

NITI Aayog

The Planning Commission which has a legacy of 65 years has been replaced by the NITI Aayog. The utility and significance of the Planning Commission had been questioned for a longer period. The replacement seems to be more relevant and responsive to the present economic needs and scenario in the country. The Government of India's premier policy think tank, NITI Aayog was launched in 2015 to provide directional, policy and relevant technical advice to the Centre, States, and Union Territories. In addition, it was enacted to design strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government.

NITI Aayog Chairman – Shri Narendra Modi

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman – Shri Suman Bery (May 1, 2022 – present) is the current Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog.

• **NITI Aayog Evolution-**

- The NITI Aayog was formed on January 1, 2015. In Sanskrit, the word “NITI” means morality, behaviour, guidance, etc. But, in the present context, it means policy and the NITI stands for “National Institution for Transforming India”.
- It is the country's premier policy-making institution that is expected to bolster the economic growth of the country.
- It aims to construct a strong state that will help to create a dynamic and strong nation. This helps India to emerge as a major economy in the world.
- The NITI Aayog's creation has two hubs called “**Team India Hub**” and “**Knowledge and Innovation Hub**”.
- **Team India:** It leads to the participation of Indian states with the central government.
- **The Knowledge and Innovation Hub:** it builds the institution's think tank capabilities.

• **Objectives of NITI Aayog-**

The objectives of NITI Aayog comprise of the following points:

- Help the states actively participate in national objectives and help create a national plan.

- To boost cooperative federalism with the help of state initiatives of support and means from the states.
- To develop methods to create a reliable strategy in villages and accumulate them at a higher level.
- To create an economic policy to incorporate national security goals.
- To especially consider the parts of society that are probably not profiting from economic progress.
- To develop long-term initiatives, strategies and frameworks, and review their effectiveness regularly.
- To give advice and encourage the partnerships of significant stakeholders, national and international think tanks, educational and research institutions.
- To build a community of national and international experts who will generate knowledge, innovation, and entrepreneurial support.
- To create a platform to resolve issues between different sectors and departments, speeding up the achievement of the progressive agenda.
- To build a Resource Centre- a centre of research of good governance, and build the best methods for the sustainable and equitable development of India.
- To efficiently screen and assess the implementation of all initiatives and programs, including identifying all required resources to bolster the chances of success.
- To give attention to technology improvement and build the capacity to discharge all programs and initiatives.
- To take up all necessary activities to implement the national development plan and other objectives.

- **The 7 Pillars of NITI Aayog-**

NITI Aayog has been built upon 7 pillars of effective governance. They are as follows:

1. Pro-people: It accomplishes the needs of society and its people
2. Pro-activity: It is active in its anticipation and response to the needs of citizens
3. Participation: It involves the participation of all citizens
4. Empowering: It empowers the citizens, especially women, in all spheres

5. Inclusion of all: It includes all citizens, irrespective of their gender, race, or caste
6. Equality: It provides equal opportunity to all, especially to the youth of the country
7. Transparency: It aims to make the government visible and responsive to all citizens.

- **Composition of NITI Aayog**

NITI Aayog consists of the following members:

- The chairperson is India's Prime Minister.
- The governing council comprises the Chief Ministers of every state in India, and Lt. governors of all union territories.
- Regional councils are created by the Prime minister for a fixed term to deal with specific issues that may affect the flow of activities in more than one state. It comprises the Chief Ministers from all states and Lt. governors of all the union territories.
- Special invitees include eminent experts and specialists with relevant domain knowledge, whom the Prime Minister invites.
- NITI Aayog also has a vice-chairperson, nominated by India's present Prime Minister, full-time and part-time members (maximum two members), ex officio members (maximum 2 members elected by the president and his council of ministers), and a Chief Executive Officer who is once again selected by the PM on a fixed term.

- **Achievements of NITI Aayog-**

The achievements of NITI Aayog are as follows:

- The Government of India set up a collaborative research program between NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations to monitor India's Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) programme. Running between 23rd September and 31 December 2019, the first phase of MAFAP monitors and reforms food and agricultural policies.
- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and technical support from the World Bank, has been leading the Health Index initiative since 2017.

- It promotes Zero Budget Natural Farming.
- It promoted the ‘Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati’ programme that falls under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- It has conceptualised the village storage scheme. It has also proposed the Dhaanya Lakshmi Village Storage Scheme, which is yet to be implemented.

References-

1. Park K. Park's textbook of preventive and social medicine. 25th ed. Bhanot Publishers; 2019.
2. Dash B. A Comprehensive Textbook Of Community Health Nursing. 1st ed. New Delhi: Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd; 2017.
3. PMINDIA [Internet]. [cited 2023 May 21]. Available from: https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/major_initiatives/niti-aayog-transforming-indias-development-agenda/
4. Financing India's energy transition [Internet]. [cited 2023 May 21]. Available from: <https://niti.gov.in/>
5. Niti Aayog [Internet]. Wikimedia Foundation; 2023 [cited 2023 May 21]. Available from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NITI_Aayog