specific development, fostering a balanced and progressive fisheries sector.

Promoting Livelihoods through International Mobility of Skilled Workers

New Delhi

State governments play a significant role in international labour mobility management and welfare. Several States have been undertaking enabling measures to facilitate international labour mobility. State Governments' involvement in international migration governance and support is critical, for both migrants, as well as for the local economy.

Against this background, a States Workshop on 'Promoting Livelihoods through International Mobility of Skilled Workers' is being organised by NITI Aayog, which was an initiative under the State Support Mission. The workshop engaged with different stakeholders including Central Ministries, State Governments, International Organizations and Industry experts. The workshop seeks to strengthen the proactive engagement of State governments, facilitate better sensitization to migration issues, share good practices and perspectives, identify challenges and gaps, thereby contributing to better formulation of international migrant-responsive programmes and interventions.



The workshop witnessed participation from various stakeholders, including four central ministries, 32 States and Union Territories, international organizations, industry, and academic experts. M/o External Affairs, M/o Labour and Employment, M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, M/o Electronics and Information Technology, State/UTs Govts., International Labour Organization (ILO) Delhi Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), NASSCOM, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), Alliance Air participated in the workshop.

Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog, in his special address laid emphasis on the paramount importance of skill development from both national and global perspectives. He underscored the intricate relationship between skills and employment, advocating for a balanced approach to address skill shortages across varying skill levels. He also emphasised the necessity of collaborative partnerships among government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities to navigate skill development challenges. By stressing on the transformative potential of digital connectivity in accessing global opportunities; need for policy reforms to facilitate seamless integration into the global workforce; he provided details on actionable strategies aimed at fostering a resilient and adaptive skill development ecosystem to meet the evolving demands of the global economy.

Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, delivered the opening remarks, wherein she emphasised the critical role of the multi-generational workforce in addressing the persistent demand-supply mismatch within the labour market. Underlining the evolving dynamics of the workforce towards increased flexibility and connectivity, she exemplified government initiatives such as the Production Link Incentive (PLI) programme and strategic partnerships with countries such as Singapore to bolster job creation efforts. She stressed the imperative of fostering collaboration between public and private sectors, industry stakeholders, and labour associations, emphasizing the urgent need to map and align skill sets with prevailing market demands, both domestically and internationally.

The programme schedule included 4 thematic sessions on:

Session 1: Strategies for Skill Development in Emerging & Future Skills

Ms. Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Skill Development and Technical Education Department, Govt. of Odisha highlighted NUA Odisha: From Local to Global along with key initiatives such as Sudakshya Scheme for improving enrolment of girls, setting up of World Skill Centre, and the first-of-its-kind CM Skill Fellowship for decentralised skilling.



Dr. Vinod Kumar, CEO of Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation has highlighted the need to possess adaptable skills as per industry demands, stressed on collaborations of APSSDC with industry bodies for offering employability skills to youth in his address. He also outlined the initiatives such as GUVI (Grab Ur Vernacular Imprints) an IIT-M & IIM-A incubated Ed-tech company, Skill-A-Thon competition on web designing, and academic skill programmes for engineering students and stressed on a training model for employability training of nurses.

Mr. Vinod T.V, Chief Operating Officer, Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE), Govt. of Kerala presented on Skilling Initiatives for Training Manpower for Overseas Roles and highlighted the key initiatives such as bilateral agreements with countries like the UK and Germany, alongside the establishment of a digital university to foster future-ready skills; Demand driven training, on-the-job training (OJT,) and foreign language training etc.

Mr. Ram Ramlingam, CEO of Global Skills Park has highlighted the organization's mission to equip students with global skills. The emphasis was on a market-driven approach and drawing parallels between innovation in technology and skill development. Industry partnerships were highlighted, along with success stories of graduates turned entrepreneurs. Recommendations for a more adaptive and sustainable skill development ecosystem were presented, focusing on agility and personalised education pathways for students.

Session 2: Synergy between Skill and Education

Mr. Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary at MeitY highlighted that Future Skills Prime (FSP) is a collaborative effort between NASSCOM and MeitY, to establish India as a leader in digital talent. Sh. Raj Nehru, Vice Chancellor, Vishwakarma University highlighted the modalities for approaching vocational education and training (VET) at Vishwakarma University.

Sh. Thampy Koshy, CEO, ONDC emphasised on the fundamental principles of Open Networks, with a particular focus on the transactional dynamics within the ONDC ecosystem. Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission highlighted the critical role of innovation in revolutionizing education across all stages, from primary to tertiary

Session 3: Promoting International Mobility Pathways through Industry Engagements

Ms. Sonal Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has highlighted the significant achievements in the domain, such as the signing of 11 government-to-government memorandums of understanding, the establishment of 30 Skill India International Centres, and the successful training and international deployment of a large number of candidates. These initiatives signified MSDE's commitment to addressing the skilled labour demands both within India and internationally. She also emphasised on the interest from countries like Germany, Italy, France, and the UK in promoting the mobility of Indian skilled workers, reflecting the global recognition of India's skilled labour force.

Mr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Sr. Adviser, Industry, NITI Aayog highlighted the strategic skills required to navigate the changing landscape of modern manufacturing, aiming to provide a detailed discussion on how India could leverage its demographic advantage to enhance its manufacturing capabilities. He further emphasised on the imperative of equipping the workforce with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet industry requirements. The importance of increasing the employability and productivity of the labour force to achieve growth was highlighted, noting the current employability rates and the geographical mismatch between the demand for and supply of skilled labour. The benefits of labour formalization, improved pay, and skill

development to increase workforce employability, using the electronics manufacturing sector in Vietnam were highlighted as an example. The focus was also brought to the need for policy intervention to bridge the talent supply gap for high-precision manufacturing and design skills was highlighted, suggesting mechanisms for attracting talent, providing fiscal support for training, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry.



Mr. Amresh Choudhary, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO), Alliance Air has highlighted Aviation Sector: Skilling Needs and Future Prospects and advocated for a holistic approach to skilling and education in aviation, aiming to bridge the gap between industry demand and skilled manpower availability.

Ms. Jyothsna Minocha, NASSCOM emphasised on its collaboration with over 2000 academic institutions, the onboarding of more than 150 corporates, and partnerships with over 90 training and content partners under progress of the Future Skills Prime initiative; and the partnership between Future Skills Prime and the Women's Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog, designed to skill women entrepreneurs in Northeast India.

Session 4: Mapping International Demand and Promoting Partnerships for International Mobility

Ms. Archana Nair, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the shift from general Labour Mobility Agreements (LMA) to Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPA) was highlighted as a significant development. She informed the audience about the current status of Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPA), mentioning that India has seven such agreements in place.

Sh. Amrit Nirmal, Deputy Director General (Employment) at the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has highlighted the significant features of the National Career Service (NCS) job portal, emphasizing its capacity to facilitate both offline and online job fairs.

Dr. Surabhi Singh, the Liaison Officer for India at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) has highlighted comprehensive overview of global shortages for

workers and also highlighted the work being done on new destinations in Europe under the India-EU CAMM (Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility) Project which is currently in its second phase, especially on mapping of opportunities and skill referencing.

Mr. Amish Karki, Technical Officer, International Labour Organisation presented on Promoting Partnerships and Collaborations on International Labour Migration, outlining the crucial aspects such as the Global Compact on Migration Objective 18, the G20 Commitment of 2023, and the Government of India's Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, Head of Office, International Organization for Migration has highlighted key aspects, including an overview of the IOM, migration trends and corridors from India, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), IOM's programmatic approach in India including the focus areas, priorities and specific initiatives.

Outcomes

The workshop's objective was to enable stakeholders to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices and deliberate strategies to promote pathways for the international mobility of skilled workers.

The workshop explored the potential of international mobility of skilled workers in enhancing livelihoods and contributing to the state's economic development. Through sessions with Senior State Govt. officers from the labour and skill/technical education departments, educationists, and experts from the industry/private sector, participants had the opportunity to:

- Interact with fellow state government officers to gain insights into their experiences and initiatives being undertaken on international mobility of skilled workers.
- Discuss policy frameworks and initiatives that can facilitate this initiative.
- Explore avenues for equipping skilled workers to access international job opportunities.
- Share best practices and regional experiences

Empowering E-Mobility in Indian Cities: Developing 100 EV Ready Cities

New Delhi

With the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, NITI Aayog planned a series of workshops in line with its initiatives like State Support Mission (SSM), Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) to foster cooperative and competitive federalism. In this series, the Workshop on “Empowering E-mobility in Indian Cities” was planned and organised in consultation and collaboration with respective Central Ministries/Department, concerned State/UT Government, by the E Mobility vertical of NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan.

A series of presentations were made to State delegates on how NITI along with its resource partners can support states on EV transition. A workshop manual containing a guidebook on using NITI's platforms like E Amrit, Shoonya, E-FAST etc. was prepared and distributed to the State delegates.

The meeting saw participation from key stakeholders across central government bodies, knowledge partners, and NITI Aayog representatives. Among the **Central Government Delegates**, the Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, the Additional Secretary of MoHUA, and the Joint Secretary of MHI, Ease of Doing Business, National Highway for Electric Vehicles (NHeV), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) were present, highlighting the government's commitment to advancing e-mobility initiatives.

There was overwhelming participation from officials of 11 States/ UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal) in the workshop.



Knowledge Partners included organizations such as WRI India, GIZ, RMI, CALSTRAT, ICCT, Climate Group, OMI Foundation, Grant Transform, Reliance BP Mobility Ltd., India Battery Swapping Association (IBSA), and others. These partners contributed insights on various aspects of EV policy, infrastructure, and investment opportunities. Experts from RITES Ltd., New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP), and other institutions also participated, sharing technical expertise on EV standards, battery swapping, and ease of doing business for EV-related projects.



Sh. Arvind Virmani, member NITI Aayog emphasised the role of EVs in the Green Economy. Sh. Sudhendu J. Sinha, Advisor NITI Aayog explained the overall context of this workshop and highlighted the role of States in India's sustainable mobility transition. The Ministry representatives focused on the support being provided through assistance on charging infrastructure development and the adoption of EVs, especially transitioning the public transport fleet to EV through PM E-bus Sewa.

Session 1: Central Government Perspectives

Shri Abhay Bakre, Director General of BEE, emphasised the willingness of a combined team for development (CTU) to support states in their EV-related efforts. He highlighted that a consumer-driven program could be more effective in accelerating EV adoption. Additionally, he expressed anticipation for the upcoming FAME-III initiative, which is expected to further bolster the EV ecosystem.

Shri SK Bagde, Additional Secretary, MoHUA, GoI, provided a brief on the PM E-Bus Sewa scheme and underscored the critical role of high-quality power infrastructure in developing charging stations for e-buses. He also mentioned that the department is forming a dedicated team to assist cities in finalizing the route maps for buses and providing technical support for operations.



Session 2: State's Perspective

From the states' perspective, Arunachal Pradesh currently has no e-buses but is planning awareness initiatives to promote EV adoption. Bihar has deployed 25 e-buses in Patna along with 166 CNG buses and plans to procure 400 more buses under the PM E-Bus Sewa scheme. The state is also considering inter-city e-bus services in cities like Patna, Gaya, and Bhagalpur. NITI Aayog suggested that an E-Mobility Readiness Plan would be beneficial in identifying key implementation aspects.

Delhi has seen a rise in EV adoption due to financial incentives, including interest subsidies. The capital has 980 e-buses, with 400 more set to be added. A single-window system is in place for setting up public EV charging stations, and Delhi currently hosts over 4,000 public charging stations, 1,000 private charging stations, and 400+ battery-swapping stations. Additionally, only e-auto permits are now being issued, restricting conventional fuel autos.

Haryana has deployed e-buses and is upgrading its infrastructure by either developing dedicated e-bus depots or integrating charging facilities into existing depots based on feasibility. Himachal Pradesh has identified 54 locations for PPP-based EV initiatives, with tenders to be floated soon. Some public EV charging stations have been developed at petrol pumps and are set for inauguration, while tenders for private charging stations will be floated through RTDC.

Rajasthan has introduced an EV policy and is working on a Payment Security Management (PSM) system, which is yet to be implemented. Telangana has registered 2,000 EVs since June and is focusing on Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC) development. The state was among the first to establish EV charging infrastructure and has an advanced institutional setup for skill development in the sector.

Tripura, a power-surplus state, does not have e-buses at present. Uttar Pradesh operates e-buses in 11 cities under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, with NueGo buses being



For charging infrastructure, a major challenge is the low utilization of public charging stations, making scalability difficult. Furthermore, **West Bengal** highlighted that for routes exceeding 700 km, using e-buses becomes challenging due to long charging times and the impracticality of battery swapping. Shri Sudhendu Sinha, Advisor, NITI Aayog, suggested consulting IITs and other premier research institutions to explore possible solutions.

Additionally, a key recommendation from state representatives was to transition school buses to EVs, given their fixed routes with a maximum distance of approximately 30 km. Shri Sudhendu Sinha noted that this initiative was first implemented in California, and its feasibility in India could be explored further.

Session 3: Tools for States

The workshop also included participation of representatives from the advocacy/ private sector organisations supporting/may provide support to the states/cities in their EV adoption and operation journey. The focus was on developing a comprehensive E-mobility Plan and developing improved understanding related to the tools like E-Amrit, Shoonya, E-fast for the Indian cities.

Several organizations presented key insights and recommendations to support EV adoption and infrastructure development. ICLEI South Asia emphasised the importance of readiness assessments to evaluate the existing EV ecosystem, identify gaps, and address challenges. They advocated for a long-term approach through the development of City-Level E-Mobility Action Plans, which would serve as guidance documents for identifying priority actions and their implementation. They also highlighted the crucial role of cities in promoting EV adoption.

WRI India provided an overview of the e-FAST portal and conducted an analysis of state EV policies, including different types of incentives and potential future directions. IBSA focused on battery-swapping infrastructure, while Reliance BP Mobility expressed readiness to collaborate with states on charging infrastructure initiatives.

ICCT shared five key policy recommendations for strengthening the EV sector. BIS mapped

Indian Standards (IS) with various government schemes and highlighted existing standards for EVs and their components, including upcoming TED standards for batteries. They also discussed standards related to AC charging, DC charging, and combined slow and fast charging solutions.

RMI introduced the Shoonya initiative and offered technical assistance to states and cities. OMI presented insights on the EV dashboard, while Climate Trends emphasised the need for an offline collaborative forum for EV-related discussions.

CALSTART advocated for the creation of investable projects and noted that states are considering forming a group or body similar to NITI Aayog at the state level to drive EV initiatives. They also underscored the economic opportunities associated with EV adoption.

Outcome

To carry forward the agenda of the workshop an **EV Helpdesk**, focused at strengthening the implementation of State EV Policies, is proposed. The mandate, structure and protocol shall be decided in consultation with the State Support Mission.

Regional Workshop - Enabling Women-led development- reaching the last mile

Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

The Second edition of WEP-NITI Aayog State Workshop Series on Enabling Women-led Development through Entrepreneurship was held in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 24th November 2023 in collaboration with the State Government. The workshop focused on the north-eastern region and was attended by representatives from all 8 north-eastern states.



Eminent dignitaries, including Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and senior officers of NITI Aayog graced the workshop. Official representatives from 8 North Eastern states, representatives from ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India), Startup India, NASSCOM, FICCI FLO, UNCRC, UNDP, UN Women also participated in the workshop. Representatives from Private sector players, academia and non-profit organisations like MakeMyTrip, BITS Pilani, SELCO foundation. The workshop drew over 1000 local women entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), clusters, collectives, and tribal groups.

The workshop focused on the north-eastern region and was attended by representatives from all 8 north-eastern states i.e Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The role of states in fostering women entrepreneurship is crucial for ensuring last-mile connectivity and building a sustainable support ecosystem. The workshop primarily focused on deliberating a hub-and-spoke model aimed at extending women-led development to grassroots levels, particularly covering the last mile in North-

Eastern States. By adopting this approach, WEP can enhance access to resources, mentorship, and opportunities for women-led enterprises, ensuring a deeper regional impact.

The discussions reinforced the importance of state-level implementation and encouraged key stakeholders to actively participate in the initiative. As states take proactive steps, the impact of such engagements is expected to lead to greater visibility, stronger networks, and improved access to financial and market linkages for women entrepreneurs. The collaboration between states and WEP will further amplify the mission of empowering women and fostering an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Outcomes

The primary focus of the workshop was deliberating on a hub-and-spoke model aimed at extending women-led development to grassroots levels, covering the last mile in North-Eastern States. A series of new collaborations were announced to support women entrepreneurs which includes the following:

- **Launch of Award to Reward (ATR) Initiative**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and Chief Secretary launched impactful initiatives for women entrepreneurs under the WEP's ATR program.

- i. The first launch was the “CatalyseTech EntrepreneurHer Innovation Challenge”, an Atal Innovation Centre-SELCO Foundation partnership focused on supporting clean energy entrepreneurship. The ATR to empower women entrepreneurs in critical sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and micro-businesses and aims to create awareness and solutions for sustainability and climate resilience among women entrepreneurs.
- ii. The second launch was the “Maitri program” in partnership with MakeMyTrip for training and capacity building of women homestay owners in the north-eastern region to foster the growth of women entrepreneurs. The ATR program provides homestay owners with training on using online marketplaces, including MakeMyTrip, and markets their businesses online to create a strong digital presence.
- iii. The “Womenpreneur” program by BITS Pilani and Aditya Birla Foundation was launched to recognise women enterprises transforming India through tech-led approaches. This program provides an opportunity for women entrepreneurs to participate in an 18-month-long incubation program that provides one-on-one mentoring and market support for scaling up and an opportunity to win seed Funding of up to Rs. 10 Lacs.



- **Building an Enabling Environment:**

- i. Launch of the “NASSCOM Future Skills Program”, to provide skilling to women entrepreneurs from three backgrounds: Non-tech, Semi-tech, and Tech through short learning modules to help entrepreneurs test concepts through structured experiments, refine business strategy, raise capital to grow their business and create value for their customers.
- ii. The “FLO MSME Assist Centre” by the FICCI FLO was launched as a helpdesk for North-Eastern women entrepreneurs to provide them with a platform for mentorship and networking opportunities, fostering partnerships, accessing new markets, and providing skill development and capacity building tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs, while also creating international business opportunities for them.

- **Technological Enhancements to WEP:**

In collaboration with partners Mastercard and Square Panda, new features were announced for WEP. These include content in 12 languages, a chatbot, and various other tools, aiming to enhance accessibility and user experience.



- **Government Commitment:**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced the establishment of a Women Entrepreneurship Cell with initial funding of INR 5 crore to support women entrepreneurs in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The sessions in the workshop offered valuable insights to women entrepreneurs, and a tech experience center by SELCO Foundation showcased sustainable tech entrepreneurs from the north-eastern region.

Penetrating Global Value Chains: India's Potential and Prospects

New Delhi

NITI Aayog organised the workshop titled 'Penetrating Global Value Chains: India's Potential and Prospects' on December 5, 2023, in New Delhi. The event brought together senior government officials from 31 States and Union Territories, along with representatives from the Government of India. Key addresses were delivered by the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog; Hon'ble Member Dr. VK Saraswat, NITI Aayog; Hon'ble Member Dr. Arvind Virmani, NITI Aayog; CEO of NITI Aayog; and Mr. Virat Bhatia, Chairman of the CII Taskforce on GVCs.

The workshop saw participation from various Ministries and Departments, including MEITY, MHI, DPIIT, and the Department of Telecommunications. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh also took part. Industry associations such as ICEA, ELCINA, CII, ACMA, and SIAM were present, along with Bain & Co., the Knowledge Partner for the event.

India's participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs) is a key focus area as the nation aims to become a global manufacturing and export powerhouse. Despite being the world's fifth-largest economy, India's share in GVCs remains relatively small. Recognizing the need for stronger integration into global trade, the workshop convened policymakers, industry leaders, and experts to discuss opportunities, challenges, and strategies to enhance India's GVC participation.



The workshop aimed to analyze India's current position in GVCs, identify key challenges, and explore strategic initiatives for improved integration. Discussions spanned various sectors, including electronics and automotive, emphasizing macroeconomic advantages, policy

interventions, and industry reforms. The overarching theme underscored the urgency of action, coordinated policy interventions, and a strategic approach to positioning India as a global manufacturing hub.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session featured key addresses from Hon'ble Member Dr. VK Saraswat, NITI Aayog, CEO of NITI Aayog and Mr. Virat Bhatia, Chairman of the CII Taskforce on GVCs, followed by a special address by the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. The session underscored the crucial role of manufacturing in economic growth and highlighted the need to strengthen GVC integration to boost exports, create jobs, and enhance value addition. Key areas of focus included policy shifts, infrastructure improvements, and workforce development, leveraging India's demographic and strategic advantages.

Thematic Sessions

Following the inaugural session, the workshop featured three focused discussions. The first session, chaired by the CEO of NITI Aayog, explored India's participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs), highlighting opportunities and challenges. Context setting was provided by Mr. Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Programme Director (Industry & Foreign Investment Division), NITI Aayog, followed by expert insights from Mr. Karan Singh (Chairman, Bain & Co. India), state representatives from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and distinguished experts including Dr. Ajai Chowdhry, Dr. C. Veeramani, and Dr. Deepak Mishra.

The second session focused on enhancing India's participation in the automotive sector's GVCs. Chaired by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog, it included contributions from Dr. Hanif Qureshi (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries) and industry leaders from ACMA, SIAM, Sona Comstar, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Motherson Sumi. Representatives from Maharashtra and Haryana shared state perspectives on strengthening automotive manufacturing and exports.

The third session examined India's GVC participation in the electronics sector. Chaired by Mr. S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, the session featured insights from Mr. Virat Bhatia, Chairman of the CII Taskforce on GVCs, Bain & Co., and industry leaders from ICEA, Dixon Technologies, Foxconn, Tata Electronics, and VVDN Technologies. State representatives from Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh shared their perspectives, followed by a Q&A session and concluding remarks by Mr. Virat Bhatia.

Key Insights from State Governments

- **Karnataka:** The state is deeply integrated into GVCs, particularly in automobiles, electronics, and aerospace. With investments exceeding INR 40,000 crore, Karnataka aims to become a global GVC hub through progressive policies and cross-industry collaborations.
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Producing 3.5 million mobile phones monthly, the state hosts four EMCs and focuses on financial incentives, sustainable clusters, and skill development. Andhra Pradesh accounts for 7.7% of India's automobile exports and offers competitive industrial infrastructure.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Leading in electronics exports, manufacturing 40% of India's mobile phones. The state provides strong incentives, including capital subsidies and tax

exemptions, but faces challenges such as infrastructure gaps and high production costs. Future plans include sector mapping, stakeholder analysis, and targeted outreach activities.

Outcomes

- Addressing Cost Disabilities: Measures to reduce high capital costs, enhance logistics efficiency, and strengthen supply chain reliability to improve India's global competitiveness.
- Developing a Robust Components Ecosystem: Strengthening MSMEs and fostering domestic component manufacturing to support the automotive and electronics sectors.
- Trade Policy Enhancements: Implementing strategic Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), tariff reductions, and post-PLI pathways to boost India's export potential.
- Scaling Up Local Industry:
 - » Policies to achieve global scale, including FTAs, custom duties, and PLI programs.
 - » Policies to increase local content through ecosystem development, supplier support, and skill enhancement.
 - » Ensuring macroeconomic stability, ease of doing business, and cost-efficient transportation.
- Strengthening R&D and Innovation: Encouraging higher investments in research, engineering, and design to transition from "build to print" to "build to spec." Introducing incentive schemes, such as a matching fund where the government covers 50% of industry R&D spending, to reduce reliance on foreign technology and mitigate excessive royalty payments.
- Government's Role in Industry Confidence: Both central and state governments may ensure policy consistency, swift disbursement of commitments, and proactive industry engagement to create a predictable and supportive business environment.

SDGs with all the States/UTs Planning Secretaries/Heads of SDG Cells

Jaipur, Rajasthan

NITI Aayog organised the 'National Conference on Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals' in partnership with the host Government of Rajasthan and technical partners UNDP and UN in India on 4th and 5th March, 2024 in Jaipur. The two-day conference brought together senior government officials from 31 States and Union Territories and Government of India. The inaugural session included key addresses by Shri Suman Bery, Hon'ble Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K. Paul, Hon'ble Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Shri Sudhansh Pant, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan and Shri Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The objectives of the conference were to encourage States and UTs to take stock of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) localisation, exchange experiences on institutionalising the SDGs at the subnational level, explore the SDG finance landscape at the national and subnational level and charting a path for accelerating progress at the mid-point of the 2030 SDG agenda.



The second day of the workshop included technical sessions on SDG Monitoring, Institutionalisation of the SDGs, Financing the SDGs and Lessons from Localising SDGs in India.

To foster cross-learning and knowledge exchange, the conference included an SDG exhibition. It provided a platform for States and UTs to showcase their technical products on localisation at their respective SDG booths.



“This conference exemplifies NITI’s role as a platform for sharing the learnings and good practices on SDGs from across the country. This being a moment of acceleration, I am enormously heartened by how much innovation is taking place in the States and UTs in pushing the SDGs down to the district, block and local level,” said Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in his keynote address. *“This event is an example of NITI Aayog’s commitment to Cooperative Federalism. I would like to also thank our partners United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations (UN) in India for supporting innovative SDG efforts at the subnational level,”* he added.

Dr. V K Paul in his opening address remarked, *“We must relentlessly pursue the SDGs. This conference, I am sure, will not only focus on the goals which are low-hanging or the high-impact ones alone but also the tough ones as well.”*

Three knowledge portals, UNDP ‘SDG Knowledge hub’, ‘Food and Nutrition Security Analysis Dashboard’ of Government of Rajasthan, ‘SDG -2 (Zero Hunger) Dashboard’ of Government of Rajasthan were inaugurated by Shri Bhajanlal Sharma, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan in the presence of Shri Suman Bery, Hon’ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Dr. V.K. Paul, Hon’ble, Member, NITI Aayog.

The UNDP SDG Knowledge hub is a one-stop portal which brings together good practices, SDG indicator frameworks, SDG linked budgets, among other knowledge products produced by States and UTs.

Participation was ensured from senior government officials from 31 States and Union Territories; Central ministries like MoSPI, MDoNER, MoPR, and DEA and a multitude of international agencies, including UN, UNDP, WFP, and GIZ.



Outcomes

- NITI Aayog encouraged States and Union Territories to establish dedicated SDG cells within planning departments to coordinate and advise on localizing and accelerating the SDGs. The conference highlighted the effectiveness of the SDG Coordination Centre model at the state level and suggested its potential for expansion to other states.
- Tagging budgets to the SDGs is an important first step but more needs to be done to assess financing gaps. The conference highlighted the potential of leveraging private capital for SDGs and deploying innovative financial instruments, including sustainable finance capital and climate financing.
- Investing in capacities for the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs) is critical for successful SDG localization with an inclusion lens. The conference emphasised the importance of a 'whole of society' approach, which emphasises the importance of collective action for greater inclusion.
- It is crucial to set up effective monitoring systems for the SDGs. National Indicator framework (NIF) based on reliable, disaggregated data, is essential for developing action plans with relevant departments. The conference also mentioned the efforts of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in introducing the Local Indicator Framework (LIF) at the village level and measuring it through the Panchayat Development Index (PDI). It was suggested that aligning LIFs with State and District Indicator Frameworks (SIF & DIF) would ensure a cohesive SDG monitoring system.
- States were encouraged to set up SDG Centres/Cells and develop statistical systems for measuring SDG progress. Localisation of SDGs is paramount to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Post the workshop, States/UTs have developed strategic action plan and targeted interventions for implementing SDGs. Some States have accelerated their existing efforts through engagement with all relevant stakeholders, developed State/District/Block Indicator Frameworks for measuring SDG progress at districts and blocks.

State as a driver of Export Led Growth

Chandigarh

India is emerging as a highly prosperous and robust economy. The economy is expected to grow to a size of more than USD 4 trillion in FY 2024-25 and grow to USD 5 trillion in FY 2026-27. By 2030, India will be a USD 7 trillion economy, positioning itself as the 2nd largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region and the 3rd largest in the World economy. India's economic system has demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of the pandemic, and the implementation of meaningful and effective economic reforms has propelled its journey from an emerging economy to a "developed country" by 2047.

The state governments have played a pivotal role in expanding India's export growth trajectory. Over the year 2022-23, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as the top five states in India in absolute export numbers. Gujarat takes the lead with a share of 33%, followed by Maharashtra with 16%. Tamil Nadu's share stands at 9%, while Karnataka accounts for approximately 6%, and Uttar Pradesh contributes around 5%.



In this background, a One-day workshop on “States as Drivers of Export-led Growth” was organised in Chandigarh. The objectives of the Workshop were to enhance export preparedness among States and Union Territories by empowering stakeholders to identify strategies and improve parameters that impact a state's exports, to create a shared understanding of the various policy issues and implementation constraints, identify products and services with export potential, identify measures needed to build capacities to enhance quality of products, increase access to market, remedy the crucial gaps in export infrastructure at the state and District levels and suggest measures needed to create export hubs.

The Workshop was composed of three panel discussions on “A way towards Effective Participation of MSMEs”, “Strengthening Export Infrastructure & Logistics” and “States as Drivers of Exports and Service Export: Challenges and Opportunities”, a galaxy of speakers comprising experts from state governments, industry bodies, think tanks and industry representatives. The participants included the industry veterans, Government of Rajasthan, Government of Punjab, NITI Aayog, PHDCCI, Academicians also deliberated on the subjects.

Exports promote growth in a country by expanding markets, generating revenue, driving productivity improvements, and facilitating specialization, making them integral to the nation’s economic development. India aims to become a global export player by promoting its States and districts as export hubs by unlocking regional competitiveness and harnessing our regional diversity. The dynamic policy environment provided by the government along with efforts of the state government to connect with global value chains will enhance the export volumes in the coming times. India is sitting on a leap of opportunities and it is for us to in-cash them. India grows when the States grow.



Outcomes

Indian exports have demonstrated their tenacity by weathering the difficulties presented by supply-chain problems and geopolitical factors. India wants to keep up this momentum by pushing its states and districts as export hubs to establish itself as a major player in the global export market. It is acknowledged that India can increase its export potential by utilizing its natural diversity and releasing regional competitiveness. To propel the States and districts as engines of export growth there is a need for extended support and hand holding.

- Wider collaborations and engagements between Governments, particularly state governments, think tanks, industry bodies, and academia should be organised to provide a platform for interactions for capacity building and comprehensive deliberations relating to strategy building, policy formulation, and support for problem resolution, to promote states as export hubs.
- There is a need for harnessing the capacity of the large network of MSMEs in India as they form the backward linkage and major part of the supply chains for expanded

exports. MSME can lead the way to enhanced exports as engines of growth at the state and district levels; particular emphasis on women-led MSMEs needs to be laid.

- Adoption of best practices of leading export-oriented States, particularly districts, to promote states as export hubs need to be undertaken by states to expand their efficiencies and capacities.
- Export competitiveness primarily stems from the cost of exports. It is imperative that we concentrate on cost reduction to enhance states' competitiveness and secure a larger market share.
- Services should start taking a lead in the total export of states. Rapidly declining telecommunication costs, increasing internet adoption around the World, and the proliferation of broadband internet services have made it possible to deliver services across long distances. India can play to its strength in this arena and expand its services exports given the high penetration of internet usage and government reforms such as the JAM trinity, one of the lowest average cost of 1GB of mobile internet data globally and Bharatnet among others.



The Workshop with its series of deliberations highlighted numerous opportunities for states, districts in particular, to become export hubs. Exports are one of the ways by which companies can expand their horizon, where India has a large potential. This can be harnessed by expanding the Ease of doing exports and leveraging FTAs supported by the prudent and strategic reforms by the Government. This will propel states to face the challenges of scaling up the volumes, undertaking sustainable practices and implementing the ESG norms and reducing export costs, and become hubs of exports.

Improving the Innovation Aptitude and performance of the States and Union Territories

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the roadmap for Viksit Bharat at 2047 during his address to the Nation on the 76th Independence Day through the maxim, “When our States grow, India grows; this is the time for cooperative and competitive federalism.” Therefore, focusing on states as drivers of economic growth and employment is a crucial step towards bringing competitive cooperative federalism to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 (India’s GDP of US\$ 32 trillion by 2047).

In order to achieve the aspirational vision of becoming a developed nation during the next 25 years, states need to be at the forefront of driving the innovation ecosystem of the country. The role of the state as a critical growth inhibitor is critical. Indian states must invest in technology, infrastructure, and innovation to increase productivity and foster a business environment that encourages competition and creativity. This workshop aims to address the pressing need for fostering innovation at the state and union territory levels. With innovation playing a pivotal role in the growth and development of every nation, it is imperative to empower state governments and entities with the tools and knowledge to enhance their innovation capabilities.



As the first step, this workshop takes an important step towards the vision of Vikasit Bharat 2047. This workshop will serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of peer-to-peer learnings and best practises, and the development of strategies for fostering an innovative culture.

In addition to the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Dr. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, 5 Secretaries of the Government of India graced the occasion. Central Scientific Ministries/Departments viz. Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Department of Earth Sciences, Department of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, All States and UTs, IITs, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII, and Institute for Competitiveness participated in the workshop.



The following important points were highlighted during the Workshop:

- Creating ecosystem to support valley of death in innovation cycle, improving Innovation ranking through enabling Government policies, enabling ecosystem for innovation in the States by creating necessary infrastructure, providing adequate funding and develop human resources to carry out innovation related activities
- Focus innovation to make Viksit Bharat by 2047
- Codifying best practices for sharing with the states
- Institutionalising Innovation in the country
- Building capacity to develop home-grown solutions to the domestic problems
- Application of AI in domestic challenges
- Disruption in technologies to address global challenges
- “Blue Economy” for the sustainable utilization of ocean resources to address national and global challenges
- Emphasised on the economic significance of oceans, encompassing tourism, recreation, and the transportation of goods globally.

- Peaceful use of nuclear energy in Agriculture, health, power and water.

There were five panel discussions held at this workshop:

- i. Empowering Indian States: Unleashing Innovation Potential for Viksit Bharat @2047,
- ii. Innovative States: Showcasing Transformative Journeys,
- iii. Collaborative Innovation: States Partnering for Collective Growth,
- iv. Lessons Learned and Replicating Innovation Success Stories and
- v. Sharing of States' Best Practices.



Outcomes

Building a Self-Sufficient Innovation Ecosystem: Acknowledge the geopolitical importance of cultivating an independent innovation ecosystem, while addressing challenges in stakeholder unity and streamlining financing for collaborative development.

- **Comprehensive Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Framework:** Emphasise the significance of a comprehensive IPR framework and innovative patent policies, considering amendments for inclusivity across age groups and vital sectors like healthcare.
- **Institutionalizing Innovation:** Stress the necessity of institutionalizing innovation within the national framework, drawing insights from successful examples like the telecom revolution. Focus on business process innovation, nurturing a robust start-up ecosystem, and implementing a well-defined competition policy.
- **Strategic Use of AI:** Encourage a pragmatic use-case approach in artificial intelligence, urging organizations like NITI Aayog to creatively leverage AI for developmental challenges. Prioritise understanding how data regenerates and fine-tune AI in interpreting the evolving data landscape.
- **Promotion of Blue Economy:** Invest in research and development for the Blue Economy, promoting sustainable utilization of ocean resources for economic development, and providing support to various industries.

- **Emphasis on Innovation in Economic Development:** Highlight the role of creativity in generating ideas for economic development. Stress the importance of identifying, refining, and validating concepts in the innovation process. Recognise the crucial role of ecosystem support for idea commercialization and prototyping.
- **State-Level Innovation Strategies:** Encourage states to strategically position themselves by showcasing innovation assets, prioritizing goals beyond daily mandates, including academic excellence and fostering vibrant SME sectors. Promote innovative policymaking at the state level.
- **Promoting a “One-India” Approach:** Foster collaboration, grassroots capabilities, and an innovation-centric language with a united “One-India” approach. Prioritise tangible outcomes in the IPR ecosystem and innovation-focused parameters for states.
- **Active Involvement of MSMEs:** Recognise the pivotal role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the innovation landscape. Encourage their active involvement for a thriving innovation ecosystem.
- **Policy Sandbox Ecosystem and Education:** Embrace a policy sandbox ecosystem, challenging the legacy mindset. Prioritise education and skill development for a capable workforce. Encourage public-private partnerships to provide resources and infrastructure for innovation.
- **Cultural Shift towards Innovation:** Cultivate a procurement mindset prioritizing homegrown solutions. Promote a cultural shift from being a consumer to a producer of innovation. Advocate for a holistic approach to bridge the gap between importing and producing innovation.
- **Government’s Role in Fostering Innovation:** Advocate for a pro-innovation government, increase deep-tech capital, break down silos within the innovation ecosystem, and implement innovative policymaking with a shift towards output-based incentives.
- **Addressing Fragmentation in State-Level Innovation Policies:** Encourage states to develop overarching science and technology policies. Advocate for comprehensive innovation policies to bridge the fragmented nature of state-level policies.
- **Manufacturing Innovation:** Establish a “Making India Innovation Strategy” to enhance collaboration among states. Explore the success of open innovation challenges to foster collaboration between states.
- **Promoting Interstate Collaboration:** Amend the India Innovation Index to include a section on initiatives fostering cross-state collaboration. Explore innovative funding models to facilitate collaborative growth.

National Workshop on Strengthening Mental Health Services and Care in India

Bengaluru, Karnataka

The NITI Aayog conducted a National Workshop under the chairpersonship of Dr. V.K Paul, Hon'ble Member (Health), NITI Aayog. Mental disorders are a major public health concern in India. The National Mental Health Program (NMHP) has undergone major strategic revisions throughout its existence, from instituting a district as the entity for planning and implementation under the District Mental Health Program (DMHP), to integrating it with the National Rural Health Mission for the productive scale up of the program.



There are several other opportunities to strengthen mental health services across the districts including increasing the mental health workforce, promoting timely community-based care, understanding mental health needs of children, women and vulnerable age groups, making it crucial to ascertain a roadmap for overall strengthening of DMHP. The purpose of the workshop was to elicit the views of States and other stakeholders on existing gaps and challenges under the program and also to learn the best practices from a few States which can further be replicated in other States/UTs with their own contextualization. The sessions of the workshop were designed to clearly elucidate gaps and challenges in implementation of DMHP, Strengthening Primary Mental health care, Rights of people with mental illness, and new concepts and initiatives to be taken for transforming mental healthcare in India, by states and the way forward. The workshop was divided four sessions, beginning with technical presentations, a panel discussion followed by three round table discussions on important topics including:

- Transforming Mental Healthcare in India- Panel Discussion
- Strengthening DMHP ensuring availability of mental health services (Infrastructure, HR, Training, Treatment and IEC etc.) - Way forward- round table Discussion 1.
- Developing and scaling-up Primary Mental Healthcare through Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs -Round table Discussion 2 Rights of persons with mental illness, including reintegration, rehabilitation & empowerment - round table Discussion 3
- Rights of persons with mental illness, including reintegration, rehabilitation & empowerment - round table Discussion 3

The highlights of the workshop were the panel discussion chaired by Hon'ble Member Health, NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K Paul, Co-chaired by chairman National Medical Commission (NMC), Dr. B.N Gangadhar Sir on "Transforming Mental Healthcare in India" The panelist included Director NIMHANS, Dr. Pratima Murthy, Director IHBAS, Dr. Rajinder Dhamija and Social Scientist from TISS, Dr. Ketaki Ranade. Many insights, recommendations and thought-provoking learning emerged from the discussion to the participants.

The national-level workshop was graced by the presence of Chairman and President, National Medical Commission, Dr. B. N. Gangadhar; Economic Adviser, MoHFW, Smt. Indrani Kaushal; Director, NIMHANS, Dr. Pratima Murthy; Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Govt. of Karnataka, Shri Anil Kumar T. K.; senior officials from MoHFW, DGHS, ICMR, and 31 States/ UTs, as well as sectoral and technical experts from WHO India, UNICEF, and development partners who have been contributing in the space of primary healthcare and mental health.



Outcomes

Broad thematic areas and key takeaways from the workshop

- Revamping the existing NMHP with an overarching “National Mental Health Mission”.
- focused attention on the indicator of Unmet need for treatment for mental health patients in a time bound mission mode manner beginning with bringing it down to 40% from the existing 80% by 2027, 20% by 2030 and to 10% by 2035.
- Optimization of MD/DNB seats in state medical colleges/Private medical colleges, with a target setting of harnessing 1000 seats within next one year and further targeting induction of 20000 more psychiatrists in the system.
- An integrated approach and convergence of traditional systems of medicine, yoga and meditation with conventional systems of treatment.
- Utilizing the beds of Medical Health Establishments not only for treating but also for training and teaching.
- Comprehensive Service delivery Platform to provide continuum of mental healthcare beginning at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, PHCs, and CHCs to district hospitals under National Mental Health Mission.
- Suggestions to create dedicated cadre of mental health medical officers, use of mobile mental health services and strengthening counselling skills of CHOs. 8. Introduce tools to train primary mental healthcare providers on an algorithmic approach to screen, assess, identify, classify, counsel, treat and refer patients with mental illnesses.

Accelerating Manufacturing Growth in India

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

India's manufacturing sector holds immense potential for fostering economic growth, driving industrial diversification, enhancing export capabilities, and creating large-scale employment. At the state level, the manufacturing sector can play a pivotal role in advancing the country's structural transformation by generating opportunities, reducing dependency on imports, and strengthening the domestic supply chain. The focus on state-level manufacturing strategies not only promises to address regional economic disparities but also contributes to national objectives like economic self-reliance, GDP growth, and employment generation. As the global economic landscape shifts, India's states must be empowered to adopt innovative, efficient, and sustainable practices to boost their manufacturing capacities and compete globally.



In recognition of the crucial role state-level manufacturing plays in India's broader economic landscape, a workshop was organised aimed at bringing together key stakeholders, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss strategies, best practices, and the enabling role of government policies. This workshop aimed to create a collaborative platform for sharing insights and exploring ways in which India's states can accelerate the development of their manufacturing sectors. The event focused on two primary areas: the successful implementation of best practices in manufacturing at the state level and the importance of robust policy frameworks to support industrial growth and sustainability. NITI Aayog organised the workshop in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and AIGGPA, Madhya Pradesh.

The workshop witnessed the participation of key figures from leading states and industry participants, offering a diverse range of perspectives on enhancing manufacturing ecosystems. Under the guidance of experts from NITI Aayog and leading policymakers, the sessions provided invaluable insights into how states can unlock their manufacturing potential and contribute to India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

The workshop aimed to:

- Highlight and discuss the best practices and innovative strategies employed by leading states in India to foster the growth of the manufacturing sector, including infrastructure development, technological transformation, and alignment with global trends.
- Explore the vital role of government policy in supporting the establishment and growth of manufacturing units at the state level, focusing on policy alignment with regional strengths and industry needs.
- Identifying how states can build competitive advantage by offering incentives, attracting anchor industries, and building resilient supply chains.
- Address the importance of skill development, workforce health, and access to capital in ensuring the sustainable growth of manufacturing enterprises.
- Explore collaborative opportunities between large manufacturers and MSMEs, aiming to elevate manufacturing standards, enhance quality control, and introduce cutting-edge technologies in the industry.

Through these objectives, the workshop sought to empower states with knowledge and practical tools to enhance their manufacturing landscapes, fostering long-term economic stability and global competitiveness.

Session Details along with brief of every session

Segment 1

The first session of the workshop, 'Best Practices in State-Level Manufacturing,' highlighted the comprehensive and holistic endeavours undertaken by leading states to enhance manufacturing production and exports. Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Honourable Member of NITI Aayog, chaired the session, with Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Senior Adviser at NITI Aayog, serving as the moderator.

Attended by 45 participants from diverse states and leaders from industry chamber, the session featured distinguished speakers such as Shri Ajitabh Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries (Rajasthan), Shri B.K Shivakumar, Director, Department of Industries and Commerce (Karnataka), Shri Pranjal Yadav, Secretary, MSME (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Chandramauli Shukla, Managing Director, MP Industrial Development Corporation Limited (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Prashant Jilova, Additional Commissioner, Industries (Gujarat), and Shri Manash Pratim Rajkhowa, Additional Director, Transformation and Development (Assam).

The discourse emphasised the significant potential of the manufacturing sector at the state level in advancing India's overall economic development. Panellists engaged in discussions on the best practices employed by leading Indian states within their respective sectors of excellence, exploring topics such as focused industrial infrastructure, technological and digital transformation, sustainable manufacturing practices, and alignment with global trends. Noteworthy measures included the development of industrial parks, special economic zones, logistics and transportation networks, and digital infrastructure to attract investments.

Furthermore, emphasis was placed on the integration of automation, artificial intelligence, and digitalization to enhance competitiveness. Sustainable manufacturing practices, encompassing resource efficiency, renewable energy adoption, waste management, and environmentally friendly production processes, were also highlighted. The strategic alignment of manufacturing approaches with emerging global trends, spanning technology, digital transformation, sustainable practices, supply chain resilience, and diversification, was a key focus for the leading states.



Segment 2

The second session, 'Manufacturing Gap Assessment' highlighted the importance of policy in supporting industries and underscored the role government support in establishment stage of manufacturing units. Many state-specific policy proposals were put forward by industry participants. States can build a policy structure aligning to their strengths in terms of their resource base to attract investments in manufacturing. Further, building a competitive spirit amongst states over offering better incentives than others would bring out of the box solutions to industry problems. Attracting anchor industries which can act as a customer to other manufacturers and in effect set a chain reaction for building supply chain ecosystem was another suggestion put forward. India must also think not only of manufacturing for India but for the world. This will instil cost competitiveness and quality consciousness matching global standards right from inception stage. Value of seed money and capital continues to remain of primary importance for establishment of manufacturing enterprises. Availability of credit at competitive rates will ensure dreams of building manufacturing enterprises are realised. Manufacturing cannot be sustained without a healthy and skilled workforce. Investments in better health and early skill education is an area where states need to continue investing. Further, role of bigger manufacturers can contribute towards enhancement of manufacturing output was also highlighted. Large manufacturers can connect with MSMEs and impart quality control techniques and help in adoption of newer technologies. The session was attended by a total of 41 participants.



Outcomes

- **Achieving State-Level Manufacturing Potential:** The manufacturing sector at the state level is a powerful catalyst for India's overall economic development, driving GDP growth, structural transformation, and export expansion. Strengthening state-level manufacturing can enhance domestic supply chains, reduce import dependency, and bolster economic security.
- **Best Practices in Manufacturing:** Leading Indian states have successfully implemented key strategies to boost manufacturing, including the development of industrial parks, special economic zones (SEZs), and robust logistics and transportation networks. These infrastructure improvements are critical for attracting investments and enhancing manufacturing output. Further, the integration of automation, artificial intelligence, and digitalization is essential to remain competitive globally. States are leveraging these technologies to modernise manufacturing processes and increase efficiency.
- **Enhancing Sustainability in Manufacturing:** Sustainable manufacturing practices are becoming central to modern industrial development. States are adopting resource-efficient methods, renewable energy sources, waste management techniques, and environmentally friendly production processes to meet global environmental standards while boosting competitiveness.
- **Global Trends and Strategic Alignment:** States need to align their manufacturing approaches with global trends, focusing on digital transformation, technology adoption, and sustainability. Embracing these trends will help states enhance their competitiveness and ensure their manufacturing sectors are resilient and adaptable to future challenges.
- **Role of Government Policy:** Government policies play a critical role in fostering the establishment and growth of manufacturing units. States must design policies that align with their unique resource strengths, and the competitive spirit between states can encourage innovative solutions to common industry challenges.

- Proposals to attract anchor industries, which can act as demand generators for local manufacturers, are vital for building integrated and resilient supply chain ecosystems. India must also focus on manufacturing for global markets, ensuring cost competitiveness and high-quality standards from the very inception of manufacturing enterprises.
- **Importance of Capital and Credit Availability:** Access to affordable capital and credit remains a key determinant in the establishment and growth of manufacturing units. Offering competitive interest rates and seed funding for new ventures will help bring innovative ideas to life and foster entrepreneurial growth in the manufacturing sector.
- **Promoting Skilled Workforce and Healthcare Investments:** For long-term manufacturing sustainability, investments in workforce health and skills development are essential. States must continue investing in early education and vocational training to ensure a steady supply of skilled labor that meets the evolving demands of modern manufacturing.
- **Collaboration Between Large Manufacturers and MSMEs:** Larger manufacturers have a significant role to play in supporting the growth of MSMEs by sharing quality control practices, technology adoption, and best manufacturing techniques. This collaboration can elevate the entire manufacturing ecosystem and help MSMEs enhance their competitiveness and quality standards.
- **Policy Incentives and Competitive Spirit:** Encouraging healthy competition among states through better incentives, tax breaks, and subsidies can drive state-specific innovation and lead to more effective solutions for manufacturing challenges. States that tailor their policies to their strengths, resources, and industry needs are likely to attract more investments.
- **Focus on Global Manufacturing Standards:** India's manufacturing sector must prioritise producing goods that meet international standards. This focus on quality and cost competitiveness will help Indian products find a strong foothold in global markets, further positioning India as a hub for global manufacturing.

In summary, the workshop underscored the need for a collaborative and multi-faceted approach to advancing state-level manufacturing. By combining technological innovation, sustainable practices, supportive policies, and a skilled workforce, states can play a critical role in driving India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse.

Expanding Quality Higher Education through State Public Universities

New Delhi

NITI Aayog organised a National Conference on 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through State Public Universities' on Thursday, 2nd November 2023 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Over 50 Vice Chancellors and senior academics from State Public Universities of 20 States and Union Territories across India and Chairpersons of select State Higher Education Councils participated in the day-long conference that focused on four broad themes including Quality, Funding and Financing, Governance, and Employability.

The welcome address was delivered by Shri Rajib Sen, Senior Adviser (Education), NITI Aayog. Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, delivered the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session of the Conference. NITI Aayog Members Dr. V.K. Saraswat and Dr. V.K. Paul, Prof. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC, and Prof. G.D. Sharma, President, Association of Indian Universities (AIU) also spoke during the Inaugural Session.



The first session of the Conference focused on the thematic area of Quality. Prof. R. Limbadri, Chairman of the Telangana State Higher Education Council, delivered the keynote. Vice Chancellor (VC) of National Law University Delhi Prof. Bajpai spoke on the theme of Improving Quality of Higher Education and Research in State Public Universities. VC of National Law University Jodhpur Prof. Kaur spoke on Digitalization of Higher Education, and VC of Savitribai Phule Pune University Prof. Gosavi spoke on Promoting Internationalization of Higher Education. Prof. Khan from University of Kashmir, and Prof. Agsar from Gulbarga University also presented their ideas on the theme.

The second session delved into the area of Funding and Financing. Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice

Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Higher Education Council delivered the keynote and shared global best practices from USA and Europe. Prof. Rai, VC of University of Lucknow shared his experiences on Financing of Higher Education in State Public Universities, and Prof. Reddy, VC of S.V. University Tirupati made observations on Future Focus Areas for RUSA. Dr. Gupta, VC of Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal, and Prof. Ramana, VC of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, Basar, made brief presentations on their experiences of financing in technical universities.

The third thematic session of the conference focused on Governance. The inaugural and concluding keynotes were delivered by Odisha State Higher Education Council Vice Chairman Prof. Das and Haryana State Higher Education Council Chairman Prof. Sharma. Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University VC Prof. Verma spoke elaborately on Improving Governance and Autonomy of State Public Universities. Haridev Joshi University of Journalism and Mass Communication VC Prof. Sudhi Rajiv shared insights on Recruitment and Capacity Building of Faculty and Administrators. Prof. Kunnamal, VC of University of Kerala, and Dr Gupta, VC of Gujarat University shared their regional experiences.



The fourth and final session of the Conference was on the theme of Employability. Prof. Reddy, Chairman of Andhra Pradesh State Higher Education Council delivered the keynote. Dr. Dev, VC of Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women shared insights on her university's experiences with Skilling and Employability Enhancement for Students across Streams. Prof. Kulkarni, VC of University of Mumbai elaborated on how his university has facilitated Academia-Industry Collaboration in innovative ways. Prof. Jagannathan, VC of Periyar University, Prof. Tripathi, VC of Uttarakhand Ayurved University, Lt. Gen. Cheema, VC of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University and Dr. Jayakar, VC of Bangalore University shared employability insights in the context of their respective institutions.

The conference concluded with detailed Conference Takeaways presented by Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of AIU. Dr. Shashank Shah, Senior Specialist (Higher Education), NITI Aayog, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The Conference was organised as part of an ongoing consultation exercise with diverse stakeholders to explore innovative and impactful ways of strengthening the quality and outcomes of State Public Universities across India in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020. The findings from these elaborate consultations form the basis of the NITI Policy Report on 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities'.

Outcomes

A. Quality

- **Role of State Public Universities:** NEP 2020 aims to bolster access, relevance, and quality in education. %81 of students are in State Public Universities and affiliated colleges, hence the burden of quality lies more on these Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- **Capacity Building:** Capacity building of faculty will be instrumental in improving the quality of higher education. Capacity building needs to be done in using technology, writing impactful research projects, proposals for grants, etc. There should be capacity building of the academic leadership as well - i.e., training on being efficient Vice Chancellors.
- **Resource Optimisation:** Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) must strive for optimal resource utilization, ensuring efficient allocation for better outcomes. Currently, there is underutilisation of resources, for instance, %85 of the time the laboratories are lying idle.
- **Publication Quality:** HEIs must shift the focus from quantity to quality in academic publications by promoting rigorous standards.
- **Proactive State Councils:** There is a need to enhance the proactive role of State Higher Education Councils and empower them in ensuring and assessing the quality of teaching.
- **Teaching Quality:** The quality of teaching should be measured. To do this, there can be a ranking of universities based on how good they are as teaching universities. There should also be incentives for good teachers.
- **Improving Digital Infrastructure:** This is vital to facilitate advanced learning methods, including blended learning and flipped classrooms. This can be done by ensuring that every student has devices, bandwidth, and internet access.
- **Internationalization:** There is a need to promote international collaborations to elevate the overall quality of education. The AIU is creating an All-India Network on International Higher Education for the purpose of hand holding other universities.

B. Funding and Financing

- **Increase Budget Allocation:** Currently around %4.5 of GDP is being spent on education. However, at least %6 of GDP should be spent on education as recommended by various commissions from the Kothari Commission in 1964 to the NEP in 2020.
- **Funding of State Public Universities:** This is low as compared to Central Universities. A funding model based on the number of students at the university can be followed.
- **RUSA Evaluation:** There is a need to evaluate the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), now PM-USHA, and scrutinise the utilization of its funds.
- **External Resource Mobilisation:** HEIs must explore avenues for external resource mobilisation through consultancy and other means. When there is performance-linked funding, it is essentially increasing the gap between the good and bad universities. There should also be flexibility to enhance CSR funding for higher education.
- **Autonomous Status Impact:** State Governments must examine the potential impact on the revenue model of State Public Universities if the affiliate colleges are granted autonomous status. Moreover, the capacity building of potential universities to become autonomous must also be a priority area.

C. Governance

- **Appointment Processes:** There is a need to strengthen the processes related to the appointment of Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, and faculty members. Like the UGC, the State Councils for Higher Education should be empowered to sanction posts and allocate funds instead of the State Government.
- **Explore PPP:** There is a need to explore if State Public Universities can work in PPP mode like IIITs. There is a need to increase private sector participation in the State Public Universities.
- **Utility Charges:** Currently, Universities are charged at commercial rates for electricity and water. State Public Universities may not be treated as commercial entities as education is considered as a social good.
- **Rule Amendments:** There is a need to outline transparent processes for making amendments in university rules and ensure increased participation of academicians.

D. Employability

- **Internships:** NEP has made internship mandatory. Hence, an Internship Bank should be created in universities to help students fetch internships.
- **Industry Collaboration:** University and industry collaboration should be promoted through industry bodies and associations like CII, NASSCOM, and AIU. Multinational companies can also be roped in to give professional certification to students.
- **Professor of Practice Roles:** There is a need to build on the introduction of “Professor of Practice” roles in HEIs to bridge the gap between academia and industry. Universities should also create qualified trainers who can impart training to people in different sectors and age groups to facilitate lifelong learning.

Notes



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