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NITI Aayog

ANNUAL
REPORT
2019–20

5 YEARS OF NITI AAYOG

NITI Aayog

ANNUAL REPORT

2019–20

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CONSTITUTION AND COMPOSITION OF NITI AAYOG

National Institution for Transforming India, also known as NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs. Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre, states and union territories (UTs).

NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform for the Government of India to bring states to act together in national interest, and thereby fosters cooperative federalism.

On 6 June 2019, the Prime Minister approved the reconstitution of NITI Aayog.

PRESENT COMPOSITION OF NITI AAYOG

1. Chairperson: Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
2. Vice Chairperson: Dr Rajiv Kumar
3. Full-Time Members:
   (i) Dr VK Saraswat
   (ii) Dr Ramesh Chand
   (iii) Dr VK Paul
4. Ex-officio Members:
   (i) Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence
   (ii) Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs
   (iii) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs
   (iv) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; Minister of Panchayati Raj
5. Special Invitees:
   (i) Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
   (ii) Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
   (iii) Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry
   (iv) Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Planning.

OBJECTIVES OF NITI AAYOG

To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states, NITI Aayog works towards the following objectives:

- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the states on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong states make a strong nation.
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of the government.
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national

security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded think tanks, as well as educational and policy-research institutions.
- To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.
- To offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter¬-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- To maintain a state-of-the-art resource centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holders.
- To actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.
- To focus on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.
- To undertake other activities as may be necessary in order to further the execution of the national development agenda, and the objectives mentioned above.
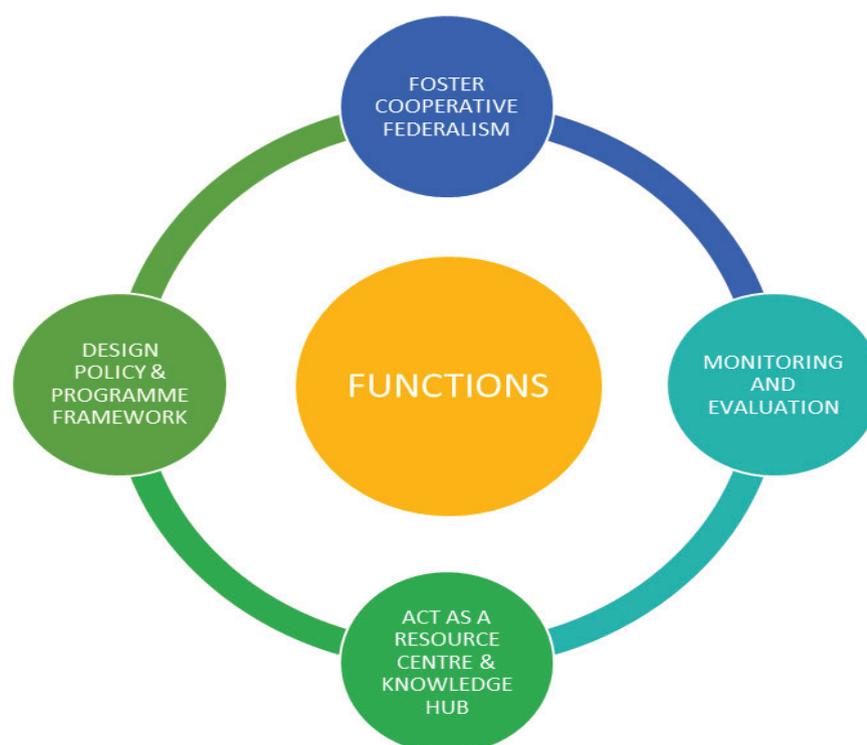
NITI Aayog's entire gamut of activities is divided into two main hubs: Team India Hub and Knowledge and Innovation Hub. The two hubs are at the core of NITI's efficient functioning. The Team India Hub carries out the mandate of fostering cooperative federalism and designing policy and programme frameworks. It provides requisite coordination and support framework to NITI Aayog in its engagement with the states. The Knowledge and Innovation Hub ensures fulfillment of the mandate of maintaining a state-of-the-art resource centre; to be a repository of research of good governance and best practices and their dissemination to stakeholders; and to provide advice and encourage partnerships across key stakeholders, including colleges, universities, think tanks and non-governmental organizations at home and abroad.

The Team India Hub consists of six verticals, and the Knowledge and Innovation Hub, ten verticals. The list of verticals is as below:

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

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT UNITS

The administration in NITI Aayog functions in accordance with the service rules and existing Government of India instructions through the nodal department, i.e. Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), on issues related to personnel management of employees working in NITI Aayog. The administration is concerned with all aspects of service conditions of officers and staff, viz. recruitment, promotion, postings, transfers, retirement, deputation, court cases related to service matters, besides providing information under the RTI Act on these matters. It is also entrusted with the responsibilities relating to an internship scheme for students pursuing undergraduate/postgraduate degrees or who are research scholars enrolled in any recognized university/institution in India or abroad.

During the year, the NITI administration circulated five posts of senior adviser/adviser in flexi pool. After screening/shortlisting the candidates, interviews were conducted by a selection committee and consequently, three people were selected. The proposal for appointment of these three candidates was sent to DoPT for obtaining the approval of ACC thereon. Subsequently, four posts of senior adviser/adviser in the Knowledge and Innovation Hub were also circulated.

Additionally, five posts of deputy adviser and two posts of joint adviser were advertised by the composite method of deputation/promotion. The entire process of screening and completion of requisite documents—cadre clearance, vigilance clearance, integrity certificate, APARs, etc.—was completed and interviews were conducted by the UPSC in October 2019. Four internal candidates recommended by the UPSC, for appointment on promotion, have been appointed and an offer letter issued to the external candidate for appointment by deputation. Further, 44 posts of senior specialist, specialist, senior associate and associate in flexi pool were advertised.

The administration also took timely action in filling up various other vacancies in posts encadred with other departments and under the Central Staffing Scheme.

Keeping in view the mandate of NITI Aayog to function as a think tank, which requires greater flexibility in hiring of personnel, it is essential to have young professionals (YPs), consultants, senior consultants who possess the expertise. These young professionals, consultants, senior consultants are expected to deliver in areas such as communications, developmental policy, economics, finance, education, social sciences, engineering, urban planning, infrastructure, etc.

NITI Aayog has completed the process of engagement for the positions of 60 YPs, 12 innovation leads, one Consultant (Editor) and two Public Policy Analysts. Apart from this, the process of hiring one Monitoring and Evaluation Expert (Senior Consultant), two Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists (Consultant grade-II) and six Monitoring and Evaluation Leads (Consultant grade-I) for the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), an attached office of NITI Aayog, is underway.

Consequent upon the recommendations of the task-force report and restructuring of NITI Aayog, the amendment of recruitment rules for GCS (governing council secretariat) posts is being carried out. During the current year, the recruitment rules of assistant library and information officer, protocol assistant, staff car driver and departmental canteen staff have already been notified in the Gazette of India. Apart from this, guidelines for flexi-pool posts have also been issued.

The internship scheme initiated by NITI Aayog in 2016 continued in 2019–20 in accordance with the revised NITI internship guidelines dated 22 November 2018. Further, in pursuance of the guidelines a comprehensive internship portal was developed, which enabled decentralization and streamlining of the NITI internship scheme, thus leading to efficiency and effectiveness. The scheme seeks to engage students pursuing undergraduate/postgraduate degrees or research scholars enrolled in any recognized university/institute within India or abroad as interns. These interns are given exposure to various verticals/divisions/units within NITI Aayog.

OFFICES ATTACHED TO NITI AAYOG

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) was constituted on 18 September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and notified as an attached office under the aegis of NITI Aayog for fulfilling the mandate of evaluation and monitoring tasks assigned to NITI Aayog.
(Details in Section C: Monitoring and Evaluation)

National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development

The National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) is a central autonomous organization under NITI Aayog. It was set up in 1962 in the name of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research. The Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog serves as the President of its general council, and the CEO, NITI Aayog, as the chairperson of the Executive Council of NILERD. Currently, the Senior Adviser of the governance and research vertical, NITI Aayog, is holding additional charge as Director General of the Institute. The primary objectives of this institution are research, data collection, and education and training programmes in all aspects of human capital planning, human resource development, monitoring and evaluation.

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has been working on several matters that influence the economy of the country. The Council has been advising the Prime Minster/Prime Minister's Office on economic issues from time to time. It has submitted various reports such as the Beekeeping Development Committee Report, financial restructuring of L&T Special Steel and Heavy Forgings Pvt. Limited, continuation of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) for three Years from 2017–20, continuation of the Small Hydro-Power Development Programme for the period 2019–20, northeastern region development, Atal Innovation Mission, etc.

Other matters that are being examined by the EAC-PM include blue economy, gender and child budgeting, infrastructure financing, health/education/women and child development, review/merger of sector regulatory authorities, widening insurance coverage, skill development & employment and trade development.

Consequent upon completion of the two-year term, the EAC-PM has been reconstituted for a period of two years or until further orders w.e.f. 26 September 2019 with the following:

1. Dr Bibek Debroy: Chairman
2. Shri Ratan P Watal: Member Secretary
3. Dr Ashima Goyal: Part-time Member
4. Dr Sajjid Chinoy: Part-time Member
5. Shri Neelkanth Mishra: Part-time Member
6. Shri Nilesh Shah: Part-time Member
7. Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran: Part-time Member

POLICY AND PROGRAMME
FRAMEWORK

POLICY AND PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

1. Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme
2. Nutrition Sector Reforms
3. Health Sector Reforms
4. Agriculture Sector Reforms
5. Higher Education Reforms
6. Energy Sector Reforms
7. Transforming India's Gold Market

INTRODUCTION

NITI Aayog plays an integrative role with the active involvement of states, civil society and other think tanks in the development of a shared vision of national priorities and strategies in critical areas of human and economic development.

One of the main objectives of NITI Aayog is, 'To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy.' NITI is taking the lead in setting up sectoral targets and fostering an environment of innovation and cooperation. The attempt is to bring innovation, technology, enterprise and efficient management together at the core of policy formulation and implementation.

TRANSFORMATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

January 2020 marks two years of successful implementation of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), unleashed through synergizing the efforts of all stakeholders—Central and state governments, district administration, non-governmental organizations, private partners, civil society and the masses. It is here that NITI Aayog plays the role of anchoring this Programme by collecting monthly data on 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from 112 identified districts and ranking them on the incremental progress made in the past one month. As up to 14% of India's population resides in these 112 districts, the very reach and impact of the ADP makes it the largest data-driven laboratory for governance reforms.

The edifice of the Aspirational Districts Programme rests on three pillars: (1) bringing convergence in Central and state schemes; (2) fostering collaboration between the Central and state governments and the district administration; and (3) promoting competition among the aspirational districts. These goals are effectuated through coordination between three main actors: NITI Aayog, the Central and state prabhari officers and the district teams led by the district magistrate/collector (DM/DC).

NITI Aayog's role includes (1) coordinating and facilitating 112 districts, prabhari officers, line ministries, state governments and other stakeholders; (2) running the 'Champions of Change' dashboard and monthly ranking of districts; (3) reviewing and monitoring the Programme by the empowered committee of secretaries; and (4) sharing the best practices with other districts for replication. Central prabhari officers act as a permanent link between the district team and NITI Aayog by providing regular ground reports for identification of challenges and strategies for their resolution. On the other hand, state prabhari officers ensure convergence of the state's welfare schemes with the overall mission of the Programme. The district team, led by the DM/DC, is the primary actor for (1) implementing the Programme; (2) collecting and uploading data on the dashboard and (3) formulating plans of action/project proposals in coordination with the project management unit at NITI Aayog.

Over the past two years, the Programme has matured and shown promising signs of long-term success. For instance, a vast plethora of innovative best practices has cropped up, across all sectors, in these districts. NITI Aayog discharges its mandate of bridging information asymmetries by regularly sharing the success stories of such best practices with other districts and the public at large through emails, letters and social media. By creating a bank of best practices, it complements the plans and vision of multifarious districts' administration and disperses essential information on these practices for their replication by other districts grappling with similar challenges.

In the past two years, the ADP has led to clear and consistent improvement in various critical performance indicators across these districts. The pace of change has varied but the direction is clear: numbers of antenatal care (ANC) registrations have shot up, positively affecting the maternal and infant mortality rates. Similarly, the number of schools with functional girls' toilets are close to attaining saturation. The Programme has also given a fillip to the enrolment rates of Central schemes like the Atal Pension Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana. Perhaps the biggest achievement of the Programme so far has been to successfully break the vicious cycle of low growth and low motivation in these districts by infusing fresh energy,

enthusiasm and hope in the district teams. Dynamic officers are now routinely posted to these districts to take up the challenge of bringing transformative changes under the umbrella of ADP.

As the ADP enters its third year, the state governments are in the process of extending this model of data-driven governance to the block-level and also setting time-bound targets for the aspirational districts to match the state average values for all the KPIs. Apart from the design of ADP itself, such additional measures are also meant to give further thrust to bring governance reforms through the promotion of healthy competition among pockets of under-development.

NUTRITION SECTOR REFORMS

1.   Second Bi-Annual Report on POSHAN Abhiyaan

The technical support unit of the Women and Child Development division has been mandated with the responsibility of preparing the biannual reports to appraise the progress of POSHAN Abhiyaan. Under this mandate, the second biannual report was prepared and shared with the Prime Minister's Office. It contains an Implementation Index reflecting the status of states and union territories for implementation of the Abhiyaan.

Engagement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) under POSHAN Abhiyaan

To mobilize Panchayati Raj Institution (village council) members as nutrition champions, NITI Aayog and Ministry of Women and Child Development have partnered with National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), UNICEF and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), TATA Trusts, Piramal Foundation for training 30 lakh representatives across the country. In phase 1, the training will cover close to 1,00,000 PRI members from 25 aspirational districts spread across 7 states. The ambition of this initiative is to mobilize such members to take greater ownership of the Abhiyaan in their community and personalize the nutrition narrative as *'Hamari Gram Panchayat ki Poshan Kahani' ('Our Gram Panchayat's Poshan Story').*

Conceptualization and Conduct of Rashtriya POSHAN Maah in September 2019

NITI Aayog played a pivotal role in conceptualizing and conducting Rashtriya POSHAN *Maah* and POSHAN *Pakhwada* across the country in the months of March and September 2019 to turn this into a *jan andolan*. The purpose of celebrating the POSHAN month is to take the message of nutrition to every nook and corner of the country. POSHAN Maah 2019 had five components: first 1,000 days of the child, *Anaemia-Mukt Bharat*, Diarrhoea Prevention, WASH (or wash, sanitation and hygiene), and paushtik aahaar (wholesome food). Stakeholders across India organized various activities and reached out to more than 50 crore people (cumulative) at the grassroots level.

2.   National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan

This apex body formulates overall policies and guides and monitors all nutrition-based schemes, highlighting the life-cycle approach. It coordinates and reviews convergence among ministries for providing policy directions to address India's nutrition challenges. In 2019, the National Council met twice and focused on the following:

i. Expeditious procurement of smartphones and growth devices by the states and union territories as per the provision under POSHAN Abhiyaan. The procurement status to be monitored on a weekly basis. The status report and timelines for procurement of devices and measures taken to expedite the same to be presented by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)to NITI's Vice Chairman. As on 25 November 2019, 49.6% of smartphones, 56.06% of infantometers, 54.67% of stadiometers, 53.2% of weighing scales (infant) and 56.36% of weighing scales (M&C) had been procured.

ii. Importance of behavioural changes among mothers, teachers and *anganwadi* workers to meet their targets on nutrition. A behavioural policy unit has been established at NITI Aayog to achieve the mandated targets.

iii. A decision was made to conduct a pilot study on cash transfer in lieu of take-home ration under ICDS to assess the effectiveness of cash vs in-kind transfers in two project blocks in two districts each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It was decided to monitor and evaluate the pilot in a rigorous scientific manner to enable generation of credible evidence for further policy direction.

3.   Work Related to National Technical Board of Nutrition (NTBN)

Under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog Member Dr V.K. Paul, the National Technical Board of Nutrition was constituted to provide technical, responsive and evidence-based recommendations on policy-relevant issues concerning nutrition for women and children. The third board meeting of the National Technical Board of Nutrition was held on 12 April 2019. It was a scientific consultation on childhood and adolescent overweight obesity in India. Likewise, the fourth meeting was conducted on 31 July 2019 to discuss the following issues:

i. Pilot study to be conducted on conditional cash transfer
ii. Periodicity of measurement and recording of height at AWCs

HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS

1.   Ayushman Bharat/Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

NITI Aayog did detailed groundwork on conceptualizing PMJAY, which led to its announcement in the Union Budget. NITI also played a role in shaping the organizational and governance structure of the National Health Authority for smooth implementation of the scheme.

a)   Healthcare Provisioning and Investments in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities

With the launch of PMJAY and 500 million beneficiaries, there will be requirement of 0.64 million additional beds over the next 10 years. Currently, the country has 14,379 hospitals with 6.34 lakhs beds. We need 3 times more growth but focusing primarily on tiers 2 and 3 cities. Private players (both for profit and not for profit) have a key role to play in bridging the supply–demand gap in health infrastructure while advancing standards of care. This highlights the need for more hospitals to be built at a faster pace. Considering the urgent need to provide access to hospital care—particularly secondary and tertiary care for the poor and the excluded sections of the society—NITI Aayog, in consultation with private health insurers, is working towards leveraging the capacity available with

private players in the healthcare sector, and understanding the fiscal limitation of the government and complexities involved in acquiring land for the construction of hospitals and regulatory/statutory compliances.

b)   Development of Contributory Insurance Scheme for Population outside PMJAY

As per the 71st round of the NSSO survey, 80% of Indians are not covered under any health insurance plan and only 18% (government-funded 12%) of the urban population and 14% (government-funded 13%) of rural population are covered. PMJAY covers 40% of the population. It is envisaged to provide health cover to the remaining population. NITI Aayog is working towards evolving a scheme to cover this uncovered population, which is characteristically not poor and often referred to as the 'deprived above-poverty-line class. This segment of the population, despite having the financial capacity for contribution, remains prone to catastrophic health expenditure that can essentially push them below the poverty line. A large part of this 'missing middle' is engaged in the informal sector and mostly based in urban areas.

2.   Reforms in Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Sector

a)   Pharmaceutical Pricing Reforms

The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products (SCAMHP) was constituted by the Central government on 21 January 2019, under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr VK Paul, to give recommendations to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regarding prices of drugs and health products. The Committee could also take up a matter for examination suo moto or on request or recommendation by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, NPPA, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Trade Margin Rationalization (TMR): The first meeting of the Committee was held in February 2019 to discuss the framework for fixation of prices for non-scheduled drugs through the trade-margin-capping route. With approval from SCAMHP, in March 2019, NPPA piloted trade margin rationalization (TMR) by invoking the powers under para 19 of Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO) 2013 for 42 non-scheduled, anti-cancer drugs. The pilot was successful in accruing savings of Rs 984 crore per annum and in curbing unethical profiteering with more than 500 brands showing a price reduction of up to 91%.

b)   Ease-of-Doing Business

i.   Streamlining the process of approval of new drug regulation: The process of approval of new drug regulation requires recommendation of different bodies—Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), etc. Following the decision taken at NITI, key actions were initiated by the relevant ministries. They include:

- The task of developing guidelines for therapeutic use (commercial use) of stem cells and cell-based products.
- Gene-therapy resear ch guidelines have been developed by ICMR and released publicly on 19 November 2019.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified the Draft New Drug and Clinical Trial Rules 2018, which have, inter alia, a provision for giving market authorization by the regulator within 30 days, along with a provision for deemed approval.

ii.   Outreach to entrepreneurs, innovators and manufacturers of medical devices: Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council set up a facilitation cell for start-ups and innovators of biomedical devices to communicate with relevant Government of India stakeholders through a single platform for early resolution of their queries. In its first year, the platform addressed over 250 queries through in-person visits and online.

On the recommendation of NITI, DBT and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) organized six national workshops on regulatory compliance across the country (Delhi, Pune, Baroda, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Bengaluru) for innovators, academics, researchers, small and medium enterprises, NGOs and others. The workshops helped facilitate a Make-in-India drive and provided an opportunity for interaction with regulators and resolution of queries.

3.   **National Medical Commission Bill**

During the review of the health sector in March 2016, the PM constituted a committee to examine all options for reforms in the Medical Council of India and suggest a way forward. After extensive deliberations, the Committee finalized the draft National Medical Commission Bill for replacing the Medical Council of India with the proposed National Medical Commission. The National Medical Commission Bill was passed on 29 July 2019 by the Parliament.

AGRICULTURE REFORMS

Doubling of Farmers' Income

1.   **Constitution of High-Powered Committee of Chief Ministers for Transformation of Indian Agriculture**

In pursuance of the decision taken in the fifth Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, the Prime Minister announced the setting up of a high-powered committee of chief ministers for transforming Indian agriculture under the convenorship of Devendra Fadnavis, former chief minister of Maharashtra. The member secretary of the committee was Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog. The committee also comprised:

1. Chief Minister of Punjab, Capt. Amarinder Singh
2. Kamal Nath, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

3. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana
4. Narender Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
5. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha
6. Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
7. Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat
8. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

In its first meeting on 18 July 2019, the committee discussed ways to incentivize the states to implement various reforms in agriculture. The committee emphasized the need to accelerate the growth of the food-processing sector, modalities to draw more investment in agriculture, subsidy on drip irrigation, water conservation, including the need to stress upon required amendments to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act and Essential Commodities Act. The committee will also suggest the appropriate way out for adoption and time-bound implementation of agriculture sector reforms.

The second meeting of the committee was held at Mumbai on 16 August 2019 after taking into account the inputs shared by participating states to develop the report in a more articulated and comprehensive manner. The report of the committee is yet to be finalized.

2. Ensuring the Implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP), Including PM-AASHA

In the Budget of 2018–19, there was an announcement that NITI Aayog, in consultation with Central and state governments, will develop a foolproof mechanism so farmers can get remunerative price for their produce. A meeting of Central ministries, states and union territories was held on 9 March 2018 under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar to discuss about the mechanism of implementation of MSP for the selected agricultural produce or to provide MSP to the farmers through some other way. As an outcome of the discussion, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare rolled out new schemes—Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Price Deficiency Procurement Scheme (PDPS), Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Private Procurement and Stockiest Scheme (PPSS)—for procurement of notified crops from farmers.

3. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

A conference was held in NITI Aayog on 9 July 2018 under the chairmanship of NITI Vice Chairman

Dr Rajiv Kumar to discuss about the scope and promotion of natural farming. The meeting was also attended by NITI Aayog Member (Agriculture) Dr Ramesh Chand; CEO Amitabh Kant; Secretary (Agriculture) Sanjay Agarwal; former minister of state (agriculture) Gajendra Singh Sekhawat; and other senior officers and academics. Padma Shri awardee Subhash Palekar, an expert on natural farming, was also present at the event. He narrated how zero budget natural farming is different from organic farming. However, Dr Chand mentioned that ZBNF should be scaled-up nationally only after scientific validation. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar said states can promote natural farming under the set of existing farm-sector schemes, such as Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Subsequently, NITI Aayog conducted a series of meetings to discuss ZBNF on 2 January and 28 February 2019, in which agriculture ministers of states and lieutenant governors of union territories were present for wider consultations with the Central ministry.

Dr Rajiv Kumar also attended a workshop on natural farming held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 4 September 2019, and visited such farms. In addition, he visited Solan, Himachal Pradesh, on 13 July 2019, which is popularizing natural farming. The Vice Chairman, along with the Adviser (Agriculture), and senior officers of the Government of Andhra Pradesh went to Atkur cluster in the state on 13 September 2019 to interact with farmers, youth and women engaged in ZBNF cultivation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke in the first Budget speech of the seventeenth Lok Sabha on the promotion of natural farming under the back-to-basics approach; accordingly, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare planned to launch 'Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati', in a pan-India mode to cover 12 lakh hectares of area and 600 clusters, as a centrally sponsored scheme.

4.   Promotion of Village Storage Scheme

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on l7 May 2019 to discuss the strategies to be adopted for the Village Storage Scheme. Ways to enhance village-level storage facilities were critically deliberated.

While participating in the discussions, CEO, National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) mentioned that the Village Storage Scheme should address basic four categories of produce:

1. Hardy food crops like grains
2. Long-holding perishables
3. Short-life perishable crops
4. Produce like cotton, wool, industrial feedstock, which serve as raw material to the non-food industry.

It was further quoted that holding of perishables in refrigerated village stores may not promote the development of a suitable post-harvest supply chain but would instead delay the problem of establishing a supply line to market channels, leading to deferred distress.

It was suggested that village-storage and post-harvest facilities may primarily be set up at Gramin Agricultural Markets as an interface of APMC and farmers, which would provide pre-conditioning and connectivity to any market or user or organized storage in the country. It was also decided that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with the National Centre of Geo-Informatics would create a portal and evolve a mechanism for geotagging warehouses, including the refrigerated ones done in base-line survey for cold storages—all over India.

HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS

Reforms in Higher Education

NITI Aayog has been playing a key role in identifying challenges and contributing to reforms in higher education regulatory frameworks. After the first phase of reforms that was implemented

through University Grants Commission regulations and guidelines in recent years, NITI Aayog has been contributing substantively to a new parliamentary legislation for higher education, which is being drafted by the Department of Higher Education, MHRD.

NITI's salient recommendations address:

- Separation of standard setting, financing, and accreditation
- Strengthening the accreditation framework to increase its coverage, credibility, and transparency
- Addressing multiplicity and overlapping mandates of regulatory bodies in higher education
- Regulator to specify only minimum norms/standards for institutions, so as to provide autonomy and scope for innovation
- Performance-based incentives (linked to credible accreditation)
- Autonomy with accountability
- Provision for joint degrees between institutions
- Provision for highly reputed foreign universities to operate in India
- Transparency through public disclosure of criteria and assessments
- Time-bound decisions, with reasons to be recorded in writing, and placed in public domain
- Graded penalty
- Fair, transparent and robust grievance redressal mechanisms;
- Emphasis on outcomes
- Focus on research and innovation
- Greater participation of state higher education councils and state universities in the membership of HECI

Educational Reforms in Aspirational Districts

Education is a critical theme under the transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme and is accorded the highest weightage among all themes. Through knowledge partnerships, NITI Aayog is spearheading the transformation of districts, facilitating jan andolans aimed at improving access to education and enhancing community participating in schooling. These movements have even resulted in a decrease in the number of out-of-school children. Initiatives such as the establishment of libraries and development of buildings as learning aids (BaLA) are fostering joyful learning environments and driving improvements in learning outcomes across various districts. Further, training programmes and bal sansads are cultivating a sense of motivation and leadership across all layers of the education system.

ENERGY SECTOR REFORMS

Draft National Energy Policy 2019

The PMO had directed the work related to the National Energy Policy (NEP) to be looked after by the NITI Aayog. The process of drafting the Policy was initiated in 2015 after an interaction with leading economists at NITI Aayog, followed by various workshops/conferences organized by NITI Aayog in consultation with knowledge partners. The draft National Energy Policy was discussed at the Prime Minister's level in a meeting held on 17 May 2017.

The policy was revised by adding two chapters: 'Subsidies, Cross-subsidies and Taxation' and 'Restructuring of Energy Sector Governance'. The time horizon was revised from 2040 to 2030. The revised NEP was then circulated for inter-ministerial consultations in June 2018. The comments received were incorporated and a draft cabinet note circulated for inter-ministerial comments in August 2019. Further, the comments received from respective ministries/ departments were incorporated and the final cabinet note is being prepared for submission to the Cabinet Secretariat for obtaining approval.

TRANSFORMING INDIA'S GOLD MARKET

A Committee on Transforming India's Gold Market was constituted by NITI Aayog to recommend measures to tap into the potential of this market for providing a stimulus to exports, economic growth and employment. The report of the Committee was submitted in February 2018 and a presentation was made before the Governor of Reserve Bank of India in May 2018. The Union Budget 2018–19 had also announced that a comprehensive gold policy will be formulated to develop it as an asset class. Subsequently, a meeting of a committee of secretaries was held in April 2019 to deliberate on this.

MONITORING AND
EVALUATION

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office**

2. **Performance Dashboards**
   a. Champions of Change: Aspirational Districts
   b. Nutrition
   c. Atal Tinkering Labs
   d. SDG India Index 2019–20

3. **Key Performance Indices**
   a. SDG India Index
   b. India Innovation Index
   c. School Education Quality Index
   d. Composite Water Management Index
   e. State Health Index
   f. District Hospital Index
   g. State Energy Index

INTRODUCTION

Evidence-based policymaking should be integral to the overall governance structure in New India. To achieve this, it is important to be able to track performance, determine outcomes to understand how well a scheme is performing, and to help diagnose reasons for poor performance and generate recommendations for course corrections. This requires not only collecting data but putting in place proper frameworks with measurable parameters to help strengthen the effective management of limited public resources and achieve a deeper and broader impact of scheme interventions.

Driving accountability in governance through proper monitoring and evaluation are the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office or DMEO, an attached unit of NITI, along with other verticals.

Focusing on effective management and better outcomes backed by data analysis, NITI Aayog has developed a number of social sector indices and dashboards.

This section of the report gives details of the monitoring and evaluation tools, and exercises developed by NITI to map our progress in achieving national and international development goals.

DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE (DMEO)

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office was established by the Government on 18 September 2015 as an attached office of NITI Aayog by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Organisation and Independent Evaluation Office. It has mandate to monitor and carryout evaluation of the Central Government funded programmes and initiatives. In addition, it also provides required inputs for infrastructure sector reviews. The DMEO is headed by the Director General who is equivalent to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India. In order to have complete functional autonomy, a separate budgetary allocation has been exclusively provided to DMEO.

DMEO's major projects in 2019–20 included:
  (i)   Undertaking third-party evaluation of 28 umbrella centrally sponsored schemes
  (ii) Preparation of the Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework 2019–20
  (iii) Supporting the Prime Minister's Infrastructure Sector Review
  (iv) Conducting quick assessment of schemes and programmes
  (v)   Providing inputs on scheme appraisal proposals (EFC/SFC/PIB/DIB)

The details of activities carried out in FY 2019–20 are as below:

(i)   Third-Party Evaluations of Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes (UCSS)

To consider continuation of UCSS in the fifteenth Finance Commission cycle, beyond March 2020, DMEO has been mandated to undertake third-party evaluations of 28 UCSS. As there are 125 schemes under 28 Umbrella CSS, DMEO is undertaking this through 10 evaluation study consultant packages: i) agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries ii) women and child development iii) human resource development iv) urban transformation v) rural development vi) drinking water and sanitation vii) health viii) jobs and skills ix) water resources, environment and forest x) social inclusion law and order and justice delivery.

The consultant firms have been engaged through an open tender process. Out of 10 packages, agreements have been signed for nine and the last package is in an advance stage of finalization. The evaluation work in all packages is targeted to be completed by January–February 2020.

(ii)   Output–Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)

To strengthen outcome-based monitoring in the Government of India, the DMEO team undertook a rigorous process to improve the output–outcome framework in 2018–19 and then again for 2019–2020. The framework aims to strengthen the effective management of limited public resources and achieve a deeper and broader impact of scheme interventions.

It put in place nearly 5,000 output and outcome indicators for around 600 outlays for Central sector and centrally sponsored schemes. This framework was tabled in the Parliament along with the Union Budget 2019–20. These schemes formed the primary mode of government-service delivery to beneficiaries, covering Rs 12 lakh crore out of the total budget of Rs 27.9 lakh crores in 2019–20. By juxtaposing this financial outlay with a quantitative measurement of scheme performance, it is expected that more judicious usage and greater accountability can be encouraged.
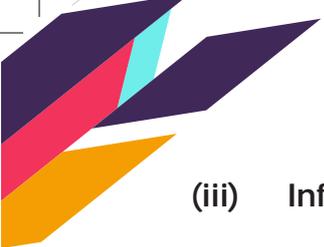
(iii) Infrastructure Sector Review Dashboard and Performance Trackers

The infrastructure sector reviews are held by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14 infrastructure sectors and three social sectors. DMEO prepares these presentations in consultation with the concerned NITI vertical and ministry. A sector review dashboard is also maintained by DMEO. The concerned ministry and/or department updates quarterly progress data, against targets set for the financial year, for review by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. It also tracks action points emerging from previous reviews. Action-taken reports provided by the concerned nodal ministries are synthesized for use by the PMO.

This process is unique because of its sector-level focus, which transcends ministry goals and also showcases global comparison of a particular sector on key parameters. It facilitates convergence by tracking indicators and action points that are cross-ministerial in nature. It prevents such thematic areas from suffering the tragedy of the commons, by assigning responsibility and accountability to nodal ministries in charge of a particular sector.

This year so far this review has been held for the transport sector, involving the railways (23 October 2019), roads, airports and ports (11 November 2019). A review for the energy sector, involving power, MNRE, coal and PNG, is also expected shortly.

(iv) Quick Performance Assessment through Field Visits

Status of Evaluation Studies Conducted by DMEO

DMEO undertakes evaluation of selected programmes, either suo motu or on the request of the implementing ministries and/or departments of the Government of India. The purpose of programme evaluations is an objective assessment of the longer-term impacts of the development programmes, identification of the areas and reasons for the successes and failures at different stages of programme execution; suggesting mid-course corrections and disseminating lessons for the future. The parameters for evaluation would include the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and sustainability of service delivery, outcomes and impacts.

S. No.	Scheme	States visited	Status of field assessment
1	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)*	Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh	Final report comprising findings and recommendations has been submitted and sent to PMO and the Secretary of Ministry of Skill Development.
2	Bharat Net*	Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Karnataka	The findings were shared with PMO. Basis that PMO constituted a committee to suggest way forward. Committee examined and submitted its report to PMO and DoT in April 2019
3	Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)*	Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	Final presentation comprising findings and recommendations was prepared for senior officers' meeting.

S. No.	Scheme	States visited	Status of field assessment
4	National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC)*	Karnataka	Post field visit in Karnataka, study has been done through a secondary review, KIIs, data analysis provided by the NSFDC. A draft report has been prepared and comments on it taken from NSFDC. Final report under approval.
5	Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIIUS).	Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal	The MIIUS assessment report presented the findings and recommendations from the assessment of the seven industrial clusters under Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIIUS) approved during the 10th and 11th Plan period. The study examined the implementation of the scheme, identified reasons for the delays of the projects, assessed the current progress and provided recommendations towards the self-sustainability of the clusters. In addition to the meta-analysis of previous studies on Evaluation of Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), field visits were undertaken to study the on-ground implementation of the projects, validate the meta-analysis, as well as identify the bottlenecks, challenges and issues. The team visited the project sites in Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Balasore, Howrah (2) and Tiruchirapalli in July 2019. In these districts, interactions with unit holders in clusters were made using a discussion guide. Focus group discussions were held with officials of the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) to understand the issues and challenges in the implementation of the respective projects. The report has been shared with the Ministry for further action.

S. No.	Scheme	States visited	Status of field assessment
6	Pre and Post matric Scholarship for SC, ST, OBC and minorities	Uttar Pradesh, Punjab	DMEO had received a mandate from PMO to evaluate and rationalize the post-matric scholarships for SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities. The team had undertaken field visits in four districts of Uttar Pradesh and two districts of Punjab. The study was further substantiated thorough KIIs and literature review. The report has been shared with the PMO
7	Quick Assessment of Teacher Education	Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	Field visits undertaken in October 2019. First draft report comprising findings and recommendations from the field survey is under preparation.
8	Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)	In progress	DMEO has prepared ToRs to carry out impact assessment. A committee has been formed to assess the presentations by shortlisted firms. Under process for finalizing the firm.

Field visit undertaken in FY 18-19

(v) Other activities Undertaken

Other major activities undertaken by DMEO that are described below include: a) supporting appraisal process of EFC/SFC/PIB/DIB; b) analytical work (railway sector); c) supporting ministries and/or departments to conduct evaluation studies; d) organizational strengthening; and e) building partnerships.

a) **EFC/SFC/PIB/DIB Appraisal Process:** For initiating a new scheme or continuation of an existing scheme, proposals are received from the ministry/department as EFC/SFC/PIB/DIB appraisal process. DMEO outlines outputs, outcomes and their measurable indicators, helping ministries establish what they should be measuring to monitor the implementation of the scheme. It also facilitates the ministry/department to systematically strengthen their internal management information systems and data collection mechanisms. Recommendations are also made regarding the mapping of clear scheme logic chains, making provisions for mid-term and end-line evaluations with earmarking of separate budget, etc. DMEO has provided inputs to 107 schemes between April and October 2019.

b) **Website:** The work for the DMEO website initiated and the logo has been finalized.

c) **Railway Analysis:** 364 railway projects (each more than Rs 150 cr), listed on online computerized monitoring system portal (OCMS) of MOSPI, analysed for time and cost overruns, disbursement ratios and preliminary findings were presented to PS to PM on 3 July 2019.

d) **Partnership:** A consultation meeting was held on 2 August 2019 with representatives from academia, institutions, government partners and research organizations

multilateral for building capacity and institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation. Discussions have been initiated with various multilaterals/institutions, namely the World Bank, WFP, JPAL, etc., for partnerships to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation ecosystem and establish DMEO a premier and world class M&E organization.

e) **Rationalization of CSS:** The note on rationalization of CSS schemes prepared by DMEO was shared with the department of expenditure on 29 July 2019.

f) **Supporting Ministry/Department Evaluation:** DMEO provides technical inputs to line ministries in the process of developing terms of reference (ToRs) for the evaluation studies they commission. DMEO has vetted the 53 such ToRs for evaluation of CS/CSS received from ministries/departments during the year up to October 2019. DMEO prepared the standardized terms of reference for third-party evaluation of Central Sector Schemes. The same was shared with the Department of Expenditure for circulating to all ministries and departments for conducting third-party evaluation. Same was shared to all Ministries/departments on an ongoing basis.

g) **Hindi Week:** Efforts have been made to use Hindi in the official correspondences and file notings. Hindi fortnight was observed and competitions held on essay and kavita writings among the officials of DMEO. Prizes were awarded to the winning officials under the chairmanship of Director General, DMEO.

h) **Recruitment Rules:** Recruitment Rules for DMEO have been prepared. Post stakeholder consultations, they have been submitted to DoPT for their concurrence.

PERFORMANCE DASHBOARDS

1.　　Champions of Change, Aspirational Districts

The Champions of Change dashboard for real-time data collection and monitoring opened for public viewing on 1 April 2018. The dashboard has been named so to emphasize the critical role played by the district collectors/magistrates and their teams in the progress of districts. The Aspirational Districts Programme hinges on inducing competition among 112 districts through regular ranking, which is dynamic and reflects the incremental (delta) improvement made every month. Districts are encouraged to improve their data collection and maintenance mechanisms to enter up-to-date data on the dashboard.

For the district teams, the dashboard offers a variety of functions. Nodal officers can enter data pertaining to each month, set targets for the year, and view benchmark values for each indicator and survey-validated values from survey agencies roped in by NITI Aayog. Districts can also view their raw score for the month, incremental score of previous months, and their delta rank.

Districts are provided with login credentials to enter their data on a monthly basis. The data entry screen clearly defines each indicator, numerator, denominator, unit and periodicity.
All districts are encouraged to set their own targets for the year. The dashboard provides a separate 'target entry' screen, which also provides state-best and nation-best values for each indicator.

In the true spirit of transparency that this programme envisages, members of the public can view the live rankings on the dashboard website, along with options to download the entire

dataset indicator-wise or district-wise. Central ministries, including NITI Aayog, have been allotted a few districts each for driving on-the-ground change. Data can also be downloaded according to this classification.

http://championsofchange.gov.in/
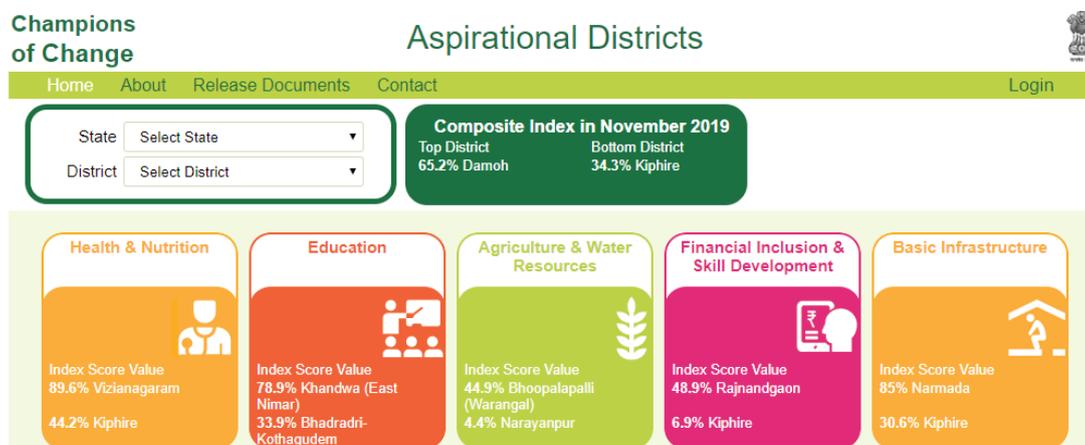
2.   Nutrition

NITI Aayog has developed the nutrition dashboard, which provides a very good overview of the overall situation related to malnutrition in India by intuitively comparing the performance of various states with the national average based on the National Family Health Survey.

The dashboard also helps to make a deeper analysis of the many districts of a particular state, by providing information on various nutritional child health parameters, starting from the time of pregnancy. Comparison of various input and output parameters across 10 years (between NFHS 3 and 4) is made as part of the monitoring dashboard, highlighting states that have made the maximum improvement. The various aspects linked to the nutrition outcome for a particular district are presented in a colour-coded chart and are shared with the district collectors.

https://niti.gov.in/content/nutrition-charts
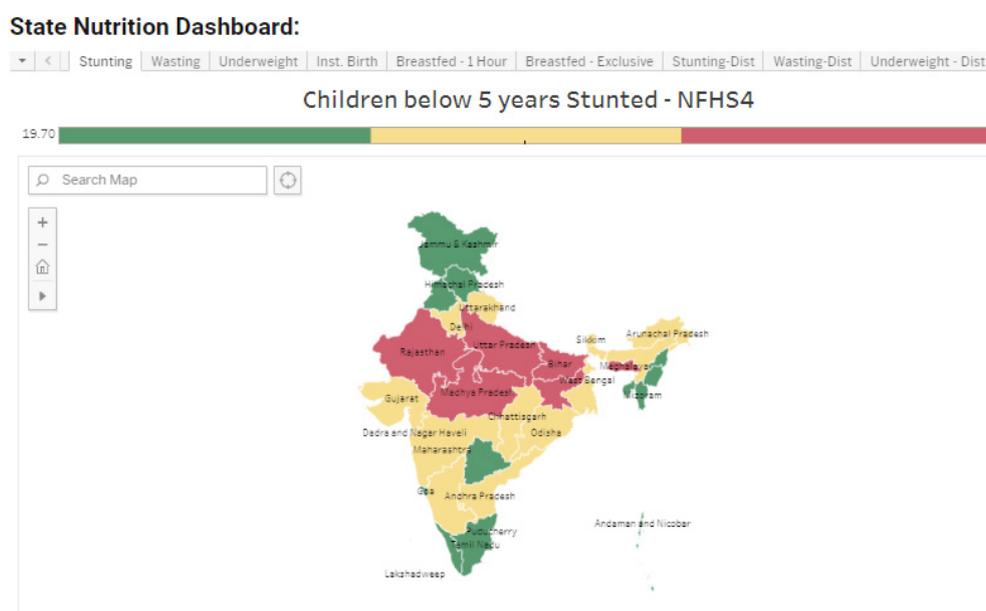
3.   Atal Tinkering Labs

The Atal Tinkering Labs' (ATLs) dashboard 'MyATL' presents the status of such laboratories across the country in a single snapshot.

Going deeper, the dashboard provides the distribution of ATLs across the districts of a particular state. The information of a school of a particular district is available with details such as the board the school is affiliated to, associate partners, social media handles, etc. ATL schools are supposed to furnish their monthly reports on the MyATL dashboard, thereby giving Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) an opportunity to recognize their active participation, innovation journey, achievements, and determine the suitability for disbursement of subsequent tranche(s) of grants.

Regular updating of the dashboard by the schools also enables AIM to identify the top-performing schools. The focus is on the quality of learning rather than just recording higher numbers.

MyATL provides an online governance medium wherein the top-performing, consistent schools are recognized on the basis of different parameters and gratified, which further incentivizes them to perform better.

The ATL schools are also visible on the MHRD GIS portal with geotagged ATL school location, along with other details. The geotagged map of the ATL school helps in understanding the clusters spread across the district, along with easy identification of areas that need more schools, ensuring the efficacy and quality of the programme.

https://aim.gov.in/atl/

4.   SDG India Index 2019–20

The online dashboard for the index has been revamped. The new dashboard hosts state-of-the-art visualization and analysis tools for data at the national, state and union territory levels to collect and analyse feedback. The dashboard will greatly help governments, the civil society, think tanks, and the academia in carving out useful insights, which the states and union territories can use for faster progress under the SDG framework.

The index is designed to function as a tool for focused policy dialogue, formulation and implementation, and moving towards development action pegged to globally recognizable metrics. It will also help highlight crucial gaps related to monitoring SDGs and the need for improving statistical systems at the national, state and union territory levels.

The index report can downloaded from: *https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2019-12/SDG-India-Index-2.0_27-Dec.pdf.*

The Index dashboard can be accessed at: *http://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/.*

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICES

In pursuit of cooperative and competitive federalism, NITI Aayog has been laying emphasis on developing indicators on various social sectors, such as water, education, nutrition, as well as for monitoring the progress of Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG India Index

NITI Aayog released the second edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index on 30 December 2019. India is the first country in the world with a government-led, sub-national measure of progress on the SDGs. The index comprehensively documents the progress made by India's states and union territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world community's response to the myriad of challenges threatening the planet and its life. The goals are designed to advance well-being and prosperity of all humans and the flourishing of all ecosystems and their lives—today and in the future. India is home to one-sixth of humanity and countless species of flora and fauna, and its success in achieving the SDGs is crucial to the world attaining them. India is well aware of this responsibility, has adopted the SDG framework, and has committed to fully align its development agenda with the SDGs to enable timely achievement of the goals and their targets.

However, SDG action cannot be limited to the national level. Given the federal structure of the country, and the division of powers and responsibilities between the Central and State governments as per the constitution, for the SDGs to be achieved at the national level, it is imperative for the States to play the leading role.

NITI Aayog carries the mandate of overseeing the adoption and monitoring of SDGs in the country. NITI believes in the mantra 'what gets measured gets done'. This, coupled with the approach of cooperative and competitive federalism, resulted in the concept of the SDG India Index, which is the world's first government-led sub-national measure of SDG progress. It measures the progress of all states and union territories in their journey towards achieving the SDGs. The first edition of the index was launched in December 2018; the second edition came out on 30 December 2019. A dashboard has been developed for the Index, with interactive visualization, which is in the public domain.

The index adopts a methodology in which the status of each SDG, and the performance of each state and union territory, and that of the country overall, are measured on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 implies achieving the target and 0 indicates worst performance.

While the 2018 edition of the index covered 13 SDGs (goals 12, 13, 14 and 17 were excluded), the 2019 edition covers all of them—with ranking on 16 SDGs and a qualitative assessment on Goal 17. While the 2018 edition used 62 indicators, the 2019 edition includes 100 indicators. In this manner, the 2019 edition of the index is more robust, comprehensive, and refined compared to its first edition. The indicators used in the 2019 index are derived from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's National Indicator Framework.

Launch of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019–20 on 30 December 2019

Results

The composite score for India as per the 2019 edition of the index is 60, which is an improvement from the 2018 score of 57. The highest score was achieved in SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation): 88, the lowest in SDG 2 (nutrition and zero hunger): 35.
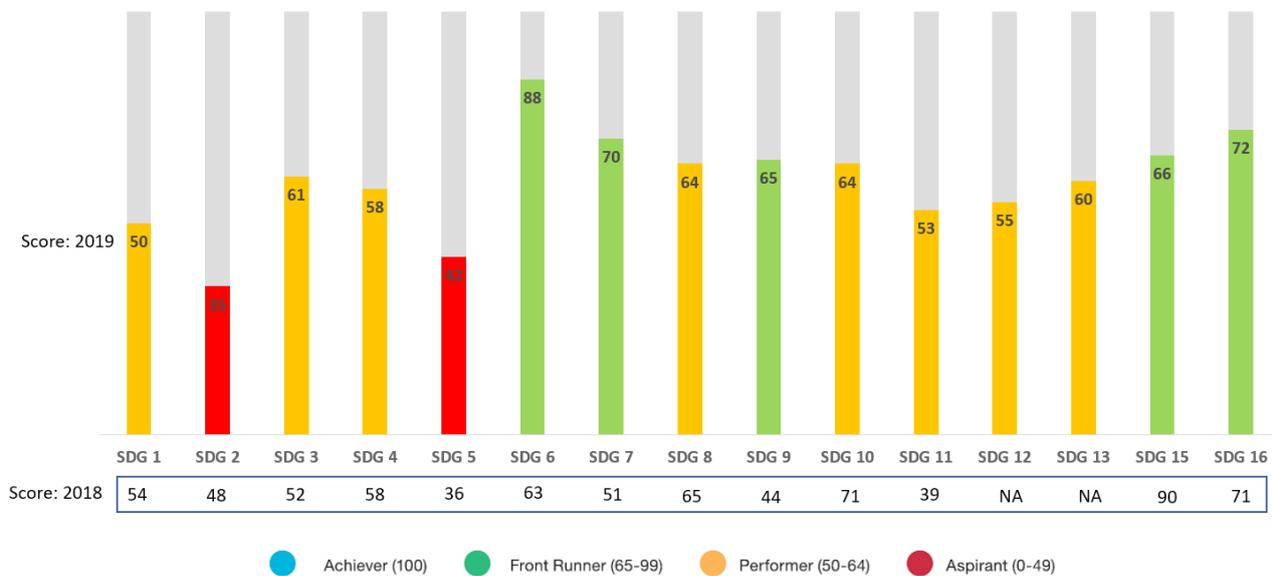
Figure 1: Goal-wise score for the country for 2019–20. Numbers in the box at the bottom denote score in 2018

The biggest improvement from 2018 to 2019 are in SDGs 6 (+25), 7 (+19), and 9 (+21). The commendable improvement in SDG 6 can be attributed to the success of Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission. The progress in SDG 7 is largely due to the universal electrification of households under the Saubhagya scheme and provisioning of clean cooking fuel under Ujjwala scheme. The advancement in SDG 9 can be credited to the coverage of habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the commendable strides made in digital inclusion, and internet and mobile penetration. India's progress in the Ease-of-Doing business global ranking from 77 in 2018 to 63 in 2019 also has contributed to the improvement under SDG 9.

Among the states, Kerala scored the first rank with a score of 70. Himachal Pradesh came second with 69. Among the union territories, Chandigarh secured the top position with a score of 70 and Puducherry came second with 66. Delhi has come fifth among the nine union territories with a score of 61.

Three states shared the third rank—Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana—with a score of 67. Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar stood at the bottom of the table, with scores of 53, 53 and 50, respectively.

STATES

India score: 60

State	Score
Kerala	70
Himachal Pradesh	69
Andhra Pradesh	67
Tamil Nadu	67
Telangana	67
Karnataka	66
Goa	65
Sikkim	65
Gujarat	64
Maharashtra	64
Uttarakhand	64
Punjab	62
Manipur	60
West Bengal	60
Madhya Pradesh	58
Odisha	58
Tripura	58
Haryana	57
Nagaland	57
Rajasthan	57
Chhattisgarh	56
Mizoram	56
Assam	55
Uttar Pradesh	55
Meghalaya	54
Arunachal Pradesh	53
Jharkhand	53
Bihar	50

Figure 2: State-wise composite score

UNION TERRITORIES

India score: 60
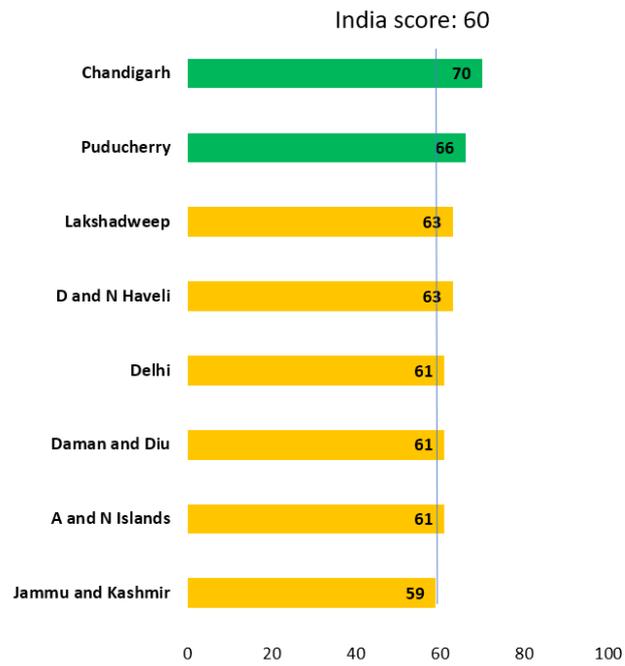
Figure 3: UT-wise compostite score
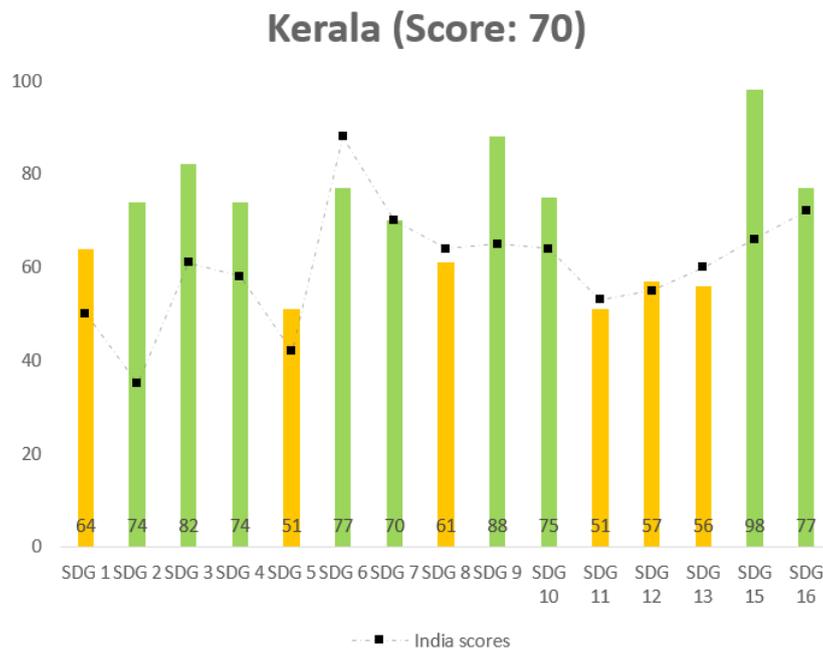
Figure 4: Goal-wise score of Kerala, the state at the top of the table, and country score (line)

Bihar (Score: 50)
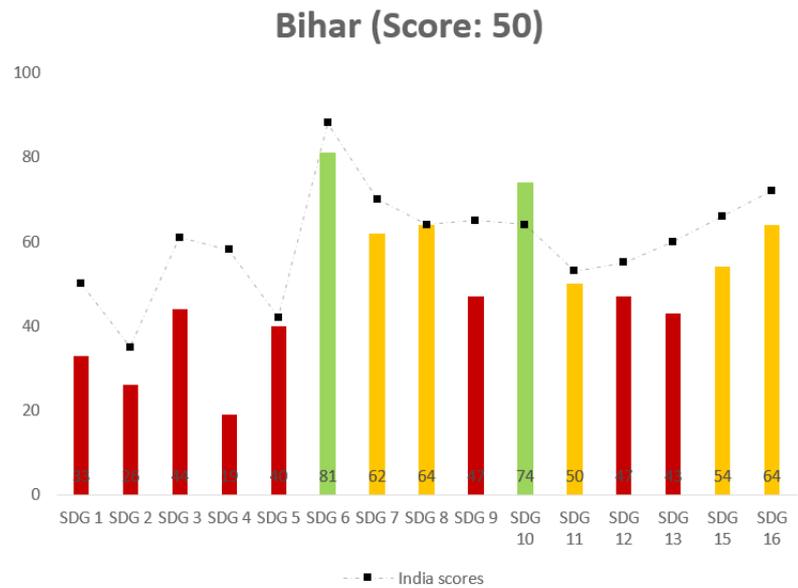
Figure 5: Goal-wise score of Bihar, the state at the bottom of the table, and country score (line)

Improvements: All three states that scored less than 50 in 2018 (Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) and were in the category of 'Aspirants' improved their score to above 50 and graduated to the category of 'Performer' with scores falling in the range of 50 to 64. Five states that scored between 50 and 64, including both (Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Sikkim, and Telangana), have scored 65 or more in 2019, thereby moving from the 'Performer' category to 'Front Runner' category.

States	2018 Rank	2019 Rank	Direction of change
Kerala	1	1	▬
Himachal Pradesh	1	2	▼
Tamil Nadu	3	3	▬
Andhra Pradesh	4	3	▲
Goa	4	7	▼
Gujarat	4	9	▼
Karnataka	4	6	▼
Maharashtra	4	9	▼
Telangana	9	3	▲
Punjab	10	12	▼
Uttarakhand	10	9	▲
Manipur	12	13	▼
Mizoram	12	21	▼
Rajasthan	12	18	▼
Chhattisgarh	15	21	▼
Sikkim	15	7	▲
West Bengal	17	13	▲
Haryana	18	18	▬
Tripura	18	15	▲
Madhya Pradesh	21	15	▲
Meghalaya	21	25	▼
Arunachal Pradesh	23	26	▼
Nagaland	23	18	▲
Odisha	23	15	▲
Jharkhand	26	26	▬
Assam	27	23	▲
Bihar	28	28	▬
Uttar Pradesh	29	23	▲

Figure 6: States and rank in 2019 and 2018

Union Territories	2018 Rank	2019 Rank	Direction of change
Chandigarh	1	1	—
Puducherry	2	2	—
Daman & Diu	3	5	▼
Delhi	4	5	▼
Lakshadweep	4	3	▲
Andaman &Nicobar Islands	6	5	▲
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7	3	▲
Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	20	8	▼

Figure 7: UTs and rank in 2019 and 2018

Fastest movers: The biggest improvement from 2018 was achieved by Uttar Pradesh, with an increase of 13 points in its score and a jump in rank from 29th to 23rd. Odisha and Sikkim came second, with a jump of 7 points each. While Odisha jumped from the 23rd position to 15th position, Sikkim improved from the 15th to 7th rank. These states have achieved commendable progress in SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), due to the success of the various government schemes and programmes in these areas.
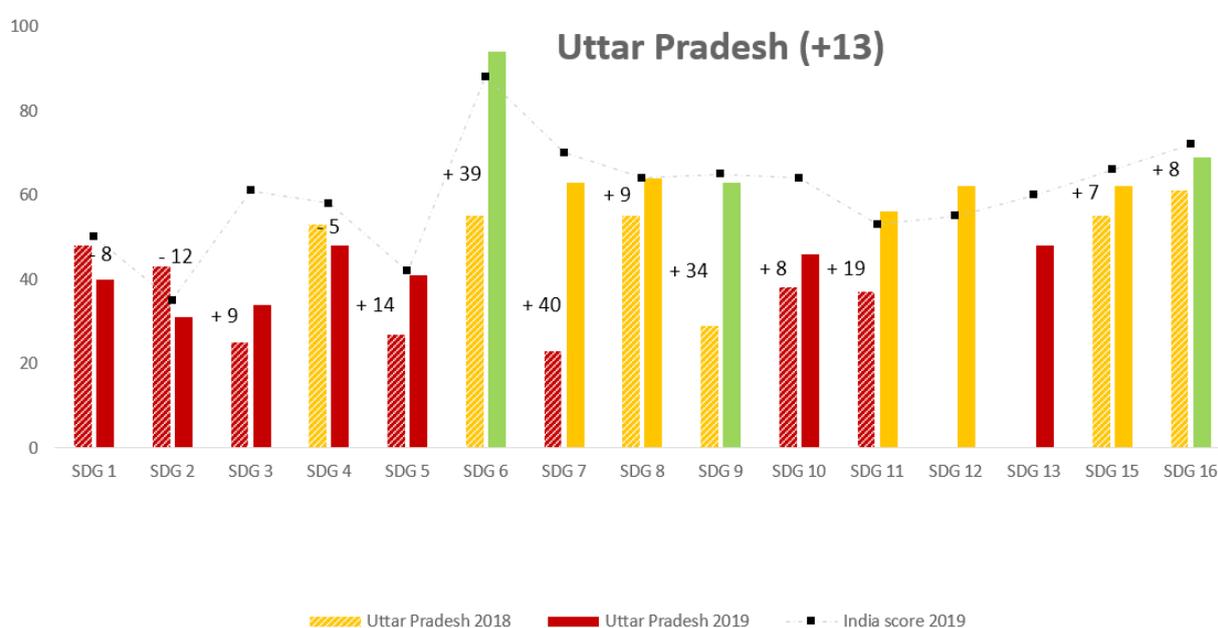
Figure 8: Goal-wise change in score from 2018 to 2019 for Uttar Pradesh, the fastest mover

Individual State and UT Profiles: In addition to ranking, the 2019 edition also has a section on the profiles of all states and union territories focusing on their relative performance and indicator values. This will encourage evidence-based policymaking by supporting states and union territories to benchmark their progress, identifying priority areas and sharing best practices.

India Innovation Index

Recognizing the role of innovation as a key driver of growth and prosperity for India, NITI Aayog released the India Innovation Index on 17 October 2019. The index creates an extensive framework for the continual evaluation of the innovation environment of 29 states and seven union territories (UTs) and ranks them based on their index scores. Policymakers across the country can use the index to identify the challenges to be addressed and strengths to be built on, when designing economic growth policies for their regions.

Launching of India Innovation Index 2019

The innovation ranking of the top five states, in three different categories, is shown below:
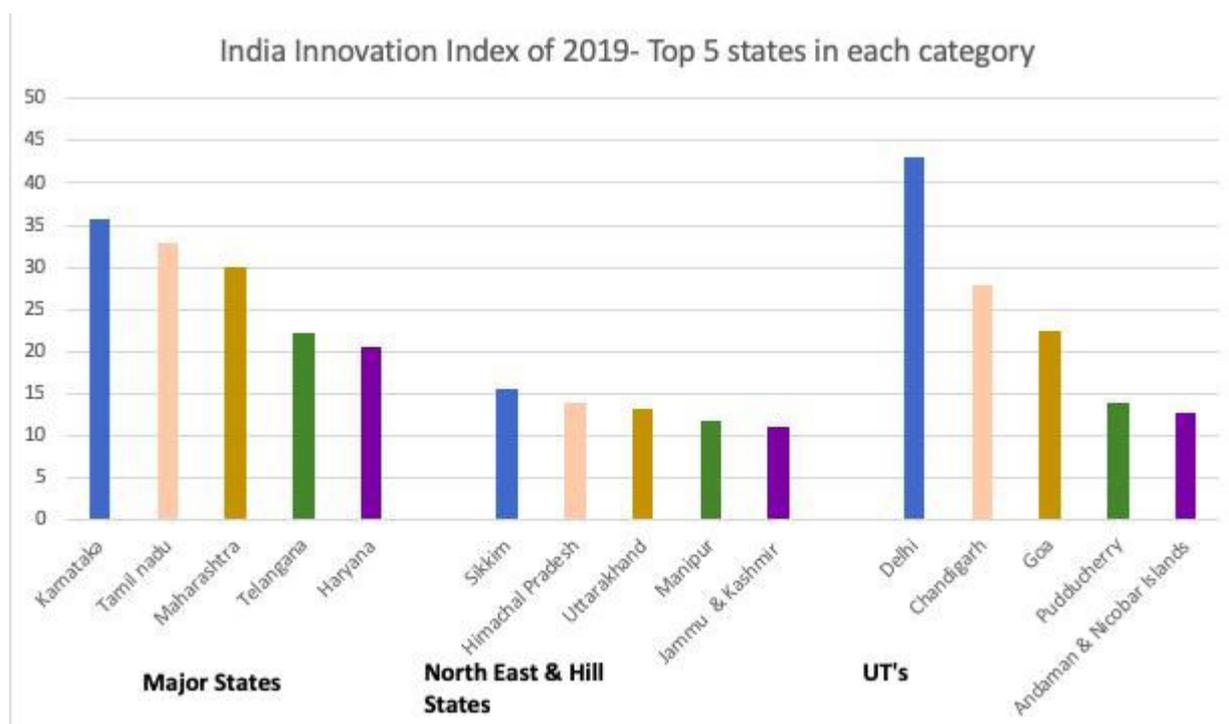
School Education Quality Index

The School Education Quality Index (SEQI) was developed to evaluate the performance of states and union territories in the school education sector. The index aims to bring an 'outcomes' focus to education policy by providing states and union territories with a platform to identify their strengths and weaknesses and undertake requisite course corrections or policy interventions.

In line with NITI Aayog's mandate to foster the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism, SEQI strives to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices across the country. Developed through a collaborative process, including key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the World Bank, and sector experts, the index consists of 30 critical indicators. These indicators are:

Category 1: Outcomes

Domain 1: Learning outcomes

Domain 2: Access outcomes

Domain 3: Infrastructure and facilities for outcomes

Domain 4: Equity outcomes

Category 2: Governance-processes-aiding outcomes
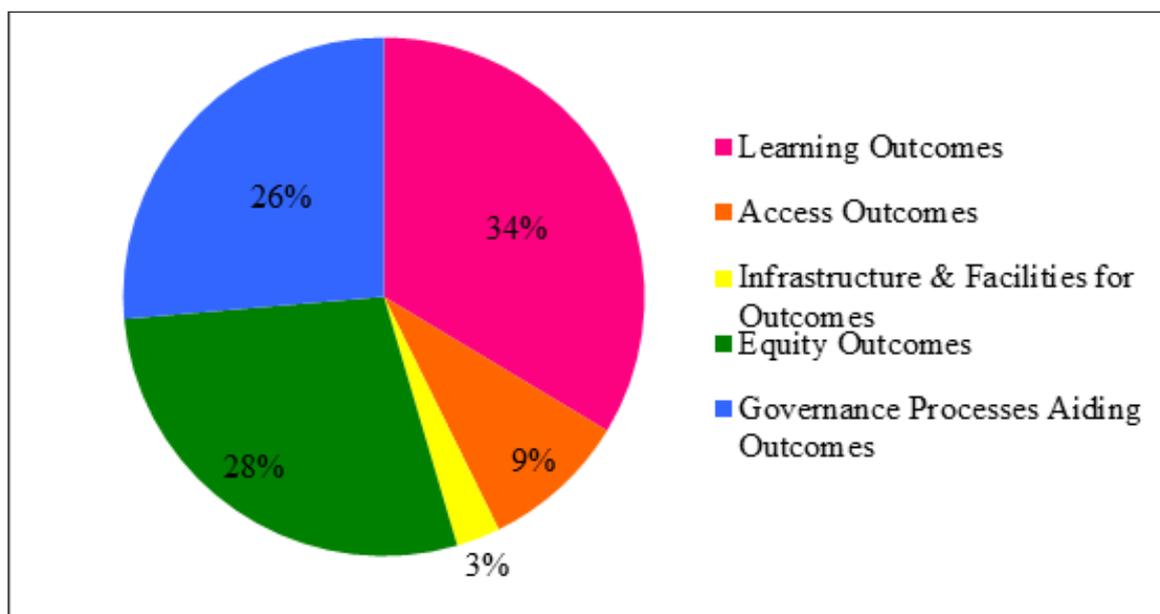
About the Index: SEQI Categories, Domains and Weights

Schooling should result in tangible learning outcomes. To ensure the system is geared towards learning, SEQI assigns almost half its weight to learning outcomes. This sends a strong signal across the nation to ensure that the focus remains on learning.

To facilitate like-for-like comparisons, states and union territories have been grouped as large states, small states and union territories. Within these groups, the indicator values have been appropriately scaled, normalized and weighed to generate an overall performance score and ranking for each state and union territory.

States and union territories are ranked on their overall performance in the reference year 2016–17 as well as on the change in their performance between the reference year and base year (2015–16). The rankings present incredible insights into the status of school education across states and union territories and their relative progress over time.

During this year, NITI Aayog completed the process of data collection and validation for all indicators. The first edition of the report, peer reviewed by international experts, was launched on 30 September 2019.
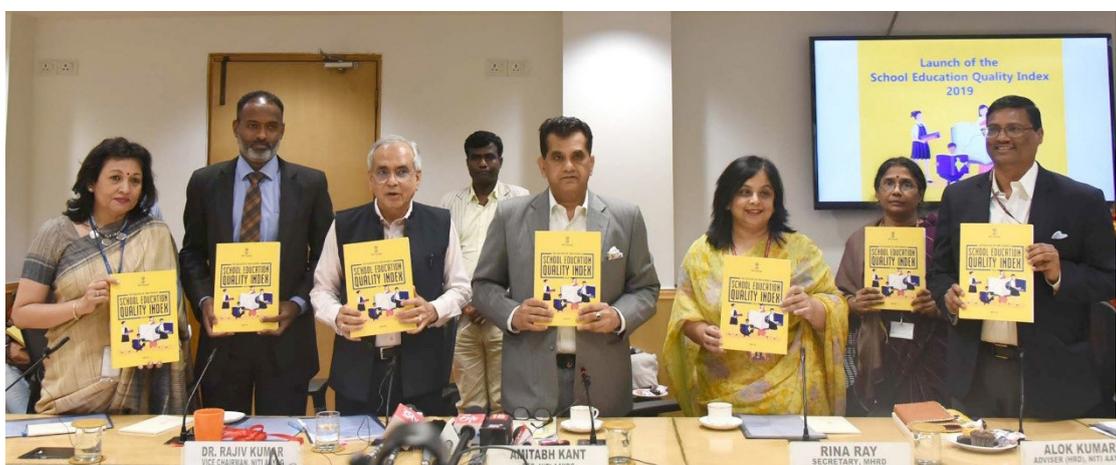
Launch Event of SEQI

Kerala, Manipur and Chandigarh topped in overall performance while Haryana, Meghalaya, Daman and Diu showed most improvement.

Overall Performance Ranking

Large States

Rank	State
1	Kerala
2	Rajasthan
3	Karnataka

Small States

Rank	State
1	Manipur
2	Tripura
3	Goa

Union Territories

Rank	Union Territory
1	Chandigarh
2	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
3	Delhi

Top Performers – SEQI Overall Performance Ranking

Incremental Performance Ranking

Large States

Rank	State
1	Haryana
2	Assam
3	Uttar Pradesh

Small States

Rank	State
1	Meghalaya
2	Nagaland
3	Goa

Union Territories

Rank	Union Territory
1	Daman & Diu
2	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
3	Puducherry

Top Performers – SEQI Incremental Performance Ranking

The detailed ranking, including a domain-wise and indicator-wise analysis, is available at www. social.niti.gov.in.
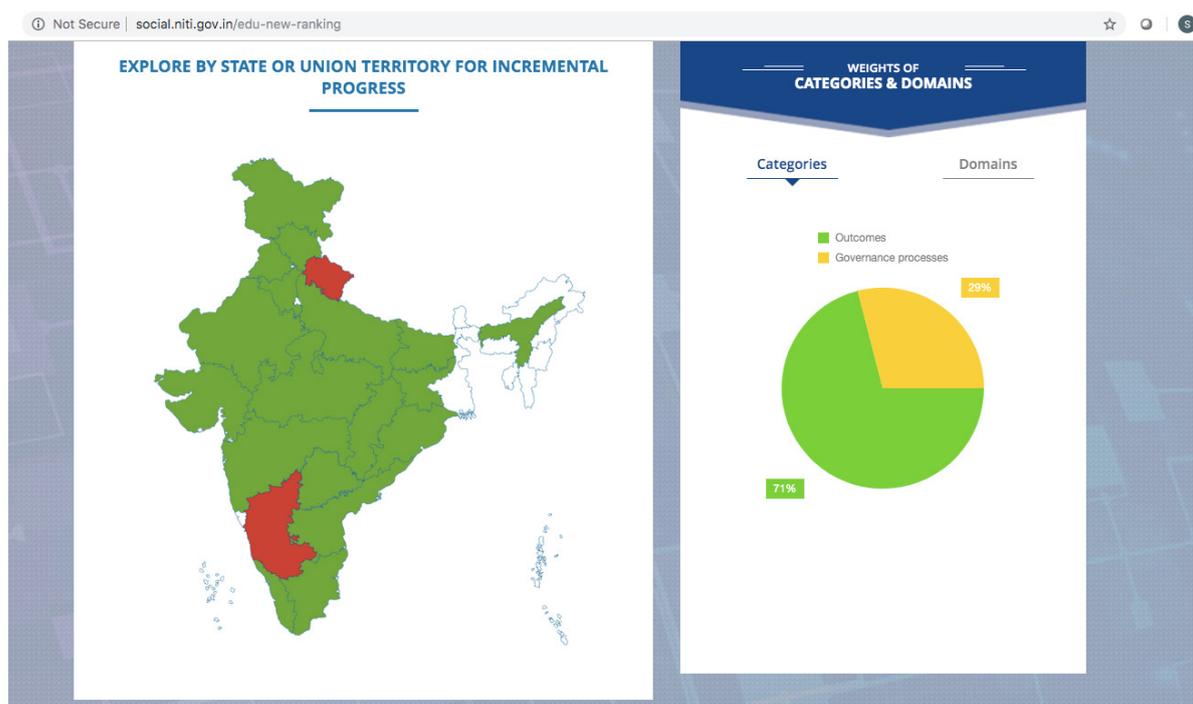
Composite Water Management Index

The second round of the Composite Water Management Index was launched on 23 August 2019 by Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar. It has been circulated to all the states. This effort could bring a sense of data upkeep and water conservation in various aspects of water usage in the states. This being an annual exercise, work has been initiated for the third round of the index.

State Health Index

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and with technical assistance from the World Bank, has been spearheading the Health Index initiative from 2017 to measure the annual performance of states and union territories on a variety of indicators—health outcomes, governance and processes. The index aims to nudge states towards transformative action in the health sector. NITI Aayog is committed to establishing the index as an annual systematic tool to focus the attention of the country on achieving better health outcomes. The second round of the index was released in June 2019.

District Hospital Index

As per a framework designed by a working group, NITI undertook the exercise of tracking the performance of district hospitals based on outcomes. While the Indian Statistical Institute has been selected to develop a portal and use analytics for assessing the performance of district hospitals, the National Accreditation Board of Hospitals, Quality Council of India (NABH-QCI), was chosen for data validation through a competitive-bidding process. Data validation of the health-management-information system for 707 district hospitals (97%) has been completed and the analysis of results is underway.

State Energy Index

Work has been initiated to develop the State Energy Index to compare energy accessibility, affordability and sustainability across all Indian states and union territories. The index comprises 20 indicators under four broad categories: (1) access, affordability and reliability (2) clean initiatives (3) energy and efficiency (4) DISCOM's viability and competition. It will provide useful information, which in turn would empower the Centre, the states and the union territories to formulate and implement suitable strategies. In order to enhance reach and capacity building, the World Bank has been roped in to provide technical assistance. Data for the indicators has been derived from the states and the union territories.
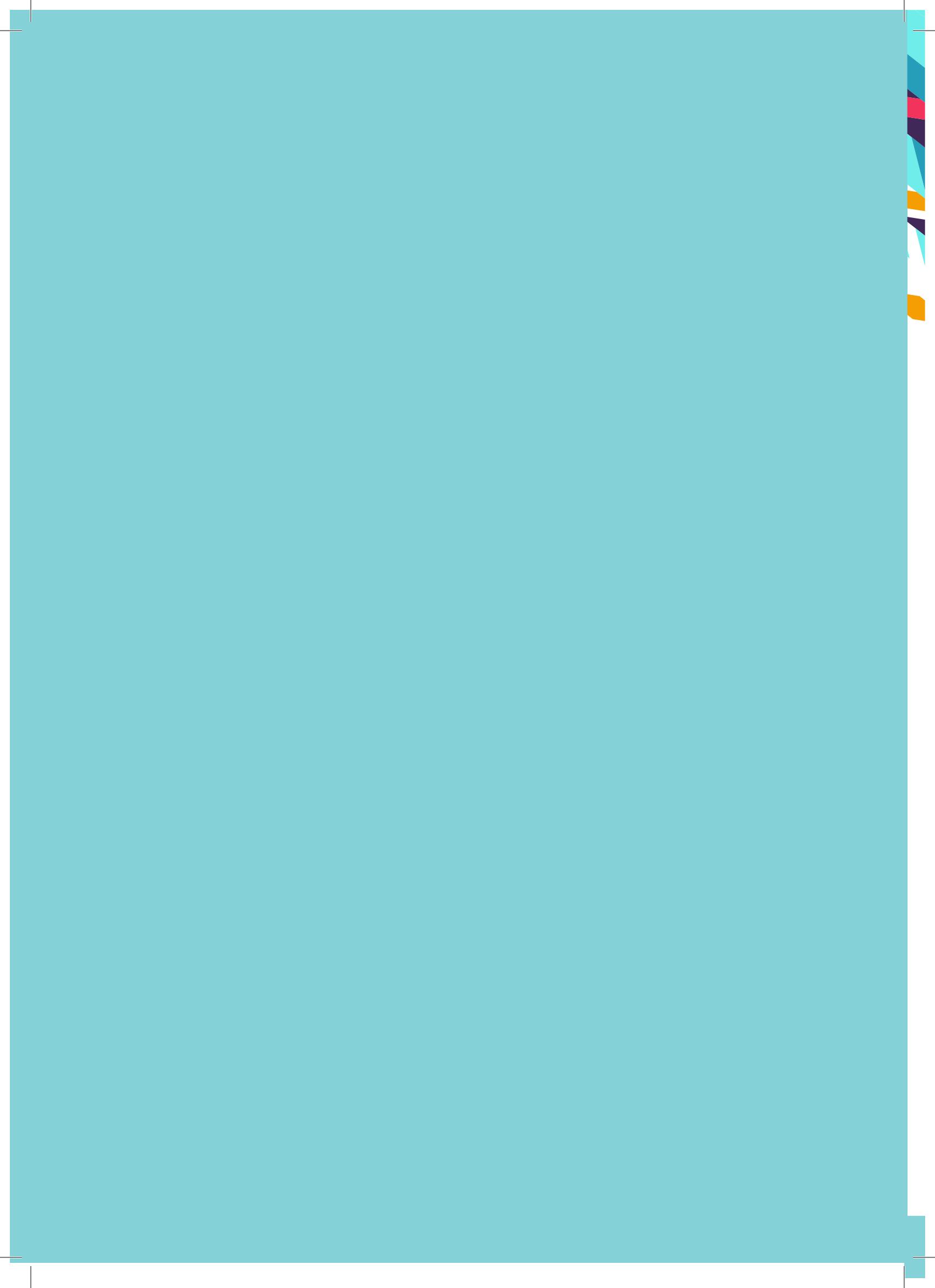
COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

1. Fifth Governing Council Meeting
2. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) in Education
3. Development Support Services to States (DSSS)
4. NITI Forum for North East
5. Holistic Development of Islands
6. Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region

INTRODUCTION

NITI Aayog has been constituted to actualize the important goal of cooperative federalism and to enable good governance in India to build a strong nation state.

Two key features of cooperative federalism are (1) joint focus on the National Development Agenda by the Centre and states and (2) advocacy of concerns and issues of states and union territories with Central ministries.

NITI Aayog has also established models and programmes for development of infrastructure and to reignite and establish private-public partnership, such as the Centre–state partnership model: Development Support Services to States and Union Territories (DSSS); and the Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) programme.

Further, with the aim of correcting regional developmental imbalance, NITI Aayog has taken special steps for areas requiring special attention and support, such as those in the north east, islands and the Himalayas. NITI has constituted special forums to identify these states' specific constraints and formulate special policies to ensure sustainable development while protecting the abundant natural resources in these regions.

This section of the report provides further details of initiatives and activities undertaken in 2019–20 to further the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Governing Council

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog, comprising chief ministers of all states and union territories and lieutenant governors of union territories, came into effect on 16 February 2015 via a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat. So far, five meetings have been held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and with the chief ministers and lieutenant governors of all states and union territories and members of NITI Aayog.

Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

The fifth meeting was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, President Secretariat, New Delhi, on 15 June 2019.

The council held deliberations on:
- Rainwater harvesting
- Drought situation and relief measures
- Aspirational Districts Programme: achievements and challenges
- Transforming agriculture: need for structural reforms with special emphasis on:
  - a) Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act
  - b) Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- Security-related issues with specific focus on left-wing-extremism-affected districts.

At the end of the day-long deliberations, the Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog as a platform to inspire cooperative federalism and emphasized the contributions of NITI Aayog in realizing the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. He called upon the states to fix targets for district GDPs and increase the share of respective state GDPs.

Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) in Education

The programme for Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education aims to systemically reform school education and create model states of transformation. Three states—Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha—were selected, based on the challenge method, for the project that was launched in September 2017. The programme is being implemented in these states through a tripartite agreement, including the state governments, knowledge partners Boston Consulting Group and Piramal Foundation, and NITI Aayog. The project is currently in its third phase of implementation and due to culminate in March 2020.

Critical interventions facilitating academic and administrative reform were made, including:

- the implementation of large-scale learning-enhancement programmes
- school mergers and consolidation
- teacher recruitment and rationalization
- system-wide training and monitoring programmes
- strengthening of the management information systems (MIS)
- boosting competition through district-wise scorecards
- school certification programmes

At the national level, the progress of the project is being consistently monitored through a national steering group (NSG) and central project monitoring unit, and at the state level by a project monitoring unit.

The interventions have resulted in an improvement in learning outcomes across all 3 states.

Meeting of the National Steering Group of Project SATH

NITI Aayog is currently in the process of documenting the journey of reform in these states and formulating implementation toolkits for replication in other parts of the country.
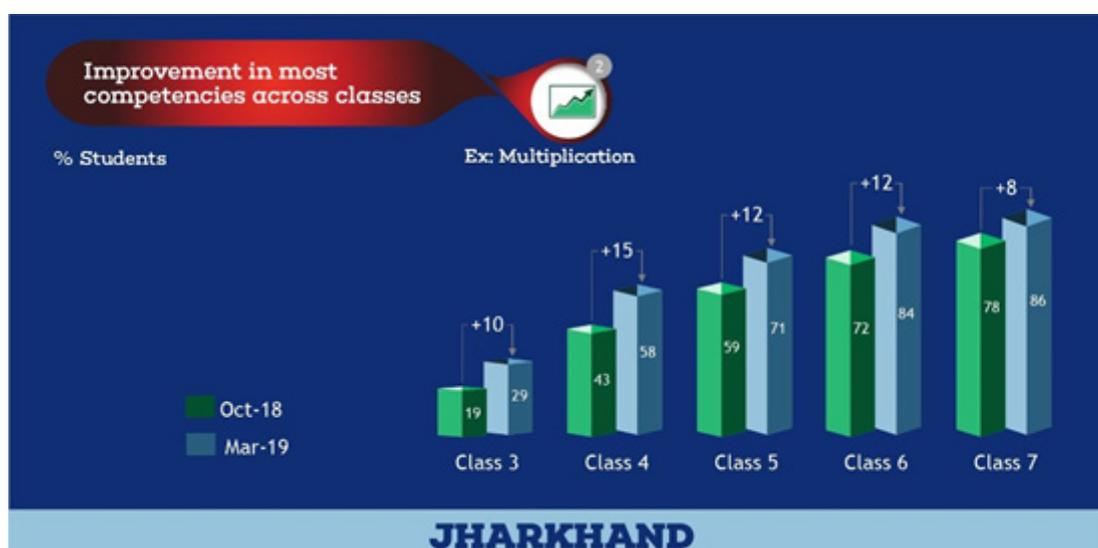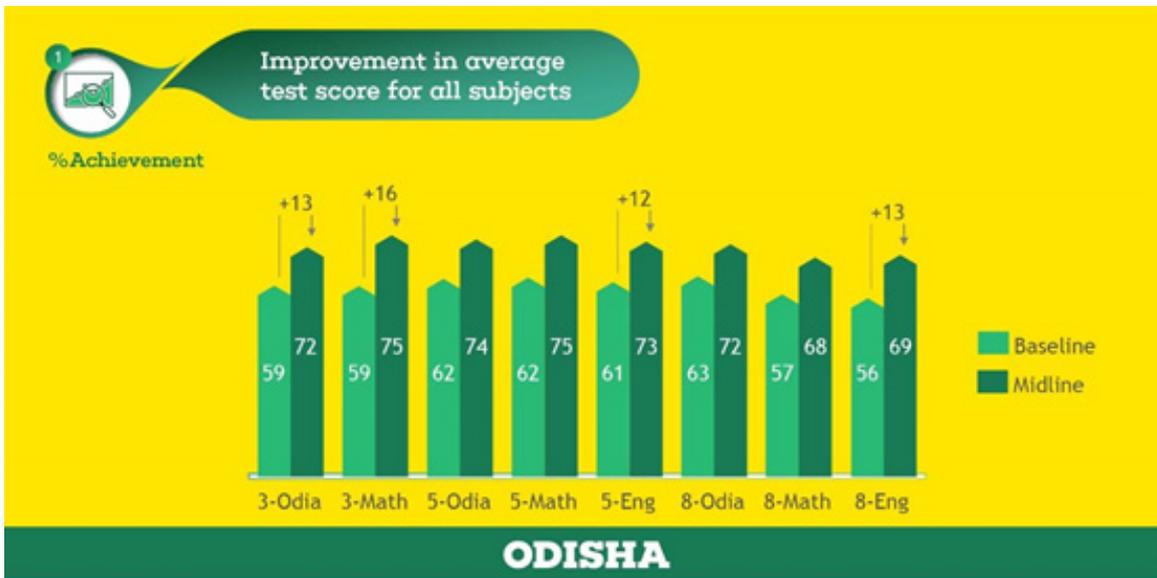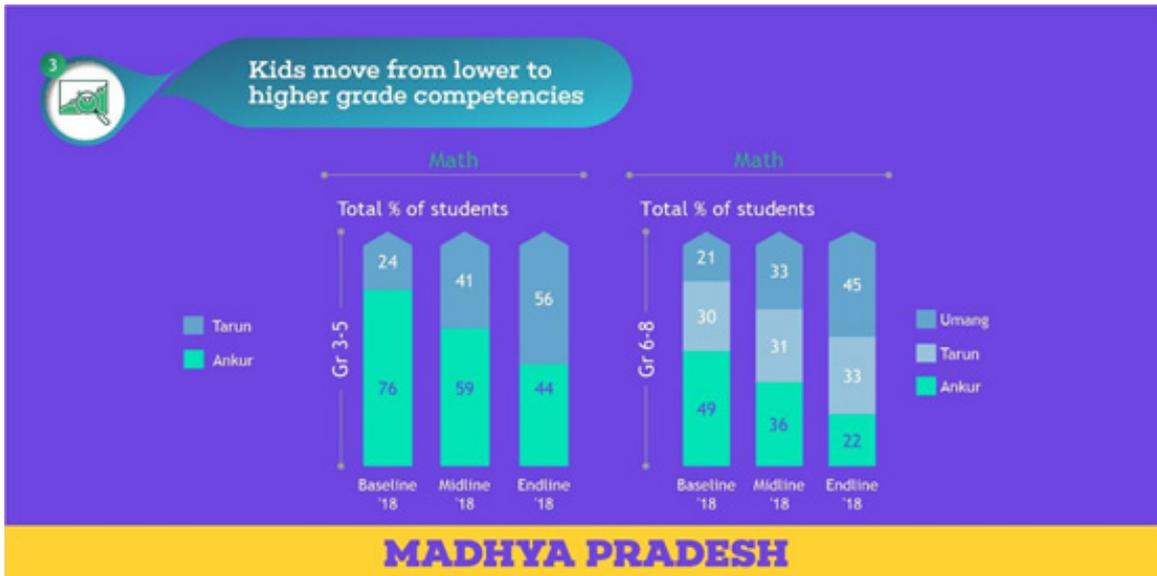
MADHYA PRADESH

ODISHA

Development Support Services for States and Union Territories (DSSS) for Infrastructure Projects

The key objective of the Development Support Services for States and Union Territories (DSSS) for infrastructure projects is to create public-private partnership success stories and reboot infrastructure project delivery models, so that a sustainable infrastructure creation cycle is established. This involves providing project-level support from concept plan to financial closure to states and union territories. NITI Aayog has engaged external consultants to provide transaction-management support for implementing selected infrastructure projects on ground.

Phase I of the initiative was completed in FY 2018, wherein a demonstrable project shelf consisting of 10 projects was selected from over 400 projects, which were received from the states based on a multi-stage project-selection framework. The shortlisted projects from eight states were selected for development on a public-private partnership mode through an MoU with the state governments. During 2018–19, Phase II of the initiative was completed for the shortlisted projects and the selected ones progressed on to the transaction stage or Phase III, which continued during 2019–20. In Phase III, technical consultant appointments and transaction-structuring and bid-document preparation are being carried out.

During the year 2019–20, more projects were taken up under DSSS initiative, especially in the north-eastern states. An MoU was also signed with the newly constituted union territory of Ladakh to develop a strategic plan and provide support for specific projects, especially for tourism, solar energy and others, which are to be taken up under the public-private partnership mode.

Signing of MoU between NITI Aayog and the
UT administration of Ladakh

NITI Forum for North East

The NITI Forum for North East was set up in February 2018 to address various challenges in the region and recommend requisite interventions to achieve sustainable economic growth. The forum is co-chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar and Minister of State for Development of North-Eastern Region Jitendra Singh. The first meeting was held on 10 April 2018 at Agartala, Tripura.

The second meeting was held in December 2018 in Guwahati, Assam. The focus areas identified were bamboo, dairy, pisciculture, tea, and tourism. These were discussed in five parallel sessions involving experts from Central and state governments, academia and industry. A third meeting was held in 2019 to review the progress made on the recommendations of the second meeting. All concerned ministries were directed to prepare a roadmap for implementation of the recommendations, which are being monitored.

Evaluating proposals for conducting feasibility study of multi-modal public transport technology of cable cars in Mizoram and Sikkim, to be implemented with support from Central and state governments. Ernst and Young is engaged as partner to conduct the study. The first draft report for Sikkim was received in November 2019 for review and comments.

Policy initiatives to develop bamboo sector: The Government of Mizoram submitted a proposal to develop the bamboo sector to meet the growing need for sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood transformation. The proposal was discussed with the Mizoram government, National Bamboo Mission, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region to frame requisite policy points.

Subansiri project: Work is ongoing in the Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project and is regularly being followed up with the concerned authorities. As a result of this and subsequent clearance by the National Green Tribunal, the Government of Assam signed an MoU with the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC). The Government of Arunachal Pradesh signed a power purchase agreement with NHPC. Moreover, the Government of Assam constituted a taskforce at the state-level and another at a lower level. A meeting held at NITI Aayog on 24 September 2019 instructed the concerned authorities to complete the work related to this project within two and a half years.

Sivok-Rangpo rail project and Agartala-Akhaura rail project: A demi-official letter was written to the Chairman of the Railway Board, the Government of Sikkim and the Government of West Bengal. Thereafter, a meeting was held on 11 September 2019, wherein the two state governments were requested to expedite the pending issues related to the projects. Further, another review meeting was held on 17 September 2019. The state governments and the concerned authorities were instructed to expedite the implementation of the Sivok-Rangpo rail project. As a result of the follow-up on the Agartala-Akhaura rail project, a field visit was recently undertaken by the Secretary of the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region, concerned officials, and the Director of the north-east vertical of NITI Aayog to review the status of implementation of this project on the Indian side.

Factsheets for north-eastern region states: Factsheets have been prepared for all the eight states of the region, covering sectors education, health, rural employment, skill, women and child development, WASH, child rights, power and social exclusion.

Special plan assistance: Requests were received from the Government of Tripura for release of Rs 358.69 crore; from the Government of Nagaland for release of Rs 810.19 crore; from the Government of Assam for release of Rs 318.26 crore; and from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for release of Rs 139.91 crore. Recommendations were made to the Ministry of Finance for release of balance fund under special plan assistance for the states of Nagaland and Tripura. The ministry released an amount of Rs 358.70 crore to the Government of Tripura and Rs 226.80 crore to the Government of Nagaland. Further, the Government of Nagaland requested for release of balance amount of Rs 529.43 crore, which has been made to the Ministry of Finance for release of the same.

The state governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have been requested to provide some clarifications and submit the details of ongoing special-plan-assistance projects after allocating the amount released by the Ministry of Finance from 2015–16 to 2017–18 and also submit pending utilization certificates (UCs).

Holistic Development of Islands

Identification of islands for holistic development

As many as ten islands—Aves, Long, Little Andaman, Smith, and Ross in Andaman and Nicobar and Bangaram, Cheriyam, Minicoy, Suheli and Thinnakara in Lakshadweep—have been identified for sustainable development. In this connection, a consultant has been engaged by NITI Aayog for preparation of concept development plans and detailed master plans for the development of nine islands—four (Aves, Long, Smith and Ross) in Andaman and Nicobar and five (Bangaram, Cheriyam, Minicoy, Suheli and Tinnakara) in Lakshadweep. Final master plans and infrastructure plans have been prepared for these islands; the carrying capacity of these islands has been determined and environmental zoning has been carried out to ensure sustainable development. For improving air connectivity, necessary actions have been taken to make Diglipur Airport operational for civilian aircraft, which is now ready to use. The airport at Minicoy, which is also strategically important for our country, has been planned for construction by the Indian Air Force.

Identification of projects for priority implementation

Four model projects in Andaman and Nicobar and three in Lakshadweep islands have been identified. These projects have been approved by the public-private-partnership-appraisal committee, Ministry of Finance. Bids have been floated for the projects by the concerned union territory administration. Coastal regulation zone clearance has been accorded for all the four projects of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. For the projects in Lakshadweep, rapid environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been done. Modifications in the integrated island management plans (IIMPs) required for implementation of projects in Lakshadweep have been agreed to by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Identification of additional islands for development

NITI Aayog, in consultation with the administration of union territories, has identified 17 more islands/sites (12 in Andaman and Nicobar and five in Lakshadweep) for sustainable development. These are North Passage, Cinque, Inglis, Viper, Neil (Bharatpur Beach), Ramnagar Beach, Karmatang Beach, Dhaninallah Beach, Kalipur Beach, Rutland, North Bay and Great Nicobar (B Quarry) in Andaman and Nicobar, and Kalpeni, Kadmat, Agatti, Chetlat and Bitra in Lakshadweep. Tenders have been floated for engagement of a consultant for preparation of a master plan for holistic development of these additional islands.

Land-related issues for development of identified islands in Lakshadweep

Based on the recommendation of the third meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) held on 24 April 2018, a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr T. Haque. The committee was requested to recommend a suitable resolution model for addressing land-related issues in identified islands of Lakshadweep (Minicoy, Suheli, Bangaram, Cheriyam and Thinnakara Islands). The committee held meetings and consultations with various stakeholders in Lakshadweep and submitted its report. Necessary follow-up actions as per the recommendations contained in the report are being taken.

Report of the committee for holistic development of Little Andaman and Great Nicobar islands

A committee was constituted to recommend a roadmap for holistic development of Little Andaman and Great Nicobar islands. The committee held extensive deliberations, undertook

field visits and met local representatives in the two islands. The committee has submitted its report, which is being finalized.

Conflicts in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has been asked to prepare an action plan for mitigation of man–animal conflict with reference to saltwater crocodiles in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The action plan has been finalized and shared with the Andaman and Nicobar administration for necessary action. A standard operating procedure has been developed for managing such conflicts.

Development of water resources in Little Andaman and Great Nicobar Islands

WAPCOS (Water and Power Consultancy Services) has been asked to undertake a research study for the development of water resources in Little Andaman and Great Nicobar Islands. The report is expected to be finalized soon.

Reclamation of land in Little Andaman and Great Nicobar Islands

WAPCOS conducted a research study on the reclamation of land in Little Andaman and Great Nicobar Islands. The report is expected to be finalized soon.

Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region

The Indian Himalayan region, stretching over 2500 km, is spread across 11 states—Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal—and 2 union territories—Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Home to nearly 50 million people, the region is characterized by a diverse demographic and varied economic, environmental, social and political systems.

In 2017, five working groups were constituted to prepare reports on the following thematic areas:

(i)   Inventory and revival of springs in the Himalayas for water security
(ii) Sustainable tourism in the Indian Himalayan region
(iii) Shifting cultivation: towards a transformational approach
(iv) Strengthening skill and entrepreneurship landscape in the Indian Himalayan region
(v)   Data for informed decision-making

As per the recommendations in the report on 'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security', the Ministry of Jal Shakti came out with a framework document on the rejuvenation of springs. As per general recommendations in the roadmap for actions in the report, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development; and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, launched an initiative, 'Himalaya Calling', to bridge the science-policy-practice divide and foster sustainable development in the region. To take forward the implementation of the above thematic reports, NITI Aayog has initiated discussions with the chief ministers, chief secretaries and other senior officials of these Himalayan states.

THINK-TANK ACTIVITIES

THINK-TANK ACTIVITIES

1. Increasing Knowledge
   - Adoption of Frontier Technologies: AI Strategy Paper
   - National Health Stack: Strategy and Approach Consultation Paper
   - Strategy for Methanol Economy
   - Strategic Dialogues
     1. Sixth India–China Strategic Economic Dialogue
     2. Fifth NITI–DRC Dialogue
     3. UN ESCAP Asia–Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
     4. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
     5. NITI Lecture Series
     6. Economists' Meet
   - NILERD
2. Promoting Innovation
   - Atal Innovation Mission
   - Women Entrepreneurship Platform
3. Engaging Widely: High-Profile Visits
4. Networking with Think Tanks

INTRODUCTION

NITI Aayog has taken some significant steps this year, towards fulfilling its objectives and with an eye on India's ability to meet future needs. These include developing a national strategy on artificial intelligence and igniting India's first methanol-based cooking stove in Assam on 5 October 2019.

Further, engaging widely with national and international like-minded think tanks, educational and policy research institutions and subject matter experts has led to development of partnerships between key stakeholders.

This section also reports the activities of the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) and Atal Innovation Missing (AIM).

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

ADOPTION OF FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES: AI STRATEGY PAPER

I. National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence

The Government of India in its Budget of 2018–19 had prioritized building our technology capabilities and mandated NITI Aayog to initiate a national programme to direct the efforts of the government in the area of artificial intelligence. NITI Aayog released India's national strategy for artificial intelligence (NSAI) in June 2018. The strategy, called #AI for All, combines the economic potential of AI with social development and inclusive growth, and positions India as the 'AI garage of the world'. With this, India has joined an elite list of countries with a well-defined AI strategy.

NITI Aayog is in the process of formalizing the institutional mechanism and funding framework to implement the recommendations of this strategy. NSAI is focused on building India's research and application capabilities through five specific recommendations.

    i. **CORE:** Supporting basic research in AI through five centres at top-tier academic institutions.
    ii. **ICTAIs:** International Centre for Transformational AI, in partnership with industry, to focus on building AI solutions.
    iii. **AIRAWAT:** Large-scale cloud-based AI computing infrastructure, 100+ petaflops, optimized for high throughout storage, to provide AI-specific computing capability for students, researchers, start-ups and government organizations.
    iv. **Moonshot Projects:** Ambitious AI challenges focused on pushing the technology frontier.
    v. **AI for Alliance:** Aimed at establishing a multi-disciplinary, multi-national research collaboration focused on pushing the technology frontier (viz. explainable AI, addressing biases) and democratizing the application of AI, i.e. changing the narrative from autonomous vehicles to solving access, affordability and availability of quality healthcare, education, sanitation and essential resources.

The recommendations are aimed at attracting the best of AI research talent from across the globe to India. In the short term, given the paucity of quality research faculty in India in AI, an appropriate incentivization mechanism (which could be a promise of top-notch infrastructure facilities and remunerations matching international standards) is needed. Furthermore, Indian PhD scholars in this area, who would otherwise pursue their studies from top universities abroad, need to be retained in the country through an appropriate incentivization mechanism.

II. Pilot Projects in Artificial Intelligence

    (i) **Development of Imaging Biobank for Cancer Project,** in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology, Tata Memorial Hospital; IIT Bombay; and IISc Bangalore. This project is aimed at building a database of cancer-related radiology and pathology images of more than 20,000 cancer patients, with a focus on the major kinds of cancer prevalent in India, along with the associated annotations and labels of clinical data. The database is envisaged as a national resource that will be open to bona fide researchers from all parts of India and is aimed at developing a complete longitudinal profile of cancer patients.

(ii) **India–UK Healthcare AI Catalyst Project:** NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Department for International Trade, UK, has been working to bring rigorously tested and implemented technology solutions focused on priority areas such diabetes, hypertension, cancer (particularly, oral, cervical and breast), eye conditions, women and children's health and blood diseases, such as thalassemia.

NATIONAL HEALTH STACK: STRATEGY AND APPROACH CONSULTATION PAPER

The proposal by NITI Aayog to implement a framework for the National Health Stack (NHS) has been formulated as the National Digital Health Blueprint by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Released in October 2019, the blueprint aligns with the vision of the National Health Policy 2017. It is a framework that leverages the power of digital technologies to make India's health system more robust. It adopts the principle of 'think big, start small, scale fast' and forms the foundation for citizen-centricity, quality care, better access, universal health coverage and inclusiveness. The blueprint has been designed as a layered framework, with a vision and a set of principles at the core, surrounded by layers relating to digital health infrastructure, data hubs, building blocks, electronic health records standards, regulations and an institutional framework for its implementation. It will help in providing a common platform for integration of existing applications and data in the health domain. This is a step towards achieving the goal of universal health coverage with an impetus on digital healthcare.

STRATEGY FOR METHANOL ECONOMY

With an ambition to reduce the import of crude oil and develop indigenous fuel to cut the country's carbon footprint, NITI Aayog has been working on methanol and dimethyl ether (DME) as potential substitutes of oil and natural gas, respectively.

An apex committee, constituted under the chairmanship of Member (Science and Technology), NITI Aayog, oversees the implementation of methanol economy in the country. It also monitors the progress of the activities of the taskforces constituted on the production of methanol using high ash coal, biomass/municipal solid waste/sources other than coal, the utilization of methanol/DME, the conversion/design of methanol-based engines and the dissemination of information for creating awareness about methanol/DME. The progress of the activities, under those initiatives, is as follows:

1. An R&D project, on developing indigenous technology for the production of methanol using high ash coal, is nearing completion and a one-tonne-per-day methanol-production capacity plant will be demonstrated shortly.

2. R&D projects, on the production of methanol using biomass, are progressing well. Phase 1 of the project has been completed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has been notified about methanol blends in petrol—15%, 85% and 100% by volume, called M15, M85 and M100, respectively.

4. The Indian standard for M15 has been formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

5. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has prepared the M15 blend and its stability has been checked.

6. Research work by IOC showed that blending up to 15% of methanol in petrol, and 20% DME in LPG, needed no specific modifications in the internal combustion engines, or in the materials/parts.

7. Emissions and material compatibility, for the M15 blend, have been completed by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune.

8. ARAI, in collaboration with the Maruti Suzuki, has completed road trials and the durability test of the vehicles on M15.

9. IOC has carried out performance and emission trials on M15-blended petrol.

10. Work on the conversion of one work boat to operate on 100% methanol, by the Inland Waterways Authority of India, is progressing well.

11. The Government of Assam, in association with Assam Petrochemicals, has launched methanol-based cooking stoves, which are working fine.

Launching India's first methanol-based cooking stove in Assam on 5 October 2019

12. A Methanol Centre for Excellence is being set up in ARAI, Pune, with funding by MoRTH and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

13. MoRTH has issued a communication to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the adoption of M15 as a fuel for distribution through its existing fuel distribution network.

14. A memorandum for the expenditure finance committee (EFC) on the use of methanol as an alternative fuel is under preparation.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

1.   SIXTH INDIA–CHINA STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DIALOGUE (SED), 2019

Set up by the erstwhile Planning Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, during the visit of then Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to India in December 2010, SED has since served as an effective mechanism for enhancing bilateral practical cooperation. NITI Aayog, after its formation, has taken the dialogue forward and given it greater momentum. Under the aegis of SED, senior representatives from both sides have come together to constructively deliberate on and share individual best practices and successfully identify sector-specific challenges and opportunities for enabling ease-of-doing business and facilitating bilateral trade and investment flows.

Six standing joint working groups with co-chairs (above the rank of joint secretary) have been appointed by both sides to address pertinent economic and commercial issues across infrastructure, energy, high tech, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination in a structured and outcome-oriented manner by ensuring regular interaction and continued exchanges.

This year the dialogue was held from 7–9 September 2019 in New Delhi and comprised roundtable meetings of the groups on infrastructure, energy, high tech, resource conservation and policy coordination, followed by technical site visits and closed-door G2G meetings. Senior representatives, both Indian and Chinese, from policymaking, industry and academia participated in the dialogue. The Indian side was led by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar and the Chinese by NDRC Chairman He Lifeng. The vice chairman emphasised on taking concrete steps to address India's trade imbalance with China.

The two sides through pragmatic and outcome-oriented deliberations of the six working groups arrived at the following mutual agreements:

Policy Coordination: The two sides undertook in-depth discussions reviewing trade and investment climates in order to mutually identify complementarities and harness synergies to this effect. Potential areas of collaboration across innovation and investment, focusing on Fintech and related technologies, were highlighted. The two sides agreed to exchange an annual calendar of activities to further activate regular channels of communication.

Working Group on Infrastructure: The two sides noted the significant progress made in the feasibility study on Chennai–Bengaluru–Mysuru railway-upgradation project and personal training of Indian senior railway management staff in China. They held detailed discussions on identifying the next steps in all areas of cooperation as well as on taking forward the study project exploring the possibility of a Delhi–Agra high-speed railway in the pilot section. The two sides also agreed to identify new projects to expand cooperation in the transport sector.

Working Group on High Tech: The two sides assessed the achievements made since the fifth SED and exchanged views on regulatory procedures of ease-of-doing business, development of artificial intelligence, high-tech manufacturing, and next-generation mobile communications of both countries. Discussions were held on technological innovation, industrial situation, and mechanism for further strengthening cooperation as well as on India–China digital partnerships, data governance and related industry policy.

Working Group on Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection: The two sides discussed and reviewed the progress made in the fields of water management, waste management, construction and demolition waste and resource conservation. Deliberations were also made on the role of innovation in the sector. Effective utilization of novel concepts in low-cost construction technology, methods of flood and erosion control, air pollution, etc., was discussed. The two sides also pressed upon the need for promoting cooperation in emergent areas such as waste to power, co-processing of septage with sewage sludge, storm water management, etc. In order to promote enhanced cooperation in the above areas, the two sides agreed on continued interaction and exchange of relevant information more frequently.

Working Group on Energy: Both countries identified future areas of collaboration and resolved to work on renewable energy, clean coal technology, smart grid and grid integration and smart meters and e-mobility. They agreed on cooperation in R&D for developing new technology for manufacturing solar cell from alternative material and improvement of efficiency of solar cells. Both sides also agreed on cooperation in the field of e-mobility and energy storage.

Working Group on Pharmaceuticals: The joint working groups noted that both sides should further strengthen communication to promote pragmatic cooperation. It was also decided that both sides should strengthen complementary advantages in the pharmaceutical industry and promote Indian generic drugs and Chinese APIs.

The two sides agreed to effectively utilize the SED mechanism as an overarching and permanent instrument to address outstanding issues and identify potential areas of collaboration.

2. FIFTH NITI AAYOG–DRC DIALOGUE, 2019

The fifth dialogue of NITI Aayog and the Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council of the People's Republic of China was held in Wuhan, China, on 28 November 2019. The Chinese delegation was led by Ma Jiantang, party secretary of DRC, and the Indian by Dr Rajiv Kumar, vice chairman of NITI Aayog.

This is the first ministerial dialogue between China and India since the informal meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Chennai.
Based on the agreement at the fourth dialogue in Mumbai 2018, DRC and NITI Aayog had undertaken joint research in the areas of WTO reform and urbanization, whose preliminary findings were presented at the fifth dialogue as a key deliverable.

Senior delegates of Chinese and Indian administration, representatives of the governments, academia and enterprises participated in the deliberations, which included sessions on the global economy, globalization and macroeconomic policies in China and India, innovation and development, and potential for Sino-India trade and economic cooperation. After detailed presentations and in-depth discussions, both sides affirmed their commitment to build a more inclusive global economic architecture and implement fair and reasonable trade rules, taking into account the need for safeguarding the interests of developing and less-developed nations.

To advance high-quality development, the two sides decided to strengthen knowledge sharing and mutual learning in high-tech, digital economy, fiscal policy and jointly address the challenges arising from the environment, income gaps, etc. Emphasis was laid on promoting sustainable urbanization, development of smart cities, infrastructure and green transportation. Both sides also agreed to explore synergies in tourism, health sector, culture, language and people-to-people exchanges, and learn from respective best practices and create favourable conditions for facilitating ease-of-doing business by giving impetus to outbound and inbound investments.

The sixth dialogue will be convened in India in the second half of November 2020.

3.   UN ESCAP ASIA–PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APFSD)

India participated in the sixth Asia–Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development at Bangkok from 27–29 March 2019 under the leadership of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar. It engaged member states, United Nations bodies, international organizations and other stake olders in deliberations on the theme 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality'. It reviewed the status on the cluster of seven SDGs: 4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnership for the goals). In a side session, NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2018 was presented in the context of monitoring of SDGs in the Asia and Pacific region. Similarly, the SDG India Index 2018 was presented in the seventy-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific held from 27 to 31 May 2019 in Bangkok.

4.   HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, was held from 9–18 July 2019. The Indian delegation was led by NITI VC Dr Rajiv Kumar, and included Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs/Rural Development), NITI Aayog. The theme was 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality'. The forum saw 47 countries presenting their national voluntary reviews (VNR). India presented its first VNR in 2017 and is scheduled to present its second in the next forum to be held on July 2020. Dr Rajiv Kumar presented India's progress in the SDGs in an address to the UN General Assembly.

Together with UN Resident Coordinator for India Renata Dessallien and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, NITI Aayog hosted a side event on 16 July 2019. The event was titled 'From Commitment to Achievement: India's Experience in Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals'. It was attended by over 150 international participants from governments, international development organizations, media, academia and civil society.

The panel of the event consisted of Syed Akbaruddin (Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations), Dr Rajiv Kumar, Achim Steiner (Under Secretary-General and Administrator, UNDP), Renata Dessallien and Sanyukta Samaddar, who delivered a presentation on India's experience on SDG localization. The presentation highlighted the findings of the SDG India Index 2018 as a benchmarking and advocacy tool. As mentioned above, the publication, titled 'Localizing SDGs: Early Lessons from India, 2019', was launched at the event.

5.   NITI AAYOG LECTURE SERIES

The 'NITI Lectures: Transforming India' was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 26 August 2016 and has since been held annually, featuring eminent speakers from across the world.
With the vision of disseminating cutting-edge, innovative ideas in development policy to India, the NITI lectures are attended by the government's top decision-makers, including members of the Cabinet and senior officials across ministries and departments. Through the lectures, NITI Aayog brings policymakers, academics, experts and administrators of global repute to India. The aim of the series is to enable learning, both at the level of the Centre and states, from successful development practice world over.

On 26 October 2019, the fifth edition of the NITI Lecture Series was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the lecture in which the keynote address was delivered by David R. Malpass, President, World Bank Group. The theme was "Role of Financial Sector in Development". The panellists for this year's lecture were Uday Kotak, executive vice chairman and managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank; Dr Rajiv Loll, non-executive chairman of IDFC bank; Ajit Ranade, chief economist at Aditya Birla Group; and Pranjul Bhandari, chief

economist at HSBC Securities and Capital Markets. Union ministers, policymakers, experts from different walks of life were also a part of the august gathering.

6.   ECONOMISTS' MEET

NITI Aayog organized a meet with various senior economists, private equity and venture capitalists, business leaders from manufacturing, travel and tourism, apparel and FMCG, analytics, subject experts in the fields of agriculture, science and technology and finance on 9 January 2020. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister interacted with the participants and called for a focused effort from all stakeholders in order to achieve the target of a USD 5 trillion economy in India. He said sectors like tourism, urban development, infrastructure and agri-based industry have a great potential to take the economy forward and generate employment.

Stating that India is a land with unlimited possibilities, he requested all stakeholders to do their bit to bridge the gap between reality and perception. He said, 'We all must work together and start to think like a nation.'

NILERD

The National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) is an autonomous Institute under NITI Aayog, Government of India. The Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog serves as the President of its general council and the CEO as the Chairperson of the executive council. Currently, NITI Aayog Senior Adviser Dr Yogesh Suri is holding the additional charge as the Director General of the institute. The primary objectives of this institution are research, data collection, and education and training programmes in all aspects of human capital planning, human resource development, monitoring and evaluation.

Research Studies Completed or in Progress during 2019–20 Include

1. **Study on 'Faculty Resource in Public Engineering Institutions under the World Bank Assisted Scheme—Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme Phase III' of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India**

    The objectives of the study are to examine the causes of high rates of faculty vacancies in engineering education institutions, to analyse the impact of faculty turnover, to identify solutions across states, and to propose establishing state-wise plans of action for filling sanctioned faculty vacancies. The final report has been submitted to World Bank.

2. **Study on Efficacy and Impact of the National Apprenticeship Scheme throughout the Country**
    The objectives of the study are to examine the impact of the scheme on employment, to analyse the requirement and availability of apprentices, to assess the relevance of the scheme to achieve national priorities and Sustainable Development Goals, to identify the bottlenecks in the implementation of the scheme, and to recommend remedial steps to improve the effectiveness of the scheme. The final report has been submitted to the Ministry of HRD.

3. **Manpower Planning in Odisha, Planning and Coordination Department, Sponsored by the Government of Odisha**

    The objectives of the study are to assess the requirement of manpower between the periods 2016–17 and 2021–22 based on the growth and income projections for different domain-specific sectors; to analyse the region-wise skill gap of manpower by covering three selected districts of the state—Jajpur, Ganjam and Sundargarh—and to suggest policy options for achieving the set targets for different sectors. The final report has been submitted to the Government of Odisha.

4. **Review of Three Autonomous Institutions of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

    The study examines whether the objectives for which the institutions were set up have been or are being achieved; assesses the effectiveness of financial and physical progress in meeting the objectives; and evaluates the aspect of deployment of staff in these autonomous organizations and suggests the scope for maximum utilization of internal resources. The final report has been submitted to the Ministry of NRE.

5.   **An Assessment of Job Opportunities and Socio-Economic and Working Conditions of Workers in the Indian Gold Market—Study Awarded by NITI Aayog**

The broader objective of the study is to make an assessment of employment and working conditions of the workers in the gold market of India.

6.   **Research Study on Evaluation of Scheme 'Higher Education Statistics and Public Information System (HESPIS)' sponsored by the Ministry of HRD, GoI**

The study aims at an in-depth impact assessment of the central sector scheme 'Higher Education Statistics and Public Information System' of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, The objectives of the study are to examine the specific deliverables of the scheme and highlight the extent to which they have been achieved, to analyse the geographical distribution of institutions surveyed under the scheme, to evaluate its financial performance in relation to the budget outlays, to identify the weaknesses and suggest steps to improve effective implementation of the scheme, to assess the role of the technical support group, to assess the coordination mechanism between various stakeholders and evaluate its effectiveness.

Training Programmes Being Conducted/Completed by the Institute

1.   **International Training Programme (ITP) on Global Human Resource Management (14 March –24 April 2019)**

This programme sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation scheme aims to familiarize participants with major functional areas in the human resources arena, including employment law, job analysis, planning, recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal, compensation, industrial relations, global human resource management, etc. Twenty participants from 13 countries received certificates from former NITI Special Secretary Yaduvendra Mathur in the presence of Dr Yogesh Suri and MEA Under Secretary Bhagwant Singh on 22 April 2019.

2.   **ITP on Human Resource Planning and Development, 26 June–20 August 2019; sponsored by MEA**

The programme in human resource planning and development focuses on providing a framework of planning and development of human resources for senior- and middle-level officers working with governments of developing countries. As many as 30 participants from 12 developing countries of South Asia and Africa attended this course.

Dr. Yogesh Suri, Director General awarding certificates to participants at the valedictory function

3. **International Training Programme (ITP) on Human Capabilities (27 March–24 April 2019)**

The programme provides knowledge of practical application of sensory and cognitive sciences in the field of human factors or human engineering, human abilities, self-efficacy, ergonomics and good governance. The course was attended by 23 participants from 23 developing countries. The participants received certificates from Yaduvendra Mathur, former special secretary of NITI.

4. **ITP on Manpower Research, 31 July–24 September 2019**

The training programme on manpower research provides comprehensive knowledge about systematic manpower planning, including tools and techniques of labour market analysis, labour force projections, techniques of data analysis, report writing, etc. The programme was inaugurated by NILERD Director General Dr Yogesh Suri on 1 August 2019. The course was attended by 24 participants from 18 countries.

Valedictory function of ITP on Manpower Research

5. **Training Programme on Competency Development for Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan (2–13 December 2019)**

The training programme on competency development was conducted for Human Resource Officers of the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan. The main aim of the programme was to help these officers improve their performance at work by helping them manage relations at work, streamline the process of talent acquisition, communicate effectively and assertively, managing performance, talent development and management and effective change management The training was attended by 20 officials.

Participants from the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan

6. **International Training Programme on Manpower Information System (14 January - 9 March 2020)**

The training programme on manpower information system (MIS) provides comprehensive knowledge to the participants about tools and techniques used in developing MIS and its management skills, which will include planning, control, problem-solving and communication pertaining to MIS. The programme is attended by 25 participants from 18 countries.

Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

With an objective of curating models for digital financial inclusion, a three-day residential workshop on Centre for Advancement of Digital Financial Inclusion (CADFI) was organized at NILERD during 24–26 June 2019. A total of 25 organizations, including Indian School of Business, India Post Payment Bank, CRISIL Foundation, Mann Deshi Foundation, Mastercard, Facebook and Access Assist participated. The organizations deliberated on the types of modules needed for each age group cohort and developed framework for the same. The workshop was steered by Yaduvendra Mathur, former special secretary, NITI Aayog.

PROMOTING INNOVATION

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy; provide a platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders; and create awareness and an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country.

Six major initiatives taken by AIM are:

1. Atal Tinkering Labs: Creating a problem-solving mindset across schools in India.
2. Atal Incubation Centres: Fostering world class start-ups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
3. Atal New India Challenges: Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
4. Mentor India Campaign: A national mentor network in collaboration with the public sector, corporates and institutions to support all the initiatives of the mission.
5. Atal Community Innovation Centre: To stimulate community-centric innovation and ideas in the unserved/underserved regions of the country, including tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
6. ARISE: To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

AIM carried out the following activities last year:

Atal Tinkering Labs, at School Level

Over the last two years, AIM has established thousands of Atal Tinkering Labs, thus helping students from grades 6 to 12 to have access to and tinker with innovative tools and technologies, such as 3D printers, robotics, and miniaturized electronics do-it-yourself kits. To date, 8878 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in schools nationwide, with over 4670 of them operational in more than 650 districts and over 2 million students having access to the labs.

Some activities related to ATL's operational excellence, proactive promotion of innovation and thought leadership, collaborations and partnerships, as well as new initiatives are listed below:

- 4680 ATLs operational as of 30 September 2019
- 6040 additional ATLs shortlisted for due diligence: Target 10,000 operational ATLs by yearend
- 2000+ ATL teachers trained with corporate partners
- ATL Student Innovator Programme and Student Internship and ATL Student Entrepreneur Programme conducted
- Regional mentor meets across country: FB Live sessions with Prof. Tarun Khanna of Super Mentors
- ATL School of the Month Drone challenge winners announced
- ATL Tinkering Marathon Top 10 district-level winners' recognition
- ATL Gandhian Challenge launched in all schools, along with UNICEF
- India Stamp Creativity challenge, launched with UNICEF and India Post
- PM India Innovative Learning DHRUV Programme: AIM invited as key partner by MHRD
- Singapore Inspreneur 3.0 ATL, showcasing of top 6 innovations, with MEA minister and Singapore finance minister
- Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's visit to ATL with other Nobel Prize delegates
- Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus's, from Yunus Social Business, interaction with AIM
- Russia AIM SIRIUS ATL Student Innovation Exchange finalized

Atal Incubators, at University, Institution and Industry Levels

To promote the creation of a supporting ecosystem for start-ups and entrepreneurs AIM has been establishing world-class incubators called Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in universities, institutions, corporates, etc. To date, AIM has selected 102 universities, institutions and private players to establish these incubators, each of which will foster creation and nurturing of 40–50 world-class start-ups every four years.

Some activities related to AIC's operational excellence, proactive promotion of innovation and thought leadership, collaborations and partnerships and new initiatives are listed below:
- 47 AICs operational as of 30 September 2019
- Singapore Inspreneur 3.0 AIC participation of 9 AIC start-ups, funding interests by venture capitalists
- Indo-French Knowledge Summit at Lyon: 5 AIC start-ups received immediate funding interest by venture capitalists
- Youth-CoLab Sustainable Innovation Challenge, along with UNDP, based on Gandhian values
- Entrepreneur World Cup National Innovation Challenge, CCAMP AIC start-up emerged as the Indian winner
- Ongoing discussions and interests expressed for incubator and start-up collaborations by German, the Netherlands, Swedish, French and Australian embassies, US–India Business Council, etc.
- CSIR – AIM collaboration for CSIR incubators leveraging AIM Incubator Models
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation partnership in AIC / Startup Training
- UNLEASH Startups Challenge with Netherlands embassy support

Atal Community Innovation Centres Serving Unserved and Underserved Regions of India

To promote the benefits of technology-led innovation to the unserved/underserved regions of India, including tier-2 and tier-3 cities, aspirational districts, tribal, hilly and coastal areas, AIM is setting up Atal Community Innovation Centres. These centres have a unique partnership-driven model wherein AIM would grant up to Rs 2.5 crore to an ACIC, subject to a partner proving equal or greater matching funding. Over 300 applications have been received across the country and more than 50 ACICs will be established during the next two years.
Some activities related to ACIC's operational excellence, proactive promotion of innovation & thought leadership, collaborations and partnerships and new initiatives are listed below:

- ACIC application portal launched and due-diligence process and systems ready
- Over 300 applications received to date and over 1300 registrations made. As many 25 ACICs to be selected during FY19–20

Atal New India Challenges—Product and Service Innovations with National Impact

To create product and service innovations having a national socio-economic impact, AIM has launched over 24 Atal New India challenges in partnership with five different ministries and departments of the Central government. As many as 52 winners have been selected for grant aid and handholding by incubators and mentors of AIM, out of nearly thousand applications received for the same.

Some activities related to ANIC's operational excellence, proactive promotion of innovation and thought leadership, collaborations and partnerships and new initiatives are listed below:
- 24 ANICs launched, 5 ministries supported
- 26 winners selected and announced for first tranche disbursement
- 26 shortlisted for handholding with incubators for subsequent disbursement
- Proactive meetings with ANIC winners, ministries and/or scientists organized
- Innovation Deployment Manual, ANIC guidelines, relevant systems, etc., ready.

Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) to Stimulate MSME Industry Innovation

To promote innovation in a phased manner in the MSME/start-up sector, AIM will be launching ARISE (Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises) along with partner ministries so that great research ideas are converted to viable innovative prototypes followed by product development and commercial deployment.
Some activities related to ARISE's operational excellence, proactive promotion of innovation and thought leadership, collaborations and partnerships and new initiatives are listed below:

 Over five ministries for ARISE pilots identified
1. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
2. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
3. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
4. Ministry of Textiles

5. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
6. Ministry of Jal Shakti

• AIM–CSIR partnership, enabling pilot funding (through NRDC)
• 15 ARISE challenges to be launched by 1 December

Mentorship and Partnerships with Public, Private sector, NGOs, Academia, Institutions

To enable all the initiatives to succeed, AIM has launched one of the largest mentor engagement and management program called Mentor India: The Mentors of Change. To date, AIM has received over 10000 registrations nationwide on its NONET portal, with over 4000 of these being allocated to ATLs and AICs.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a first-of-its-kind unified-access portal to enable women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. The idea of the platform was first mooted by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, who announced its establishment at the conclusion of the eighth Global Entrepreneurship Summit, held in Hyderabad in 2017, with an overarching theme of 'Women First, Prosperity for All'.

As an enabling platform, WEP is built on three pillars:
• Iccha Shakti, which represents motivating aspiring entrepreneurs to start their business
• Gyaan Shakti, which represents providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship
• Karma Shakti, which represents providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting-up and scaling-up businesses

The platform meets these objectives by serving as an aggregator of information resources and services, with a focus on enabling women entrepreneurship, and works closely with partner organizations to realize various forms of integration to offer a seamless experience to aspiring or established women entrepreneurs.

WEP Partners

Through its partners, WEP aims to offer services to members under various support areas:

• Incubation and Acceleration: Connect entrepreneurs to incubation centres in order to help them set up their business and streamline their operations
• Entrepreneurship Skilling: Offering fellowship programmes through its partners; conducting online-learning sessions with experts
• Marketing Assistance: Through courses on effectively utilizing digital-marketing mediums
• Funding and Financial Assistance: Creating access to funding avenues through its investment council, investor consortium and partners
• Compliance Support: Providing support in licencing and tax filing
• Social Entrepreneurship: Creating access to networks, funding opportunities and mentorship

WEP has more than 35 partners from various industries and sectors who have committed specific resources for WEP users. These partners include PayPal, Facebook, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India, Atal Innovation Mission, CRISIL, SIDBI, FICCI, NASSCOM, Google, Institute of Company Secretaries of India, CII, Women's Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Foundation, Nexus Incubator, Mann Deshi Foundation, ShopClues, and SEWA Bank, among others.

WEP Roadshow Series

The WEP RoadShow series aims to initiate dialogues with various state governments and sensitize local stakeholders for building a conducive entrepreneurial ecosystem for women entrepreneurs. More than 1000 women entrepreneurs participated across states:

- Hyderabad: In association with WE hub, the Government of Telangana
- Guwahati: In association with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and Dhriiti
- Raipur: In association with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and AIC-36 Inc
- Bengaluru: In association with Padmashree Institute of Management and Sciences, Seshadripuram Educational Trust, and Catalyst for Women Entrepreneurship
- Jaipur: In association with TiE-Rajasthan and AIC-Banasthali Vidyapith
- New Delhi: In association with TiE-Delhi

WEP Learning Series

WEP launched its webinar and expert series in October 2019 to provide an opportunity for women entrepreneurs to learn from the experiences of established women entrepreneurs. This allows them to get key ingredients to solve problems from experts in various segments, including taxation, skilling, marketing and funding.

- Webinars with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr Ashwath Narayan; UN Resident Coordinator in India Renata Lok Desallien, UN India Young Business Champion for SDGs Manasi Tata, and Namrata Yadu, founder of Chhattisgarh Mushrooms
- Expert series with Padmaja Ruparel, founder and president of Indian Angel Network on 'angel funding'; Naiyya Saggi, founder and CEO of BabyChakra

Women Transforming India Awards 2019
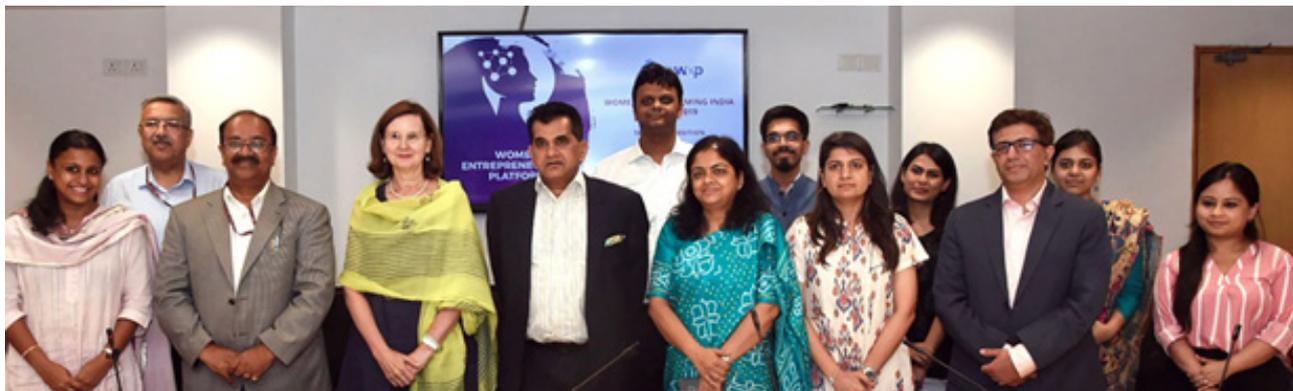
WTI Awards 2019 Launch

WEP received an overwhelming number of nominations—more than 2300 for the fourth edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards through its website. The Women Transforming India Awards is a flagship event of NITI Aayog, organized in partnership with the United Nations. The idea behind the awards is to showcase exceptional women entrepreneurs who have broken the glass ceiling and challenged stereotypes through businesses, enterprises and initiatives that:

- Provide innovative solutions to address key development challenges and/or,
- Impact communities

The top 15 nominees, selected through a transparent and highly objective process of screening and evaluation through expert organization and eminent jury members, were awarded in the formal ceremony held in the month of December 2019.

ENGAGING WIDELY: HIGH-PROFILE VISITS

1.   First India–China Economic Cooperation Forum

The first India–China Economic Cooperation Forum was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry in partnership with NITI Aayog and the international corporation division of NDRC on 9 September 2019 at New Delhi on the sidelines of the sixth Strategic Economic Dialogue.

2.   Second India–Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED)

The second India–Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held on 10 July 2019 in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar and Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of the Russian Federation Timur Maksimov.
The dialogue included parallel roundtables, which discussed areas of cooperation and concrete roadmaps for future negotiations across core areas of transport infrastructure; agriculture; small and medium business support; digital transformation; trade; banking, investment; and tourism and connectivity. Participants included government officials, business leaders and experts.

3.   Cooperation in Russian Far East and Arctic

NITI Aayog entered into an agreement with the Ministry for Development of Russian Far East and the Arctic during the Eastern Economic Forum (EFF) at Vladivostok on 4 September 2019, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited as the chief guest. As per the agreement, both sides are working towards developing a programme for advancing cooperation in trade, economic and investment spheres in the Russian far east and the arctic from 2020–2025. The sides have also agreed to jointly host a business forum on the sidelines of the EEF each year going forward.

4.   1st NITI–Australian Treasury Dialogue

Based on the statement of intent exchanged between NITI Aayog and the Australian Treasury in 2017, the inaugural NITI–Treasury Dialogue was held on 30 April 2019 at Canberra. Both sides agreed to explore collaboration in frontier technologies, regulatory sandbox consultations, capacity building and regular exchanges. The second dialogue is scheduled to be held in India in 2020.

5.   High-Level Meeting between Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy and NITI Aayog

The high-level meeting led by chairman, Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy of the Republic of Korea, and CEO, NITI Aayog, took place in New Delhi on 24 October 2019. Both sides agreed to establish regular channels of communication to foster cooperation across manufacturing in lines of Make in India and strengthen collaborations in the areas of mobility, frontier technologies, 5G as well as on supporting start-ups and tourism and cultural exchanges.

6.   High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, was held at the UN headquarters from 9–18 July 2019. The Indian delegation was led by NITI VC Dr Rajiv Kumar, and included Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs and Rural Development), NITI Aayog. The theme was 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality'. Dr Rajiv Kumar presented India's progress in the SDGs in an address to the UN General Assembly.

NETWORKING WITH THINK TANKS

Samavesh is a networking and knowledge partnership initiative of NITI Aayog with reputed knowledge institutions and think tanks to catalyse development processes, enhance institutional capacity development and enable a field-level interface with the community for mutual enrichment. During 13–15 May 2019, a national conference on 'Growth and Regional Development in India: Recent Experiences and Emerging Perspectives' was organized under the SAMAVESH partnership. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Institute of Human Development and was supported by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. It deliberated upon different socio-economic performances, investment and financial flows and fiscal federalism.

The total number of institutions that have signed MoUs with NITI Aayog under the Samavesh initiative is 37 now. NITI also has 14 chair professor units that are located in various universities and institutions. The lists of chair professor units and Samavesh partners are given below:

List of Chair Professor Units

1. Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
2. Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune
3. Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
4. Indian Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi
5. Jadavpur University, Kolkata
6. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
7. M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara
8. Punjabi University, Patiala
9. University of Allahabad, Allahabad
10. University of Madras, Chennai
11. University of Mumbai, Mumbai
12. University of Mysore, Mysuru
13. University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
14. Visva-Bharti, Shantiniketan

List of Samavesh Partners

1. BML Mujnal University (BMU), Gururgram, Delhi NCR
2. Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram
3. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi
4. Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
5. Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi
6. Indian Institute for Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi
7. Indian Institute of Management (IIMA), Ahmedabad
8. Indian Institute of Management (IIMB), Bengaluru
9. Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi
10. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
11. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K), Kanpur
12. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-KGP), Kharagpur
13. Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad
14. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), New Delhi
15. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai
16. Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi
17. Institute for Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi
18. Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi
19. Institute of Social & Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru
20. International Institute of Information Technology (IIITB), Bengaluru
21. Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi
22. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai
23. Mumbai University (MU), Mumbai
24. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi
25. National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD), Hyderabad
26. National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru
27. National Institute of Agriculture Economics and Policy Research (NIAP-ICAR), New Delhi
28. National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad
29. National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi
30. North-East Hill University (NEHU), Shillong
31. Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bengaluru
32. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi
33. Symbiosis International – Deemed University (SIU), Pune
34. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai
35. The Energy and Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi
36. Tribal Research & Development Institute (TRDI), Bhopal
37. Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur

SECTORAL OBJECTIVES
AND ACHIEVEMENTS

SECTORAL OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Agriculture
2. Career Management Activities
3. Charts, Maps and Equipment Division
4. Culture
5. Data management and Analysis
6. Decentralized Planning
7. Energy
8. Financial Resources
9. Governance and Research
10. Governing Council Secretariat
11. Health and Nutrition
12. Human Resources Development
13. Industry
14. Information and Broadcasting
15. Infrastructure Connectivity
16. Land and Water Resources
17. Library and Documentation Centre
18. Managing Urbanization
19. Minerals
20. Natural Resources and Environment
21. Official Language Division (Hindi Section)
22. Organization Methods and Coordination
23. Project Appraisal and Management Division
24. Parliament Section
25. Public-Private Partnership
26. RTI Cell
27. Rural Development
28. Science and Technology
29. Skill Development and Employment
30. Social Justice and Empowerment
31. State Coordination
32. Sustainable Development Goals
33. Tourism
34. Vigilance Section
35. Voluntary Action Cell
36. Women and Child Development

Agriculture and Allied Services

Collaborative Research Project with Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, and India

NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for implementing the Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) programme in India. MAFAP seeks to establish sustainable systems to monitor, analyze and reform food and agricultural policies to make them more effective, efficient and inclusive. Globally, MAFAP is being implemented by FAO across fourteen developing and emerging economies.

MAFAP analyses are used to inform targeted food and agricultural policy reforms, which will result in a more conducive environment for agricultural investment and productivity growth, especially for small-holder farmers. The MoU for Phase I was effective from 23 September–31 December 2019. Under this phase, the technical cooperation programme produced intermediate reports on the National Agriculture Price Policy for selected agriculture produce market committees in Haryana and Odisha, and the National Food Security Policy for selected districts in Chhattisgarh and Bihar. Subsequently, considering the short timeline available under Phase I, the MoU was proposed to be renewed in order to commence Phase II of the technical cooperation programme from January 2020 to December 2021.

Cooperative Federalism: State of Uttarakhand

The agriculture vertical consulted respective ministries on various issues raised by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in the fourth and fifth Governing Council meetings of NITI Aayog. The vertical monitored and expedited the settlement of issues raised by the state in coordination with Central ministries. NITI Aayog also arranged review meetings to discuss developmental matters and rural migration in the presence of Member (Agriculture). To take it forward, another meeting was proposed in December 2019 in Dehradun. In addition, the vertical appraised a number of externally funded projects (EAPs) proposed by the state besides the review of ongoing activities of the state.

Policy Matters

Member (Agriculture) contributed inputs to PMO on various policy and critical issues such as price forecasting mechanism, scope for development of oil palm cultivations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, value chain development related to Operation Green (integrated development of tomato, onion and potato). Besides, the contribution of additional inputs related to the action plan on doubling farmers' income, action plan on eradication of foot and mouth disease in cattle and glanders disease in equines, oil processing industry and drafting of PM-KISAN. A committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Member (Agriculture) to recommend the level of buffer-

stock of pulses in the country to address fluctuation in domestic production. The committee recommended 2.06 million tons of stock to maintain stability in pulses prices in the country.

Start-Ups for Smart Agriculture Conclave on 7 March 2019 at NABI, Mohali

NITI Aayog with the aim to bring the agri-startups together and inspire them to devise appropriate solutions for agribusiness issues organized a one-day conclave on 'Start-ups for Smart Agriculture' with the support of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, Punjab on 7 March 2019. Governor of Punjab, VP Singh Badnore was the chief guest and inaugurated the conclave as well as the stalls.

The objective of the conclave was to provide an opportunity to showcase technology used by FPOs, cooperatives, agri-entrepreneurs and start-ups, especially for enhancing agriculture export, value addition and utilization of agriculture equipment, success stories/ best practices, among others. More than 100 start-ups and FPOs attended the event along with senior officials of concerned ministries, state governments, NABARD, Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium and state agriculture universities of Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi.

The participants included exceptionally performing start-ups and FPOs, which are transforming the agribusiness space through their innovative technologies and business models. The conclave helped create the desired awareness and built an entrepreneurial environment in the agriculture sector.

A unique networking opportunity was provided to the participating entrepreneurs for peer learning from contemporary founders, in an informal yet high-energy, interactive environment.

(More on agricultural reforms, see Section B: Policy and Programme Framework)

Career Management Activities

During the financial year 2019–20 (from April 2019 to October 2019), 32 officers were deputed to represent NITI Aayog, AIM and the Government of India in international workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences, and also to participate in training programmes organized by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc., and by the Department of Personnel Training under the Domestic Funding of Foreign Training scheme in various countries, besides foreign visits of the Vice Chairman and Members.

During this period, 24 officers—belonging to IAS, IES, ISS, GCS, library staff, etc.—were deputed for various training programmes sponsored and conducted by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation at Indian Maritime University (IMU), Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), IIPA, among others, and various other autonomous institutes and organizations at different places within India. As many as 30 officers and staff belonging to CSS, CSCS and CSSS were sent for various mandatory and other training programmes conducted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, New Delhi.

A three-day workshop-cum-orientation programme was also conducted for 52 officers of NITI Aayog from 24–26 May 2019 at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

The section also nominated the GCS officers for a mandatory training programme at IIPA in three phases. The last phase of training was held in May 2019 at IIPA and had 14 officers as indicated in para 2 above.

In addition to this, during the above period, NITI Aayog also conducted two interactive sessions for officers of the Indian Forest Service, nominated by the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, and one interactive session with the officers of National Defence College, Bangladesh.

NITI Aayog also conducted a mandatory induction training programme for newly recruited Young Professionals and Consultants in NITI Aayog.

With a view to familiarize people of Indian origin with the workings of NITI Aayog, the Ministry of External Affairs has arranged their visit to NITI Aayog for interactive sessions. To date, the section has conducted three such sessions.

Charts, Maps and Equipment Unit (Communication Cell)

The charts, maps and equipment unit (communication cell) is a centralized designing and technical support unit of NITI Aayog.

This unit provides logistical, technical and equipment support to all verticals and divisions of NITI Aayog. It also looks after work related to the procurement and maintenance of audio and video equipment installed in the committee rooms and arranges for PowerPoint presentations, among others. The unit also makes ID cards of officials attaining superannuation, name display cards, parking labels, certificates, seating plans, organizational charts, invitations and greetings cards, calligraphic works, etc.

The unit plays a significant role in meetings, conferences and seminars both within and outside NITI Aayog. During FY 2019–20, the unit undertook the following work:

1.   **Provided technical support for various meetings such as:**

      a) Science and Society: Annual India Symposium held on 4 April 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan

b) Fifth Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog held on 15 June 2019 at Rashtrapati Bhavan

c) Interaction of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with economists on 22 June 2019 at NITI Aayog

d) The Second India–Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue on 10 July 2019 at Hotel Taj Palace

e) Fifth NITI Lecture Series held on 26 October 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan

2. **Designing cover pages of various publications of the many verticals and divisions of NITI Aayog**

3. **Flashing important information and event schedules on large display boards**

4. **The photostat arm of the unit extends its services to all the verticals by:**

a) Providing printouts (colour and black and white) of various official documents
b) Executing bulk photocopying/duplicating works
c) Executing document-binding work

Culture

The culture vertical is entrusted to suggest and recommend in improving heritage management in India.

The Prime Minister's Office has constituted a working group on improving heritage management in India, under the chairmanship of the CEO, NITI Aayog. Subsequently, NITI organized two meetings of the group and a stakeholders' consultation. The report is under preparation.

A national workshop on archaeology and conservation in India was held on 5 September 2019 in NITI Aayog. There were discussions on conservation and world heritage, exploration and excavation, epigraphy and heritage bye-laws.

A research study on reviewing the visitor facilities at 50 of 116 ticketed monuments (including World Heritage Sites) for suggesting a way forward was completed.

Data Management and Analysis

The data management and analysis vertical deals with issues related to entrepreneurship development and promotion, data management and leveraging technology for improved analytics.

National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence

The Government of India in its Budget of 2018–19 had prioritized building our technology capabilities and mandated NITI Aayog to initiate a national programme to direct the efforts of the government in the area of artificial intelligence. NITI Aayog released India's national strategy

for artificial intelligence (NSAI) in June 2018. The strategy, called #AI for All, combines the economic potential of AI with social development and inclusive growth, and positions India as the 'AI garage of the world'. With this, India has joined an elite list of countries with a well-defined AI strategy.

Women Entrepreneurship Platform

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a first-of-its-kind unified-access portal to enable women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. The idea of the platform was first mooted by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, who announced its establishment at the conclusion of the eighth Global Entrepreneurship Summit, held in Hyderabad in 2017, with an overarching theme of 'Women First, Prosperity for All'.

Women Transforming India Awards 2019

WEP received an overwhelming number of nominations—more than 2300—for the fourth edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards through its website. The Women Transforming India Awards is a flagship event of NITI Aayog, organized in partnership with the United Nations.

[For more details on the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and WEP, see Section E: Promoting Innovation]

Decentralized Planning

The decentralized planning division in the NITI Aayog has been assigned the work related to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Law and Justice including Department of Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and the legislative department. The work includes examination and furnishing comments on draft Cabinet notes, draft notes for the CCEA, SFC or EFC memoranda, PIB/DIB proposals, ATRs/action plans and other miscellaneous matters received from the above-mentioned ministries and departments from time to time. This division also looks after work related to Telangana.

Decentralized planning is also looking after the residual work related to Special Plan (Backward Region Grant Fund: State Component-Balance Fund) for Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha (KBK districts). This includes examination of latest utilization certificates and reports on outcome analysis of projects and recommendation for release of the balance fund under the projects sanctioned during 12th Five Year Plan. The division also provides requisite information to GCS, Parliament Section and RTI Cell regarding matters received from them, including disposal of public grievances.

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

To leverage the pivotal role of panchayati raj institutions (PRIs), the expert committee constituted under the chairmanship of former vice chairman NITI Aayog recommended the restructuring of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). Subsequently, RGSA became a centrally sponsored scheme under the administrative control of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj during the periods 2018–19 and 2021–22.

The scheme is geared towards developing governance capabilities of panchayati raj institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. Under the capacity-building component of RGSA, elected representatives and panchayat functionaries were trained in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan.

New guidelines have been issued to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for transparent and equitable allocation of funds among states deprived of the Central fund under areas mentioned in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Cabinet Notes Dealt in the Division

1. Examined the draft Cabinet note on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019. NITI Aayog refurnished its comments on the proposal to reintroduce the Bill as the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
2. Examined the draft Cabinet note on 'reorganization of the Governing Council and Constitution of a Steering Committee under the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms'.
3. Examined draft note for the Cabinet on restructuring of the e-committee, Supreme Court of India, and authorization to chairman, e-committee, to nominate three technical experts as consultants to the e-committee on specialized subjects.
4. Examined EFC memorandum of the Ministry of Law and Justice for setting up of fast-track special courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pending under the rape and POCSO Act.

Evaluation of CSS and Research Studies

The evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes under 28 umbrella schemes is being undertaken by DMEO, NITI Aayog. The consultancy for the evaluation of the schemes has been awarded to KPMG through an open tender and an agreement signed on 26 September 2019.

The research study on 'Measures to Augment the Resources of the PRIs' has been assigned to Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. Final report has been submitted to NITI Aayog.

Miscellaneous matters/PMO Reference/Public Grievances

1. A PMO reference regarding bottom up planning in the context of 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments, received from Chairman, Indian Institute of Community Development (IICD), Puducherry was examined and views of the NITI Aayog furnished to the petitioner.

2. A public grievance regarding suggestion for establishment of archives for rural development and panchayats in block headquarters of all states was examined. Since panchayat is a state subject and as states are having different system of keeping records in PRI system and are following their own state-specific panchayati raj acts, it was conveyed to the petitioner to take up the matter with respective states.

Energy

Energy Data Management

NITI is working towards energy data management to have an efficient system for an improved data collection, management and dissemination system. As a first step, a steering committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Energy), NITI Aayog, held a consultation on energy data management with line ministries, International Energy Agency, US Energy Information Administration and energy-data-management agencies in India on 27 and 28 March 2018.

The discussion led to the constitution of two working groups, one on energy demand and another on energy supply, to identify and resolve issues related to energy data gaps, frequency and source of data collection, and their updation on a real-time basis for making energy data available to public, private think-tanks and others for policy research.

The first meeting of both the working groups was held on 4 June 2018, wherein after detailed deliberations, sub-groups on energy demand (agriculture, industry, building and transport) and energy supply (electricity, coal, renewables and oil and gas) were constituted with specific terms of references.

The eight sub-groups have been regularly interacting since their formation and their reports have been finalized. The reports will be the basis for creating an energy data and modeling cell at NITI Aayog. The details of this proposal are currently being worked out.

Additionally, a five-day workshop on energy statistics and building an energy balance in India was organized in December 2018. The focus was on strengthening energy data of different demand and supply sectors with participation of various organizations with this data. One day was dedicated to state-level learning with the participation of state transport, urban development, power and agriculture departments.

Along similar lines, it has been proposed to conduct one national-level workshop and four regional-level ones for capacity building regarding energy data management during January–March 2020.

India Energy Dashboards

The energy vertical of NITI Aayog currently maintains the India Energy Dashboards, a one-stop shop for all energy-related data of India. PRAYAS Energy Group is assisting with improvements to the dashboards by way of a research grant provided by NITI Aayog. The dashboards are currently hosted at https://niti.gov.in/edm/. The updates will allow data to be directly pulled from APIs of various portals of energy ministries, and provide improved visuals, analytical tools and a communication forum.

As a way forward, NITI Aayog is working on creating a project management unit pertaining to energy data management to bring all relevant data and data practices at one place. This

unit will be responsible for all data-collection-related activities in the energy sector, including the India Energy Dashboards, GIS Energy Map, India Energy Model, India Energy Security Scenario (IESS) 2047 and the state energy calculators.

Clean Cooking Roadmap

To guide further deliberation towards a national mission on clean cooking energy, NITI Aayog has laid out a 'Roadmap for Access to Clean Cooking Energy in India', in collaboration with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

This report is the outcome of a year-long collaboration between NITI Aayog, CEEW and GIZ, which had the aim of building a strong understanding of the multitude of challenges and opportunities across all major clean cooking energy fuels and technologies in the country. The roadmap is available on the website of CEEW and NITI Aayog.

Overseas Engagement

International Energy Agency (IEA): NITI Aayog, in consultation with IEA, has carried out an in-depth review of the energy policies of India. For this purpose, a team of experts comprising representatives from IEA and member countries visited India in January 2019 for discussions with concerned stakeholders on policies of power, coal, renewable energy, oil and gas and environment. Following the visit and based on the discussions, a draft report was shared by IEA for comments from various stakeholders, which was reshared after incorporating the comments received during the first round. The final report was released in January 2020.

A team of experts comprising representatives from IEA and member countries visited India in January 2019

Rockefeller Foundation: NITI Aayog is working with Rockefeller Foundation and Smart Power India to analyse electricity access in India through a field study aimed at capturing the learning, key challenges and concern areas of the Saubhagya Scheme. The study is being conducted in the form of a primary customer survey, along with a survey of DISCOMs supplying electricity across ten states—Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The outcome of this exhaustive research will bring out useful inputs for strategizing the way forward in furthering the national objectives of '24x7 Power for All'.

World Bank: NITI Aayog is in the process of finalizing the Giga-Scale Battery Manufacturing Programme in India. For creating energy storage demand and supporting giga-scale manufacturing, NITI Aayog has approached the World Bank to provide external financial assistance of $1 billion. To finalize the proposal, the World Bank provided $1 million as technical assistance.

This assistance is proposed to be utilized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE), Ministry of Planning and the states of Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Planning will prepare a grid-level policy and regulations' framework for energy-storage demand creation.

MoNRE is to estimate the demand of energy storage system for renewable energy generation, i.e. solar power, wind power, hybrid renewable energy system (solar, wind and battery), rooftop solar power, solar pumps and other such sources.

States are proposed to utilize the technical assistance for their load flow study (which includes penetration of solar energy, rooftop solar, wind, biogas, electrical vehicle, ancillary services, etc.) for possible interventions of the battery energy storage system.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID): Under the US–India Strategic Energy Partnership, NITI Aayog and USAID led the sustainable growth pillar. The most significant collaboration has been the India Energy Modeling Forum held in March 2019. A working group was formed to provide recommendations on the way forward to institutionalize the forum. The working group submitted the final recommendations and the second edition of the forum is tentatively scheduled for March 2020.

UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (UKBEIS): NITI Aayog had developed the IESS 2047, India's energy calculator, in consultation with UKBEIS in 2014. During a visit by the UK delegation in September 2019, discussions took place to strengthen the calculator community in India by carrying out capacity-building exercises, and an increased engagement with the states to enable better energy planning, among other activities.

MacArthur Foundation and India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF): ISGF has developed an energy storage system roadmap for India from 2019–32, which details the energy storage requirements for grid support under different scenarios of rooftop solar penetration. The study has been funded by the MacArthur Foundation and was launched on 16 July during a key stakeholder workshop supported by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power, and ISGF.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ): GIZ India has provided technical assistance to states in developing state energy action plan. NITI Aayog and the IGEN Access-II programme of GIZ organized a national sensitization workshop to share key learning on the process and benefits of developing a state energy action plan. The states of Assam, Karnataka and West Bengal

presented their state energy calculators and energy action plans. Representatives from the British High Commission, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Coal, and various states participated.

Saudi Centre for International Strategic Partnership (SCISP): Under the India–Saudi Arabia strategic partnership, NITI Aayog was continuously engaged with SCISP to identify priority areas for strategic investment. Concerned ministries and departments were engaged in discussions and conference calls with SCISP and review meetings conducted from time to time in NITI Aayog.

Vision Document 2035: This includes a chapter on the energy sector, for which a group of experts has been identified and currently engaged in developing a working paper, listing out the required key interventions keeping in mind India's future goals of accessibility, sustainability and security in the sector.

Energy Modelling

India Energy Security Scenario 2047: NITI Aayog has undertaken the updation of IESS 2047 version 3 with the support of the World Bank. The base year has been updated to 2017. The updation exercise has been completed and the tool is scheduled to be launched in January 2020. The tool has helped in the formulation of a draft national energy policy and has been extensively used by various departments and agencies of the Government of India.

India Energy Modeling Forum: NITI Aayog and USAID jointly organized the inaugural India Energy Modeling Forum in March 2019. The objective of this forum is to provide an India-led and India-driven platform for leading experts and policymakers to examine important energy and environmental issues. The second edition of the forum is tentatively scheduled for March 2020.

Assessing Mitigation Impact of Transport Sector Decarbonization (Report Launched in November 2019): An inter-model comparison exercise was used to understand the impact of policies in decarbonization of the Indian transport sector. The study results concluded that by 2030 and 2050 increased fuel efficiency and a modal shift towards public transportation will have the maximum potential for CO_2 emissions reduction. Although electrification provides emission reduction benefits in the long run, it isn't substantial once upstream emissions from the power sector are accounted for. Hence, ambitious electrification targets need to be accompanied by decarbonization of the power sector also.

In-house Modeling Capabilities: NITI set up an energy model MESSAGEix for India. The tool has a full-fledged integrated model, covering multiple nexuses. It is currently in the process of developing a decision simulator tool (DST) to simplify the use of such technically heavy tools for policymakers and other relevant stakeholders to enable more informed policymaking.

State Energy Calculators: NITI Aayog in consultation with the British High Commission has developed state energy calculators inspired by the IESS 2047 for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. All the states have appreciated the utility of the calculators. The State of Tamil Nadu was the last state to be handed over the energy calculator and a launch event with the Chief Minister is scheduled shortly.

Infrastructure Review by Prime Minister: Various policies and programmes of coal, oil and gas, renewable energy, power, atomic energy have been critically examined and policy suggestions provided for an infrastructure review meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

High-level Committee on Enhancement of Domestic Oil and Gas Exploration and Production: The committee was formed under the direction of PMO and headed by the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and comprised Cabinet Secretary, CEO NITI Aayog, Secretary, MoPNG, Secretary, DEA, and CMD, ONGC, to examine and give recommendations to resolve critical issues related to enhancing domestic oil and gas exploration and production. The energy vertical helped the committee with report writing and coordination. The report was submitted to PMO in January 2019. The Cabinet approved the recommendations in February 2019.

High-level Committee on Mines, Minerals and Coal: The committee was formed under the direction of PMO and headed by the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and comprised Cabinet Secretary; CEO NITI Aayog; Secretary, DEA; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, Mines; Secretary, MoEFCC; and Secretary, Coal, to give recommendations for enhancing exploration, domestic production, reducing imports and achieving rapid growth in exports of minerals and coal. The energy vertical supported the committee with report writing and coordination with the coal sector. The report has been submitted.

UDAY Review Committee under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog: A review committee was set up under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, and comprised Secretary, DEA; Secretary, MoNRE; Secretary, Power; Additional Secretary (Energy), NITI Aayog; and other officials of the Ministry of Planning and NITI Aayog. After deliberations on the UDAY scheme, the committee submitted its recommendations to PMO.

Renewable Energy Growth Meeting under Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog: On the direction of PMO and a status paper provided by them, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, to discuss and resolve the issues faced be renewable energy generators in India. The final recommendations were forwarded to PMO for further necessary action.

Report on Coal Washing: On the direction of PMO to examine the environmental benefits and economics of using washed coal on power and coal companies in consultation with stakeholders, a comprehensive report, covering environmental benefits and techno-economic issues of coal washing, was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office in March 2019.

Analysis of ONGC Videsh's Overseas Investments in Oil and Gas Assets: NITI Aayog has been tasked by PMO to undertake a detailed analysis of the investments made by ONGC Videsh in overseas oil and gas assets. The energy vertical of NITI Aayog is handling the matter. Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University has been engaged to carry out the above analysis. The vertical is providing all necessary support for the evaluation.

Review of 'No Go Zones' for Oil and Gas Exploration: Meetings were held twice to discuss the issue of 'No Go Zones' for oil and gas exploration. The first meeting was held under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, in April 2019 on the issues raised by the chief secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The second meeting was held under the chairmanship of VC, NITI Aayog, in October 2019 to discuss the possibility of releasing some of the currently restricted areas. The objective of these meetings was to resolve issues between the DRDO, ISRO, MoD and MoPNG to enable access to more areas for oil and gas exploration.

Other Specific Works of the Energy Vertical

Output-Outcome Budget 2019–20 Monitoring: The work related to energy sector schemes' (for Output-Outcome Budget 2018–19) monitoring in collaboration with the DMEO team. The key parameters for monitoring have been developed by the energy vertical.

Updation of NITI Aayog Dashboard: The energy vertical coordinates with energy ministries for updation of the NITI Aayog dashboard on the energy sector (coal, petroleum, power and renewable) for review by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on a quarterly basis.

Representation in various committees constituted by Ministry of Power: (i) Optimal energy mix in power generation; (ii) To formulate a long-term strategy for giving concessional power for value addition of new materials; (iii) Committee on Transmission (NCT) for encouraging competition in development of transmission projects. With respect to MoPNG, the vertical was represented in: (i) Codification of good international petroleum industry practices; (ii) Joint working group on biofuels. With respect to MoNRE, the vertical was represented in: (i) Commercialization of hydrogen fuel for transportation. With respect to Ministry of Coal, the vertical was represented in: (i) Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC); (ii) Inter-ministerial group on allotment of coal blocks; (iii) Standing Linkage Committee (long-term) for coal supply to power stations, cement plant, etc.

To pursue certain specific policy-related matters pertaining to energy, the vertical coordinated with state governments, energy ministries (power, new and renewable energy, coal and oil and gas), PSUs related to energy ministries, think tanks, energy-sector stakeholders and private sectors.

Financial Resources

The financial resources division of NITI Aayog assesses the financial health of the states, including assessment of transfers from the Centre to the states, social-sector expenditure by the states and their debt position. Issues related to the finance commission, funding requests for special projects and intergovernmental transfers are also handled by this vertical. The financial resources vertical is committed towards providing new dimensions and pushing for reforms in the fiscal state of the country. With this role, the major activities and studies undertaken by the division during 2019–20 are as follows:

States' Fiscal Profiles

The division prepared states' fiscal health profiles, which are an effective, at-a-glance summary of each state's financial health vis-à-vis others and an all-India average. These profiles reflect the states' performance in various fiscal indicators like GSDP growth, per capita GSDP, receipts, including resources generated from own taxes, expenditures such as capital expenditure, social-sector expenditure, fiscal and revenue deficit and its debt position vis-à-vis other states. Data from 2011 to 2019–20 BE has been captured in these profiles.

Issues Related to Finance Commission

The division actively interacted with officials of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and shared its

inputs and suggestions on its terms of reference (ToRs). It specifically shared its views on ToR 7(iii), which states that 'the commission may consider proposing measurable performance-based incentives for states, at the appropriate level of government for achievements in implementation of flagship schemes of Government of India, disaster resilient infrastructure, Sustainable Development Goals, and quality of expenditure'.

NITI Aayog opined that a composite index consisting of basic social indicators like health, education, water, etc., and financial indicators may be formulated to capture the delta or year-on-year-basis rankings. This index, which may be incorporated in the devolution formula of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, can help incentivize performance. Simulative exercises were also presented to the Commission in this regard.

This division also provided other requisite inputs as and when asked for, such as a note on finances of each state to the Fifteenth Finance Commission to facilitate their visit to these states.

New Initiatives

The vertical has undertaken a study of the existing fund-flow mechanism in states till the last mile under different schemes and understanding the challenges faced by them. This will enable policy action towards just-in-time release of funds to government schemes.

Allocation to States

The Union government is committed to assisting states to meet the 'spillover liabilities' of their area-specific schemes and projects for which Budget provision has not been made after the implementation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations and to provide need-based assistance on account of varying socio-economic-geographical factors. In order to honour this commitment, on the basis of NITI's recommendation, Rs 558.70 crore has already been released by the Ministry of Finance till November 2019 to states from 'special assistance' provided under Demand No. 38 of the Union Expenditure Budget.

Governance and Research

In line with NITI's mandate to position itself as a knowledge and innovation hub, NITI Aayog had operationalized a new set of guidelines, viz. 'Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2018'. The revamped guidelines aimed at broad-basing research work, besides aiding reputed institutions for organizing seminars, workshops and conferences as well as providing non-financial support through the use of the NITI logo for various events.

During the year 2019–20 (up to 20 January 2020), a total grant of Rs 327.16 lakh was released, which comprised Rs 313.67 lakh on research studies and Rs 13.48 lakh on seminars, workshops, and conferences.

Proposals for funding 19 new research studies (Table 1.1) were approved during the year while 9 ongoing studies were completed (Table 1.2). Besides, seminars/conferences support was provided to 7 institutions (Table 1.3) and logo support was provided to 48 institutions for events across a wide spectrum of subjects and sectors (Table 1.4).

The study reports and seminar proceedings are received both in hard and soft copies. These reports are uploaded on the website of NITI Aayog. Copies of these reports and proceedings are also circulated to concerned verticals and divisions of NITI Aayog. The concerned divisions also examine the report and forward them to respective Ministries / Departments for further action.

[Lists of researched studies approved, studies completed, seminars approved and logo support provided are given in Annexure I]

Policy Perspectives

Direct Benefit Transfers in Fertilizers: The committee set up by PMO under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in fertilizers continued to guide the initiative. Phase I envisages transfer of fertilizer subsidy to companies on the sale of fertilizers at retailer points through point of sales (PoS) devices was completed and rolled out in the country in March 2018. NITI Aayog conducted four evaluation studies on DBT in fertilizers through M/s Microsave, which have shown encouraging results and remarkable success in implementation. With stabilization of the first phase, deliberations have commenced for the second phase, envisaging subsidy transfer directly into the bank accounts of farmers. Two meetings have been held during the year 2019–20, including one chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.

Revival of Non-Operational Urea Units: An inter-ministerial committee under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, has been actively monitoring the setting up of five new urea plants at Ramagundam, Talcher, Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni, and resolving various issues encountered during the process. These include three closed urea units of the Fertilizer Corporation India Limited (FCIL) and two closed units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), which are being set up by a consortium of public sector undertakings. A number of meetings of the inter-ministerial committee were held during the year. It is expected that once these projects go on stream, India's reliance on imported urea would go down significantly.

The urea plant in Talcher is envisaged to use coal gasification technology for the first time in India, thus reducing dependency on imported gas and curtailing volatility in fertilizer prices. The foundation stone for the plant was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in September 2018. The contract for developing the Talcher plant was awarded on 17 September 2019. The project is being promoted by GAIL, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, Coal India Limited (CIL) and FCIL, which will produce 1.27 MMTPA urea and 0.73 MMTPA ammonia. The Ramagundam urea unit is being revived by a joint venture of Engineers India Limited (EIL) National Fertilizers Limited and FCIL. GSPL India Transco Limited (GITL) has constructed the gas pipeline and GAIL will supply natural gas to the unit.

Gorakhpur, Barauni and Sindri units are being revived by Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL), a joint venture of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), CIL, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), FCIL and HFCL. GAIL is laying a gas pipeline, which would not only supply gas to these anchor units, but also piped gas to many cities and industries. These units are scheduled to be commissioned by March 2021.

Sub-Group of Governors on Governance for Ease of Living: A sub-group of governors was set up

during the year to deliberate on 'Governance for Ease of Living'. The sub group was chaired by the Governor of West Bengal and comprised governors and lieutenant governors of Manipur, Bihar, Sikkim, Nagaland, Delhi, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Lakshadweep. NITI Aayog, represented by its VC and CEO, acted as the secretariat of this group. The draft report was presented before the Hon'ble President and Prime Minister in the 50th Conference of Governors held in November 2019.

Expert Group on Target Energy Norms: An expert group has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, to provide recommendations on target energy norms. The objective is to maximize indigenous urea production, promote energy efficiency among urea units and rationalize subsidy burden of the government for urea. The group is also deliberating the roadmap for urea units, which use coal for power generation and/or steam generation. So far four meetings have been held, which included consultation with industry representatives to better understand the complexity of the fertilizer sector.

Meeting of the Sub-Group of Governors on Governance for Ease of Living

Task Force on Sugarcane and Sugar Industry: A task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, to find long-term solutions for the sugarcane and sugar industry, so as to rationalize its dependence on state assistance and encourage farm diversification to reduce an adverse effect on the water sector. Technical support to the taskforce is being provided by the Department of Food and Public Distribution. Four meetings of the Task force were held during the year.

Citizen's Charter of NITI Aayog: An in-house committee under the chairmanship of senior adviser (governance and research) was set up to formulate the citizen's charter of NITI Aayog. Following deliberations, the draft charter was prepared that, inter alia, contains the vision and mission statements of NITI Aayog, service standards, timelines for service delivery and the grievance-redressal mechanism. The charter was approved by the senior management committee of NITI Aayog and placed in the public domain.

India Justice Report: Legal and judicial reforms are one of the key components of governance reforms in the country. In this context, detailed deliberations were held during the year with Tata Trusts, which has come out with the India Justice Report. The meeting was chaired by the VC and a number of suggestions were given to improve the mechanism of ranking of states in justice delivery.

Governing Council Secretariat

The governing council secretariat coordinates the activities of all the verticals, divisions and units of NITI Aayog. It also circulates various correspondences received from different ministries, departments, states and union territories to the concerned verticals. The major activities carried out by the secretariat in 2019–20 were:

1. Organized the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, prepared its minutes and circulated it among all participants.
2. As a coordination focal point, the secretariat organized weekly senior officers' meetings
3. Organized meetings of the senior management committee and facilitated discussions on research proposals, projects and studies received for funding by NITI Aayog
4. Coordinated and compiled the monthly DO letters sent to the Cabinet Secretariat and Council of Ministers
5. Implemented the Central Plan scheme and also processed audit replies during 2019–20
6. Formulated guidelines for engaging experts for deliberations regarding preparation of the Vision document of NITI Aayog

Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

7. Compiled, coordinated and printed the Annual Report, 2018–19, of NITI Aayog and circulated to the Parliament Standing Committee during the Budget Session, 2019
8. Coordinated with verticals, printed and published Strategy for New India @75
9. Organized a meeting with the planning secretaries of states and union territories on 6 August 2019 under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog VC Dr Rajiv Kumar
10. Implemented RTI Act 2005 with respect to the secretariat, and cleared the applications received under RTI in the secretariat
11. Processed the grievances received on the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System
12. Processed and prepared replies with respect to the Parliament questions, private member resolution received in the secretariat
13. Processed the works related to the state plan division, Tamil Nadu, and cleared the correspondence concerned

14. Coordinated and processed inputs for the speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion of Independence Day

[For more details, see Section D: Cooperative Federalism]

Health and Nutrition

The health and nutrition vertical represents NITI Aayog in various committees and EFC/SFC of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Health Research and Department of Pharmaceuticals. It is also part of the scientific advisory groups of the Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare and Public Health Foundation of India, among others.

Major responsibilities of the vertical include:

1. To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities and strategies in the sector of health and family welfare with the active involvement of states in the light of national objectives.
2. To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded think tanks as well as educational and policy-research institutions.
3. To maintain a state-of-the-art resource centre in the sector of health and family welfare, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help in their dissemination to stakeholders.

Major achievements/contributions of the division during the financial year 2019–20 are as follows:

Ayushman Bharat/Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

NITI Aayog did detailed groundwork on conceptualizing PMJAY, which led to its announcement in the Union Budget. NITI also played a role in putting in shape the organizational and governance structure of the National Health Authority for smooth implementation of the scheme.

Framework for Transforming Allied Health Professional Landscape in India

NITI Aayog, in consultation with the MoHFW and states, proposed a framework under which students would be trained on a standardized curriculum, prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in existing district hospitals across India.

Nursing Sector Reforms

It has been well researched that nursing sector reforms are critical for achieving the aspirational goals in the health sector as highlighted in the National Health Policy, 2017. Structural changes are needed in nursing education and services for unleashing the maximum potential of our nurses. There is also a need for standardization in the nursing qualification at the entry level. Empowerment of nurses through quality education, clinical exposure and skill development is the most urgent need of the hour.

NITI Aayog has been involved in understanding various issues plaguing the nursing sector in the country, studying various state-level nursing cadre structures available and designing a model cadre structure for nursing personnel in the country. For the same, restructuring of the Indian Nursing Council (INC) Act is also crucial as nurse practitioners need to be brought into the system.

Evaluation of Population Research Centres (PRCs)

MoHFW established a network of population research centres with the mandate to provide, inter alia, critical research based on inputs related to the health and family welfare programmes and policies at the national and state levels. These PRCs were established to undertake projects related to family planning, demographic research and biological studies, and the qualitative aspect of population control, with a view to gainfully utilize the feedback for plan formulation, strategies and modifications of ongoing schemes. While reviewing the umbrella scheme, 'Family Welfare and Other Interventions', by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), it was mandated that a committee comprising NITI Aayog's VC, Member (Health), and Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare would examine the real outcome of the scheme and the need for course correction, and its impact on policy adoption. The committee recommended evaluation of these centres by a third party. MoHFW assigned Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, with the task, following which the college made recommendations for reviving these centres.

Enhancing the Role of Armed Forces' Medical Services, Employees' State Insurance, Coal India Limited, Railways in Medical Education

Following the mandate from PMO to enhance medical education, NITI Aayog held multiple consultative meetings with the organized sector. It was decided that these institutions may be brought under the ambit of National Board of Examinations.

Guidelines for Designating Medical Institutions as Ayurvigyan Ratnas

MoHFW requested NITI Aayog to develop a guideline with defined metrics and criteria, so that institutes of national importance could be classified at three levels. After a series of consultations with relevant stakeholders, a document encompassing a detailed framework for ranking in three levels—Ayurvigyan Unnat Ratna, Ayurvigyan Vishisht Ratna and Ayurvigyan Maha Ratna—was proposed.

Important Considerations in Establishing New All India Institutes of Medical Sciences

MoHFW constituted an expert group, comprising Professor Vinod Paul (Member [Health], NITI Aayog, and Chair), Prof. Balram Bhargava (Secretary, Department of Health Research, and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research) and Prof. Randeep Guleria (Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences [AIIMS], New Delhi). The goal of creating new AIIMSs is to replicate the model of AIIMS New Delhi to create a national network of institutions that would characterize global excellence in high-end health professional education, biomedical research and innovation, specialty-driven clinical care and public health. The new AIIMSs would be individual institutions under the AIIMS Act and would not evolve as clones of each other. Each one would have a unique identity defined by excellence in specific areas, driven by state- or

region-specific priorities on the one hand, and frontiers of science, education and healthcare on the other.

Leveraging on Dentists, Nurses and BSc (Community Medicine) to Fill in Present Gaps of Doctor Shortage in the System

Following an initiative by NITI Aayog to address the present shortfall of doctors, the PMO mandated to examine the proposal to leverage professionals from the above professions to fill the current gap. This was part of an overarching proposal to infuse a cadre of mid-level service providers for the community as there is currently a deficiency of doctors in many of the primary health centres. The proposal drafted by NITI aims to strengthen primary, preventive and promotive healthcare in the government system by training such providers over a six- or eight-month-long duration 'bridge-course' to enable them to deliver primary care mainly at health and wellness centres, with limited role in primary health centres.

Proposal to Augment Medical Teachers' Workforce: Scheme for Re-Employing Superannuated Teachers of AFMS (SRESTA)

By suitably compensating the superannuating Armed Forces Medical Services' (AFMS) officers by contracting them as consultants, as per the existing General Financial Rules, SRESTA hopes to plough such people back to the government medical education system. The proposal has found traction in the AFMS administration and also secretaries of medical education of various states. SRESTA has been formally presented to a conclave of principal secretaries of medical education held at Medical Council of India on 8 November 2019.

Creation of Live Registry of Superannuated Medical Teachers from AFMS

In consultation with NITI Aayog, the AFMS administration created a live registry of retired medical teachers from AFMS. The list has been shared with MoHFW, Medical Council of India and NBE.

Development of Model Public Health and Management Cadre

The National Health Policy, 2017, articulates institutionalization of inter-sectoral coordination at national and sub-national levels to optimize health outcomes, through constitution of bodies that have representation from relevant non-health ministries. The policy prerequisite is for an empowered public health cadre to address social determinants of health effectively, by enforcing regulatory provisions. NITI was engaged in dialogue with the health ministry and other stakeholders for developing a framework for adoption and implementation of the model public health and management cadre. The creation of this cadre was adopted and resolved during the thirteenth conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare and its smooth implementation to achieve health for all and health to all, as mandated in the National Health Policy, 2017, by the year 2022 is underway.

(More on health and nutrition reforms, see Section B: Policy and Programme Framework)

Human Resources Development

The human resources development (HRD) vertical deals with issues related to education, sports and youth affairs. The line ministries of the vertical are the Ministry of HRD (Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS). Education related to agriculture and allied sectors, public health, and medical are not the domain areas of the vertical. The HRD vertical covers:

1. Pre-primary, elementary, secondary, higher-secondary, higher, technical and teacher education
2. Formal and non-formal education, including adult literacy
3. Areas of special focus—such as education for girls, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), minorities and children with special needs—and youth affairs and sports.

Contribution in Policy and Governance Issues

During the year 2019–20, the vertical participated in various meetings as member and representative of MHRD project approval boards, such as Samagra Shiksha, Midday Meal in Schools, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, National Initiative for Design Innovation, National Mission on Education through Information and Communications Technology, Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme, among others. The officers of the vertical represented NITI Aayog in various meetings organized by institutions such as the National Council of Educational Research and Training, National Council of Teacher Education, National Institute of Educational Planning Administration, etc.

The vertical took various initiatives on policy issues during the year, including analysing the progress of major flagship programmes (like Samagra Shiksha, among others) and deliberating on outstanding issues in school and higher education for preparation of folders for PM's domestic visits.

Proposals Examined/Appraised

During the year 2019–20, the vertical examined proposals for 'in-principle' approval and those for the approval of SFC, EFC, and CCEA, draft Cabinet notes and the notes for the Cabinet, with respect to the schemes of the departments of school education and literacy, and higher education (both under MHRD) and Department of Sports and Youth Affairs (both under MoYAS).

Higher Education

Some of the important Cabinet notes examined during the FY 2019–20 are as follows:

• Note for the Cabinet for making amendment in the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007, to include National Institute of Foundry and Forge and National Institute of Industrial Engineering.
• Draft Cabinet note on National Policy on Official Statistics.

- Draft Cabinet note on promulgation of an ordinance to provide for the reservation of faculty in appointments by direct recruitment of persons belonging to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central educational institutions.
- Proposal for introduction of reservation in appointment of faculty by direct recruitment in teachers' cadre, in the Central Educational Introduction Bill, 2018.
- Note for the Cabinet for conversion of three Sanskrit-deemed universities into Central universities.
- Promulgation of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu University Regulation, 2018, under Article 240 of the Constitution.
- Cabinet note for proposed participation of India in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for schools in PISA 2021.
- Proposal for introduction of the Unaided Private Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2019.
- Revised cost of estimates for 13 new Central universities in the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, set up under the Central Universities Act, 2009.
- Proposal for introduction of a bill to replace the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Ordinance, 2019.
- Draft Cabinet note for approval of revised cost estimates for establishment of permanent campuses of six new NITs at Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Puducherry.
- Proposal for consideration of a committee on establishment expenditure for commemoration of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- Draft Cabinet note on extension of the initiative of National Academic Depository.
- Amendment in the Indian Institute of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017, and the IIIT Act, 2014.

School Education

Some of the important Cabinet notes/EFCs/SFCs examined during the FY 2019–20 are as follows:

1. Proposal for enhancing the intake capacity of existing Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in 25 districts worst affected by left-wing extremism (LWE) and establishment of second JNVs in six districts worst affected by LWE.
2. SFC memorandum for introduction of Sainik School-like features in JNVs.
3. SFC memorandum for restructured centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance for appointment of language teachers.
4. SFC memorandum for enhancement of the number of National Talent Search scholarships from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000 per year.
5. Draft EFC memorandum for the redesigned shape of the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education for its continuation from 2018–20.
6. EFC memorandum for opening of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under civil/defence sector during the year 2018–19.
7. Memorandum for EFC for setting up of a regional institute of education, National Council of Educational Research and Training at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

8. Memorandum for opening seven new regional offices of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Dehradun, Dibrugarh, Ranchi and Varanasi.
9. CCEA on proposal for formulation of a new scheme on adult education for the financial year 2019–20.

Youth Affairs and Sports

As much as 70% of India's population is below the age of 35 years. To harness this yuva shakti in nation-building, various programmes and schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The major programme launched by the Department of Sports for improvement in performance of sportspersons in international competitions, such as Asian Games, South Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics, is Khelo India. During the period 2018–19, officials of the vertical attended the meetings of MoYAS on different issues.

Industry

The industry vertical deals with issues related to the manufacturing sector.

The main activities of the vertical were:

New Initiative: Preparation of Export Preparedness Index (EPI)

The vertical is preparing an Export Preparedness Index to rank all states and union territories on their export readiness and performance. The broad parameters of the index have been finalized. EPI aims to produce competition among states to:

1. Bring favourable export-promotion policies
2. Ease the regulatory framework
3. Create the necessary infrastructure for exports
4. Help in identifying strategic recommendations for improving export competitiveness

Conferences and Important Meetings

1. Stakeholder consultation held on 24 October 2019 with all states and union territories in order to finalize EPI
2. Removal of bottlenecks for promotion of agri-exports
3. Convergence of export data at one place
4. Technological interventions in MSMEs to connect them to global value chains
5. Implementation of ZED in mission mode
6. Evaluation of export promotion councils in India through DMEO, NITI Aayog
7. Impact of free-trade agreement on the Indian copper industry
8. Meeting with International Clothing Brands led by AMCHAM, Hong Kong and State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand.
9. Meeting with 40 FMCG Companies on Plastic Waste Free Campaign (Swachhata Hi Seva, 2019) in September 2019.
10. Meeting held with Man Made Fiber (MMF) Producers, Users, Textile Associations in NITI Aayog in September 2019.

AMCHAM delegation interaction with CEO, NITI Aayog, and senior representatives of the Government of India and Industry

Reports and Discussion, Approach Papers

The following initiatives were taken in this area:

1. RFP made for a feasibility study on the establishment of a national e-commerce carrier to facilitate onboarding of MSMEs in different e-commerce marketplaces.
2. An initiative was taken up to allow listing of differential voting rights (DVR) shares in India. This provides the flexibility to promoters to raise capital without losing ownership of their company. The DVR structure allows companies to have two classes of shares, one with superior voting rights, which are usually issued to founders, and the other, ordinary shares, for general public. Many countries such as the US, Canada and Sweden allow their companies to adopt a DVR structure and permit listing on their stock exchanges.
   After deliberations, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs amended the provisions related to the issue of shares with DVR provisions under the Companies Act with the objective of enabling promoters of Indian companies to retain control of their companies.
3. Inter-Ministerial Group report on 'Unleashing potential of Man-made Value Chain'.

Representation of NITI Aayog in Various Committees and Development Councils

The industry vertical represents NITI Aayog in the following committees and development councils:

1. Review Committee on Public Procurement Policy constituted by MSME
2. Steering Committee of MSE: Cluster Development Programme
3. Empowered Committee constituted under Indian Leather Development Programme constituted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
4. Inter-ministerial Committee on MoU constituted by Department of Public Enterprises
5. Empowered Committee constituted under Industrial Development Scheme 2017 by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
6. Empowered Committee constituted under Indian Footwear and Accessories Development Programme by DPIIT
7. Apex Committee constituted under Industrial Infrastructure Development Scheme by DPIIT
8. Monitoring Committee for Startup India by DPIIT
9. Empowered Committee constituted under Market Access Initiatives Scheme by Department of Commerce
10. Empowered Committee constituted under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) by Department of Commerce

Information and Broadcasting

The information and broadcasting division examines and reviews policy issues concerning the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The vertical has examined and provided comments on Cabinet notes listed below:

1. Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for extension of scheme 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development' for three years (2017–20).
2. Note for Cabinet for proposal of complete waiver of space segment charges and spectrum charges due on Prasar Bharati levied by the Department of Telecommunications and Department of Space.

The vertical framed arguments for support of the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 'grant of infrastructure status to the broadcasting sector' for consideration of an institutional mechanism by indicating that the proposed components—direct to home, headend-in-the-sky, multi-systems operators, and teleports (up-linking hubs)—require huge investment and that the repayment period on the investment is very long.

Infrastructure Connectivity

The infrastructure-connectivity (transport) vertical is tasked with the appraisal and evaluation of projects in key transport sub-sectors, including roads and highways, railways, ports and shipping, logistics, civil aviation and urban transit. The vertical provides inputs to concerned line ministries and undertakes policy formulation and evaluation with an aim of sustained and holistic development of the transport sector to ensure faster movement of people and goods.

The work undertaken by the vertical for each of the sub-sectors is highlighted below:

Railways and Metro Rail

Monitoring Committee for Railways Safety Fund

An independent Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) Monitoring Committee has been created with an aim to monitor works related to railway safety. The RRSK was created in 2017–18 with a corpus fund of Rs 1 lakh crore over a five-year period.

The members of the committee include Additional Member, Planning, Railway Board; Joint Secretary, PFC-II, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The Adviser (Infrastructure-Connectivity) is the convener of this committee. In a meeting held on 15 October 2019, the committee observed that there is a reduction in train accidents and the number of fatalities since the inception of the fund.

Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)

The vertical is responsible for monitoring the progress made on the two dedicated freight corridor (DFC) projects. To this effect, quarterly review meetings are conducted during which the progress of the project is reviewed. In order to ensure the speedy implementation of the project, the vice chairman has regularly written to the chief ministers of various states encouraging them to resolve ongoing issues and ensure speedy operationalization of DFC.

Delhi–Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

NITI Aayog carried out a detailed cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of the Delhi–Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and presented the findings to the Prime Minister's Office. As part of the CBA, the project was compared with other options such as augmenting and strengthening the existing railway network, developing a metro line and implementing a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS). It was found that RRTS is feasible and fares better across all parameters, including cost, speed, convenience. RRTS is a first-of-its-kind, rail-based, high-speed regional-transit system to be implemented in India. Once operational, it will be the fastest, most-comfortable and safest mode of commuter transport in the national capital region. The project also involves multi-modal integration and prospects for freight transport on the corridor are being explored. The project was approved by the Cabinet in February 2019.

Standardization of Metro Rail Project Components

NITI Aayog is actively working to promote indigenization in metro rail systems, in line with the directions of the Prime Minister's Office. In order to achieve this, standardization of components is essential. This task was undertaken by NITI Aayog jointly with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and other concerned stakeholders. Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, chaired the meetings for the same. The standardization document was subsequently finalized.

Project Appraisal: Expanded Board of Railways (EBR) Memorandum and EFC Memos

The vertical undertook the detailed appraisal of various railway projects. These projects include line-doubling, capacity augmentation, laying of new lines, development of suburban railway networks and elimination of manned level crossings.

A total of 28 projects were analyzed. Some of the key projects were:

1. Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)
2. Bangalore Suburban Railway
3. Haryana Orbital Railway
4. Kanpur Railway Flyover
5. New Railway line between Una and Hamirpur
6. Doubling of Anand-Godhra Line
7. Kolkata East-West Metro Project

Appraisal of Preliminary Project Reports (PPR)

A number of preliminary project reports (PPRs) were analyzed by the vertical and various suggestions provided on ways to make the projects financially and technically viable. The comments were sent to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Some of the projects examined include the Delhi–Alwar Regional Rapid Transit System, Lucknow Metro, Kanpur Metro, Inter-Modal Station at Nagpur, among others.

Appraisal of Metro Rail Projects

The vertical also undertook the detailed appraisal of metro rail projects. The vertical particularly examined aspects pertaining to financial viability and sustainability, inter-modal connectivity and non-motorized transit. The projects examined include Agra Metro, Kanpur Metro, Bhopal and Indore and Kochi metros.

Value-Capture Finance (VCF) and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

The vertical has prepared a detailed draft policy framework on value-capture finance and transit-oriented development for public transport projects. The aim of the policy framework is to encourage public transport agencies to raise alternative revenues to support self-sustainability and promote the development of dense, mixed-use, mixed-income neighbourhoods along the route of an upcoming public transport project. Such an initiative is linked to a reduction in vehicles, economic gains and sustainability.

Roads, Highways and Urban Transit

Intelligent Transport Systems

The infrastructure vertical is in the process of drafting the intelligent transport system policy framework for India.

This framework proposes key features such as creation of a national ITS architecture, development of ITS standards, guidelines for ITS security, capacity-building measures and associated financial aspects. The draft policy is currently in the inter-ministerial consultation stage.

Improvement of Public-Transit (Bus) Services

The vertical has been working towards improving the quality of bus-transit services across

the country. Currently, the monopoly of the state transport undertakings (STUs) has been preventing healthy competition, financial sustainability and accessibility for passengers. The vertical, jointly with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, World Bank and other stakeholders, is working on identifying long-term reforms in the sector, including opening of bus depots to private operators, implementation of ITS and exploring enhanced private participation.

Board Meeting of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

The vertical is responsible for convening the board meetings of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which are chaired by CEO, NITI Aayog. Ahead of each meeting, a detailed agenda is prepared by NHAI and examined by the transport vertical, and the views are conveyed to NHAI through the CEO, NITI Aayog. A number of important issues, including asset monetization, financial performance, road-building progress and the way forward are discussed during such meetings.

Project Appraisal and Technical Scrutiny Committee (PATSC)

The vertical is a member of the Project Appraisal and Technical Scrutiny Committee (PATSC) of NHAI. The purpose of PATSC is to examine the financial viability and technical feasibility of a project prior to its sanctioning. As part of the PATSC-appraisal mechanism, the transport vertical has appraised more than 20 projects and provided detailed comments and suggestions on the ways in which the viability of such projects can be enhanced.

Preliminary Project Reports (PPR)

The vertical has also examined numerous PPRs, which pertain to the roads and highways sector. The PPRs are examined to gauge the viability, sustainability and intended aims and objectives of the project and necessary comments as per appraisal are provided to Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance. The vertical stresses on the financial self-sustainable and inter-modal connectivity of projects. The vertical has appraised over 20 such PPRs, which include inter-modal station at Nagpur, Manipur state roads' improvement, vehicle safety device for women, advanced integrated incident management system, among others.

Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE)

As part of the scheme, various proposals are received that are aimed at enhancing connectivity in the rugged and sparsely populated terrain of the north-eastern states of the country. The vertical actively supports these schemes as part of the project appraisal mechanism since enhanced connectivity will lead to economic development of the region.

Policy Inputs

The vertical also provides regular policy inputs and advice on important issues and reforms pertaining to the sector. Inputs have been provided for the proposal regarding the declaration of state roads as national highways, asset monetization, inter-modal connectivity, multimodal logistics parks, arbitration mechanism, etc.

Ports and Shipping

Promotion of Cruise Tourism in India

The vertical facilitated a discussion on the proposal for promotion of cruise tourism in India with the Ministry of Shipping (MoS) and Ministry of Tourism (MoT). A meeting in this regard was chaired by the CEO, NITI Aayog, during which it was discussed that India should be developed as a new destination for international cruise tourism. It was highlighted that India has so far not been able to fully tap the potential of tourism despite its vast coastline of over 7500 km, serene landscape and other places of historic importance around the coastlines.

Standing Finance Committee (SFC) Proposals

Four SFC proposals were examined by the vertical and detailed suggestions and comments were provided. The proposals included the setting up of the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, the development of a Marina at Prince Dock, Mumbai Port Trust, Kolkata Port Trust's proposal on mechanization of Berth No. 3 at Haldia Dock Complex, and the proposal of establishing a 400-bedded super specialty hospital with an option to further develop a medical college and expansion on PPP basis for Paradip Port Trust.

Civil Aviation

Infrastructure Development of Airports

Pursuant to PMO's RoD dated 3 February 2017, the infrastructure connectivity vertical monitors the development of infrastructure undertaken in airports by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and prepares quarterly progress reports. Accordingly, the quarterly progress report of infrastructure development in airports was prepared and submitted to the Prime Minister's Office.

Provision of Funds to UDAN-Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)

An EFC memo to provide funds to regional Air Connectivity Funds Trust (RACFT) to meet the annual deficit under UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) was examined and inputs were provided. The UDAN scheme enables air operations on unserved routes with the objective of letting the common citizen of the country to fly at affordable prices, connecting regional areas and promoting balanced regional growth. Out of 706 total such routes, 688 routes have been initiated, of which 212 have become operational.

Appraisal of Investment Proposals

During the year, various investment proposals were received from the Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Shipping, and Ministry of Civil Aviation. The vertical examined these proposals in association with the project appraisal and management division, NITI Aayog. The numbers of such proposals examined have been summarized in table below.

Sector	Cabinet Notes	PIB/ EBR	SFC	EFC	PATSC
Road	03	02	8	Nil	20
Railways	04	28	--	---	---
Shipping	07	--	04		---
Civil Aviation	02	01	--	01	---

Appraisal of Notes for the Cabinet

A total of 16 Cabinet notes pertaining to railways, roads and highways, port and shipping and civil aviation were received by the vertical.

Four Cabinet notes pertaining to the railways, three of roads and highways, seven of shipping and two of the aviation sector were examined and detailed inputs given. These included identification of new dedicated freight corridors, identification of new high-speed rail corridors, toll-operate-transfer model of NHAI, deployment of infrastructure investment trusts by NHAI, Vehicle Scrapping Policy of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, setting up of a society for National Maritime Heritage Complex and providing more autonomy and tariff-setting powers to major ports with the Major Ports Authority Bill, among others.

Electric Vehicles

The National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage was set up in March 2019 to drive strategies for transformative mobility, phased manufacturing programmes for electric vehicles (EVs), and EV components and batteries for mobility and storage purpose. Highlights of the policy initiatives implemented so far are as given below.

1. FAME-II, a direct fiscal incentives' scheme, was launched with a focus to electrify public and shared transport across the country. Around 5595 electric buses to be deployed in 64 cities through the OPEX model have been approved. Responses to EoI for subsidy were received from 91 applicants from across the country. Of these, approvals have been granted for setting up 1050 charging stations by 22 government and public sector undertakings in 65 cities.

2. Public charging station has been declared as a de-licensed activity under notified EV Charging Infrastructure Guidelines and Standards. EESL has already set up 65 charging stations in Delhi and planning another 800 across the country. Model building bylaws were amended, to make provisions for EV charging points in private and public buildings. NITI Aayog prepared a scheme and put it up to the Cabinet for setting up of giga-scale battery storage plants in India.

3. Widespread consultations with all concerned were done along with the Ministry of Steel and MoRTH to finalize the Steel Scrap Recycling Policy and Vehicle Scrapping Policy. These two policies seek to encourage circular economy, increase scrap utilization, reduce India's dependence on imports and ensure only safe vehicles on roads.

4. 'India MOVES Together', a workshop, was held in NITI Aayog to develop a common understanding for states on transformative mobility, national goals, and EV initiatives of the Centre, etc. To promote the 7Cs as enunciated by Hon'ble PM—common, connected, convenient, clean, congestion free, cutting edge and charged mobility ecosystem—workshops were held in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Maharashtra.

5. Keeping pace with government initiatives, industry has also moved forward taking multiple steps—Tata Power partners with Zoomcar for EV fleet, including over 100 e-scooters, e-rickshaws and 250 e-cars. Tata Motors inaugurated Advance Power Systems Engineering Tech Centre in Pune. Ola has launched 'Mission: Electric' to integrate 10,000 e-rickshaws and electric autorickshaws into its fleet. ICAT launched new testing and development facility in Manesar. This new facility will help in bringing out the technical advantages of hybrid electric vehicles. Bajaj Auto has launched e-chetak while Micromax introduced ReVolt, the electric bike. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation recently introduced electric buses in the BRT corridor with robotic battery swapping facility. Smarte (an autorickshaw aggregator in NCR) operates 1000 e-autos in its fleet. YULU (bike-sharing company) has a fleet of 8500 bicycles and 2500 micro-light e2Ws located near bus stops and metro stations across many cities. ARAI has certified homologation of 108 e3W, 240 e2W, 14 electric passenger cars and seven models of electric buses.

6. The Office of Low-Emission Vehicles (OLEV), UK, shared the role and mandate of OLEV in accelerating EV adoption in the UK and its engagement with cities during the India–UK Policy Dialogue on accelerating scaling-up of the electric mobility market in India. The Indo-Japan Policy Dialogue, on next generation/zero-emission vehicles, was held at NITI Aayog to discuss the strategies to adopt EV as energy infrastructure in society and skill development workshops for the organized and unorganized workforces in the auto sector. An Indian delegation led by Dr VK Saraswat, Member (NITI) visited Chile, Argentina and Bolivia to explore opportunities for sourcing of lithium for manufacture of advanced chemistry batteries in India. Discussions were held with Western Australian Premier and the delegation on strategic partnerships for sourcing raw materials such as lithium, cobalt and nickel to support battery manufacturing.

7. IIT Delhi is set to introduce an MTech programme in EV from the next academic year. The mission contributed in the discussions on the curriculum design and provided the relevant inputs. On similar lines, IIT Guwahati is also planning to introduce courses on electric mobility.

8. The Mobility Mission held consultations with industry to develop battery recycling as a sustainable method for ensuring up to 95% recovery of critical minerals such as lithium, nickle, cobalt, etc., from spent batteries, thereby ensuring a regular supply of raw materials for battery manufacturing. MoEFCC is in the process of finalizing the Revised Battery Waste Management Rules.

9. A pilot project on e-highways was envisaged and a technical feasibility report is to be submitted by experts from Indian Railways and representatives from SIAM, BHEL, DHI, MoRTH, CRRI and MoP.

10. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have formulated their EV policies. Odisha, Telangana, MP and Assam have formulated draft EV policies. More than 40 EV promotional events were supported by the Mission and stakeholder consultations with around 100 think tanks, academia, non-profits, industry, start-ups, multilateral and bilateral institutions and media, etc., were held since its inception.

Land and Water Resources

The water resources vertical provides directional and policy input in the water and land sectors. It imparts water-and-land-related knowledge and skills to states, provides strategic policy vision to the government and deals with contingent issues.

Objectives

The main focal point of the vertical is to facilitate water and land security to ensure adequate availability of water for life, agriculture, and economic development by 2024. This broader vision may be attained by achieving the following goals:

Water Resources

a) Provide adequate and safe drinking water (piped) and water for sanitation for citizens and livestock.
b) Provide irrigation to all farms (har khet ko pani) with improved on-farm water-use efficiency (more crop per drop).
c) Provide water to industries, encourage industries to utilize recycled/treated water and ensure zero discharge of untreated effluents from industrial units.
d) Ensure long-term sustainability of the finite ground water resources.
e) Operation and maintenance of water infrastructure with active participation of farmers/consumers.
f) Promote R&D to facilitate adoption of the latest technologies in the water sector.
g) Provide water to water scarce agrarian districts that are rain fed and experience extreme weather shocks, almost twice as high as in irrigated areas.
h) Bridge the gap between the irrigation potential created and irrigation potential utilized of the irrigation projects.
i) Promote the revitalization of rivers for the integrated development of river basins and the protection of vanishing rivers.
j) To check the degrading quality of water in various regions of the country.

Land Resources

a) Transition from presumptive to conclusive land titling
b) Consolidate fragmented plots of farmers to enhance efficiency and equity
c) Create a digitized and integrated land records system that is easily accessible in all states
d) Increase efficiency in the management of land
e) Convert waste and fallow land to productive uses

Achievements of Water Resources

The vertical is involved in the formulation of policies, development of strategies and appraisal of programmes for sustainable management of water resources in the country. A brief on the important works undertaken is given below:

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was conceived by the Central government with a vision to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation for all agricultural farms in the country to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much-desired rural prosperity. It has four components:

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme (AIBP) for major and medium irrigation, including national projects
2. Har khet ko pani, which includes command area development and water management works, surface minor irrigation, irrigation through groundwater and repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies
3. Per drop more crop for promotion of micro irrigation
4. Watershed development for rainwater harvesting, effective management of run-off water, prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation and recharging of the ground water table.

The fourth meeting of the council of PMKSY was held under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, on 14 December 2018. In the meeting, the progress of various components of PMKSY was reviewed and decisions taken to expedite the implementation of various components so as to deliver the objective of har khet ko pani. The EFC memo on continuation of PMKSY beyond March 2020 was examined and observations shared with the Ministry.

Committee on North-East Water Resources Management

A high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the north-eastern region has been set up under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The committee has prepared an action plan for development of water resources in the region, including hydro power, inland transport, irrigation and drinking water. The committee has recommended setting up a new entity—North Eastern Water Management Authority (NEWMA)—parallel to the Brahmaputra Board for the proper management of water resources in the north-eastern region. The report of the expert committee for suggesting immediate measures for proper management of water resources in north-eastern India and a draft report of the high-level committee has already been submitted and circulated to the states for their views and suggestions. The final report of the high-level committee for proper management of resources in the north-east has been published and circulated to states. The formation of the NEWMA is in process.

Performance Assessment of Irrigation Systems using Remote Sensing technology

On the initiative of the vertical, a workshop was held with the World Bank and the Food Agriculture Organization under the chairmanship of the CEO, NITI Aayog, on 3 May 2019. Based on the discussions of the workshop, a steering committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD and GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The committee had its

first meeting on 9 August 2019. It has been decided that the World Bank will extend technical support in performance assessment of select projects in India

Agenda Preparation for 5th Governing Council Meeting

Brief for the Agenda Item#1, i.e., rainwater harvesting, was framed by the vertical for the Fifth Governing Council Meeting held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister 15 June 2019.

Decision Support System/Integrated Water Management System

A power-point presentation on 'summer and monsoon seasons: measure for water crises' was made to the Committee of Secretaries on 21 May 2019 in which the DSS was proposed for improved decision-making based on real-time water-related data. The vertical is now working alongside the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Prime Minister to develop the DSS.

Strategy for Flood Management in India

On the instruction of the PMO, the vertical drafted the strategy paper on 'Flood Management in India', based on which a decision was taken by the PMO that the strategy for flood management, for the next three years, would be led by a group constituted at NITI Aayog.

National Capital Territory Yamuna River Authority (NCTYRA)

The vertical drafted the aims and objectives, functions and structure of NCTYRA, along with the terms of reference for the 'Pre-Feasibility Study for Assessment of Sewerage Infrastructure for Pollution Abatement of River Yamuna in Delhi' and submitted to the office of the VC, NITI Aayog.

Visits to Monitor District Irrigation Plans (DIPs)

Under the instructions of the PMO, scientists 'C' and 'D' of the vertical visited ten districts to monitor the implementation of DIPs.

Twelve Joint-Inspections of the Projects under PMKSY

The officers of the vertical jointly inspected 12 out of 13 projects under PMKSY whose completion is likely to go beyond December 2019.

Consultant Selection for Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs)

On the request of the DMEO, the vertical drafted the terms of reference for the evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes in the water sector. Further, the vertical actively participated in the selection of the consultant and final negotiations. Now, the vertical is assisting DMEO in preparation of the evaluation report.

Visit under Jal Shakti Abhiyan

The adviser of the vertical in the capacity of a Central prabhari officer of Jal Shakti Abhiyan visited the Yadadri-Bhongiri district of Telangana and submitted the report thereof.

Examination of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

The EFC of SBM-G and the Cabinet note on JJM were examined by the vertical and the relevant observations communicated to the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Achievements of Land Resources

The land resources vertical of NITI Aayog works to ensure the provision of secure property rights and titles and clear and consistent regulations around the operations, leasing of land. A brief on the important works undertaken is given below:

Land Record Management and Conclusive Land Titling

As per the directions of the CEO, NITI Aayog, a group was formulated to work on 'Land Records Management in India'

(a) As a part of the group, the vertical made a presentation to the CEO, NITI Aayog, with the recommendations and way forward for dealing with some of the aspects of land record management.
(b) The best practices of various states were studied and compiled and sent to the chief secretaries of all states as annexures to the DO letters of the CEO, NITI Aayog, to move towards conclusive land titling.

Model Act for Conclusive Land Titling and Rules

In pursuance of the decision held in a meeting of the Cabinet Secretary, a committee was constituted to draft the model act and the rules on conclusive land titling. The committee had several sittings, held extensive discussions, took into account various documents available in this regard, and finalized a Model Act and Rules on Conclusive Land Titling.

Library and Documentation Centre

The library and documentation centre provides comprehensive access of books, journals and reports to all members of NITI Aayog. In-house consultation facility was also extended to officials of other departments and research scholars enrolled with various institutions/universities.

The library has over 1.75 lakh books, reports, bound volumes and audio-visual items. It subscribes to 156 journals and magazines and newspapers in both English and Hindi. It also subscribes the following e-resources:

Databases	Database	Online Journals	Online Journal
Bloomberg CEIC CMIE IMF e-library Indiastat	J-gate Jstor Manupatra Press Reader WorldBanke-library sReader	Economist EPW Financial Times	Foreign Affairs HBR Wall Street Journal

Online access facility of journals is available to members of the library. It is fully automated with the help of the software KOHA. The page is given below:

It brings out the following publications:

1.   Daily Digest, Part A and B

     a)   Part A contains news pertaining to NITI Aayog.
     b)   Part B provides a collection of articles, editorials, comments and analyses published in different newspapers on different topics.
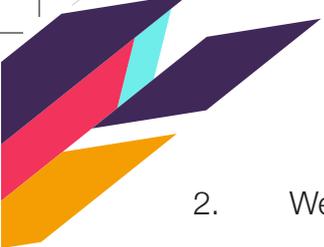
2.   Weekly bulletins: The library compiles weekly bulletins for the following six verticals:

   a) Energy
   b) Health and Nutrition
   c) Infrastructure
   d) Rural development
   e) Agriculture
   f) SC and DP

3.   Book Alerts (Monthly): It contains the pictures of the front cover and a short abstract of the new books purchased by the library.
4.   DOCPLAN (Monthly): It contains abstracts of articles taken from periodicals received in the library, related to core areas dealt by NITI.
5.   Recent List of Additions (Monthly): It contains bibliographic details of books/documents added or received in the library.
6.   Table of Contents (Monthly): It contains the titles of the articles published in the journals subscribed by the library.

During the period 1 January–30 November 2019, 938 books have been added to the collection. In addition, 156 periodicals and magazines and newspapers were received. The library also responded to approximately 4200 reference queries and attended to specific needs of users. About 3022 readers visited the library for purpose of consultation and reference work.

Managing Urbanization

The managing urbanization vertical in NITI Aayog focuses on urbanization in close association with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The vertical also collaborates with national and international knowledge centres/institutions, think tanks, experts, policymakers for capacity building of various stakeholders and initiating dialogue through knowledge-sharing workshops, meetings, etc., on various sub-sectors, etc. Besides, the vertical also examines proposals, detailed project reports received from states and union territories for GoI funding and/or external assistance for various projects proposed to be undertaken by them.

The major activities/works carried out during the year 2019–20 are specified under:

NITI-SCE Second Phase of Urban Management Programme (Water Recycling and Reuse)

NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) and Temasek Foundation organized the second phase of the Urban Management Programme (Water Recycling and Reuse), which was launched on 26 November 2018 in New Delhi. Eight states and union territories—Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry—were selected through a challenge method.

Under this collaboration, two workshops were organized in New Delhi in November 2018 and February 2019 respectively, while the third workshop was a four-day field tour to Singapore from 24–27 June 2019. The concluding workshop on development of delivery options and

model documents for project implementation for water recycling was held on 5–7 November 2019 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

Under the programme, 12 pilot project proposals were received from the eight states and union territories. 'Water Recycling and Reuse Project of Capacity 15 MLD in Ballari' by Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board emerged as the best proposal and was selected as a pilot project. Other cities were also given online consultations and advice during the workshops by the experts from Singapore so the projects of those cities could also be developed for grounding. The feasibility report for the Ballari project has been prepared and the model project document is under preparation and will be circulated to all states and union territories.

Follow-up on the first phase of the Urban Management Programme and circulation of the four framework documents prepared for all states and union territories:

a) Strategic Baseline Framework for Water Recycling
b) Integrated Solid Waste Management Framework
c) Baseline Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Framework
d) Integrated Urban Data Framework

Follow-up with chief secretaries of all states and union territories regarding the Hon'ble Prime Minister's directions about the need for water conservation, rainwater harvesting and groundwater elevation.

Workshops, Consultations, Conferences

1. Consultations for preparation of ToRs for evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, National Urban Livelihoods Mission).
2. Organization of multi-stakeholder consultations on 'Faecal Sludge and Septage Management'. A paper has been prepared on this.
3. Organization of a high-level meeting on 'Cleaning up our Cities' under the chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, which was attended by Chief Secretary, Delhi government; municipal commissioners of the three municipal corporations of Delhi; Chairman, NDMC; Chairman, CPCB; CEO, Delhi Cantonment Board; IOCL, NTPC, Shell India, etc.
4. Follow-up meetings with the Chief Secretary of the Delhi government and his officials on 'Cleaning up our Cities'. Conceptualization and drafting of Ward Cleanliness Index, along with All India Institute of Local Self-government for the ranking of municipal wards of Delhi.
5. Series of consultations and discussions were held on solid waste management with various stakeholders and a paper on the topic has been prepared.
6. Organization of multi-stakeholder consultations on the 'Housing Sector and its Impact on Economic Growth'. A paper has been prepared on the housing sector.
7. Regular meetings with urban experts on the working paper/chapter on 'urbanization' for the NITI Vision Document 2035.

Background Notes/Appraisal/Examination of SFC/EFC/EAP/ Metro Rail and Other Project Proposals

1. Preliminary proposals of Agra, Kanpur and Delhi Metro (Phase-IV, revision in funding pattern) and Patna Metro was examined and the comments were sent.
2. Bangalore Metro Rail Project for availing of JICA loan for Phase-II, 2A and 2B was examined and comments furnished on 2 August 2019.
3. Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-II: Examined and forwarded revised Preliminary Project Report for availing of loan.
4. Kochi Metro: Phase 1A and non-motorized transport proposal examined and comments was sent on 29 August 2019 and 15 October 2019, respectively.
5. Eight project proposals of different lines of Mumbai Metro Rail were examined and comments sent on 19 August 2019.

6. Proposal for providing urban water and sanitation facilities to six towns of Himachal Pradesh examined and comments sent on 20 June 2019.
7. Preliminary Project Report Proposal of Bihar Urban Development Investment Programme 2 (BUDIP2) for sustainable water supply and sewerage infrastructure examined and comments sent on 20 August 2019.
8. Proposals of integrated urban infrastructure development in Rishikesh, sixteen secondary towns and sewerage schemes in selected towns/area under environment-friendly urban development in Ganga states, Phase-II (Ganga rejuvenation) of Uttarakhand examined and comments sent on 24 October 2019, 26 August 2019 and 24 October 2019, respectively.
9. Tripura proposal for infrastructure development of seven district headquarters was examined and comments sent.
10. Proposal of Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Programme II was examined and comments sent.
11. Proposal of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for combating marine litter: Cities in action to prevent marine litter through sustainable waste management practices and promoting resource efficiency at the source of generation in coastal cities/towns was examined and the comments were sent on 8 August 2019.
12. Proposal of Tamil Nadu for Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Project for Greater Chennai and its peri-urban area in Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts and vulnerable urban pockets in other coastal districts examined and comments sent on 17 September 2019.
13. Proposal for framing regulations for conferring/recognizing ownership or mortgage/transfer rights to the residents of unauthorized colonies in Delhi examined and comments sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 3 September 2019.
14. Draft Cabinet note seeking approval of the Model Tenancy Act, 2019, for circulation to the states and union territories for adoption examined and comments sent on 13 September 2019 to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
15. Draft DIB memorandum on Implementation and Maintenance (for five years after go-live) of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Solution for Central Public Works Department (CPWD) examined and comments sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
16. The Government of Uttarakhand's proposal for development of best transport (roads and public transport) infrastructure in Dehradun and Mussoorie examined and comments uploaded on the PPPR portal.

Minerals

The minerals vertical is responsible for designing strategic and long-term policy for the mines and minerals sector. This division also provides a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to remove the impediments in growth of the mineral sector.

2. The vision of the minerals vertical is to prepare strategic polices for the sector in order to ensure: (a) enhanced exploration and extraction of minerals (b) raw material security for all user industries (c) focus on rare earth and technology minerals (d) ensure overall sustainability encompassing people, profit and planet (e) generate more employment opportunities and (f) decrease overall mineral import and enhance export.

3. The objective of the vertical is to take necessary actions for achieving the aforementioned vision by (a) engaging proactively with stakeholders to identify the risks/challenges in the sector (b) develop mitigation strategies to overcome these risks/challenges and (c) coordinate with the line ministry/concerned departments for implementation of these strategies.

4. A high-level committee on mines and minerals sectors was constituted to analyze the factors impeding the growth of the sector and submit its recommendations. The committee held extensive stakeholder consultation with concerned ministries, departments, organizations, industry and industry bodies. The issues concerning the mining sector were deliberated at length. Committee has submitted its report giving specific recommendations on different areas with the objective of enhancing exploration and domestic production, reducing imports, and achieving rapid growth in exports.

5. Minerals division has examined and provided policy inputs for several crucial proposals pertaining to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), and Standing Finance Committee (SFC) in order to strengthen the proposals and make them more result oriented.

6. Rare Earths (RE) are important resources for use in high-tech applications in various strategic sectors such as defence, atomic energy, space, oil, green energy, electronics etc. India has significant Rare Earths primary and secondary resources. The country depends on import of these resources and has not achieved the self-sufficiency inspite of being in this domain since 1950s. Self-sufficiency in RE is vital and critical to our strategic sectors, emerging non-conventional energy mission and other high tech products.

In view of above, an expert committee was constituted by NITI Aayog to evolve strategy for self-reliance and develop a road map to address restrictive trade practices and harness the availability of domestic and global resources. The committee has submitted its report.

7. Wealth from waste is the key to maximize the resources available for industrial and thereto the economic growth. 'Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)' is the world's fastest growing waste stream and also a major environmental challenge. Eco-friendly recycling of WEE is important to combat this growing menace and also to facilitate circular economy by re-use of most of the recycled material.

In order to have a policy approach and a vision document for addressing the recycling issues a committee on 'strengthening recycling of e-waste' was constituted by the minerals vertical under the chairmanship of Dr U Kamachi Mudali, CEO, Heavy Water Board. After extensive deliberations, the report was released by Dr VK Saraswat, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog, at the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, Kerala, on 12 September 2019. The report is under consideration by NITI Aayog for its implementation.

Natural Resources and Environment

The environment and forest division of natural resources and environment (NRE) vertical is involved in formulation of policies and development of strategies for sustainable management of forests; protection of wildlife and their habitats; and maintenance of a clean, green and healthy environment. The division coordinates activities with the Ministry of Environment, Forest

and Climate Change (MoEF & CC). During the year 2019–20, the following major activities were undertaken:

'Cleaner Air Better Life' Initiative

Formulation of appropriate strategies for maintaining a clean, green and healthy environment in the country has been accorded high priority in NITI Aayog. We have been working closely with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and other stakeholders for controlling air pollution. On World Environment Day, 5 June 2017, NITI Aayog and CII organized the first meeting of their joint initiative 'Cleaner Air Better Life', with an objective to address the issue of air pollution in the country.

Subsequently, four taskforces were constituted in NITI Aayog with experts as members to recommend suitable interventions for clean fuel, clean transport, clean industries and biomass management. All the reports have been finalized and are now in public domain and available on NITI Aayog website.

Appraisal of Notes for the Cabinet

A draft note for the Cabinet regarding a proposal for amendments in the 'Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands Land Revenue and Tenancy Regulation, 1965, was examined and commented upon.

The proposals sent by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for consideration of the Cabinet were examined and observations were sent back. They were on the following subjects:

- Policy for eco-tourism in forest and wildlife areas.
- Upgradation of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History as an autonomous institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Signing a Host Country Agreement between the Government of India and the Global Tiger Forum.
- Conferment of status of Institute of National Importance to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, through an Act of Parliament.
- Constitution of Climate Change Authority.
- Approval of adoption of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and national land degradation neutrality strategy.
- Approval of the 'Protocol on Trans-Boundary Elephant Conservation between India and Bangladesh'.
- Revised guidelines for public participation in afforestation of degraded forests.
- Draft note for EFC to consider project proposal on 'Pollution Abatement and Conservation of River Tapi at 85-km Stretch from Kakrapar Barrage to ONGC Bridge, Surat, Gujarat' under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) was examined and comments conveyed to the PAMD division, NITI Aayog.

Appraisal of Project Proposals

In addition, the following proposals were examined and comments submitted to the concerned

ministries/departments/agencies:

- The preliminary project proposal on technical assistance to the Air Quality Management (AQM) Programme in India. The project would assist selected states/cities to develop time-bound, prioritized AQM state/city action plans and investment plans; strengthen capacity of relevant institutions at national and state levels for AQM planning; and deepen and disseminate knowledge on critical aspects of AQM.
- The preliminary project proposal on protection of vulnerable catchment areas in Meghalaya with an estimated cost of around Rs 345 crore. The project aims to improve water availability and security through participatory approaches for catchment area protection and sustainable management.
- The preliminary project proposal on 'West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project Phase II' with an estimated cost of Rs 650 crore. The overall objective of the project is conservation, management and systematic augmentation of the natural resources of West Bengal through people's participation for holistic development.
- The preliminary project proposal on Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project Phase II with an estimated cost of Rs 1833.39 crore. The primary objective of the project is to strengthen biodiversity conservation by improving ecosystem and management capacities, and also undertake tree plantations outside recorded forest areas.
- The preliminary project proposal on Sustainable and Environment-friendly Industrial Production (SEIP) Phase-II with an estimated cost of Rs 17.05 crore. The project aims at strengthening the strategic and operational governance structures of selected public agencies of the Indian government to effectively combat water pollution from industrial wastewater.
- The preliminary project proposal on KfW Soil Project—Integration of Watershed Development for Rehabilitation of Degraded Soils and Climate Change Adaption (Phase-III) with an estimated cost of Rs 190.14 crore (PPRID-10410). The project aims to minimize the risk of climate change and to increase productivity in selected watersheds through stabilization, enhancement and sustainable use of soil and water.
- The preliminary project proposal on Closing the Loop of Marine Litter in Ecosystems with an estimated cost of Rs 31.44 crore (PPRID-10316). The overall objective of the project is aimed at demonstrating technological solutions in river and marine ecosystems to close material cycles of marine litter. It uses resource efficient and circular economy approaches in collaboration with the civil society, public and private partners.
- The preliminary project proposal on Adaptive Forest Management for Water Security to safeguard livelihoods in Himachal Pradesh with an estimated cost of Rs 45 crore (PPRID-10491). The main objective of the project is to improve water availability from forested areas to enhance rural livelihoods.

World Bank Report

The World Bank report on economic growth and air pollution in India was examined and observations communicated to the Department of Economic Affairs.

Official language Division (Hindi Section)

The Hindi section continued its efforts towards greater use of Hindi in official work during the year, keeping in view the annual programme issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Official Language Policy of the Union, for implementation of the Official Language Act, 1963, and Official Language Rules, 1976, made thereunder.

Quarterly progress reports were sent regularly to the Department of Official Language and those received from attached offices were reviewed regularly. The Hindi section translated various documents, like the Annual Report, Demand for Grants, Strategy for New India@75, material related to the Parliamentary Standing Committees, Cabinet notes, CCEA notes, Parliament questions, notifications, MoUs, forms and drafts, letters, etc.

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

In pursuance of the Official Language Policy, all documents covered under Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act, 1963, are issued both in English and Hindi. The annual programme and other orders/instructions issued by the Department of Official Language were forwarded to all the Sections of the Aayog and its attached offices for information and directives were issued for their compliance.

Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC)

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

Incentive Scheme for Original Noting and Drafting Work in Hindi

The incentive scheme for noting and drafting in Hindi introduced by the Department of Official Language was continued. The scheme carries two first prizes of Rs 5000 each, three second prizes of Rs 3000 each and five third prizes of Rs 2000 each.

Cash Prize Scheme for Dictation in Hindi

An incentive scheme for officers for dictating in Hindi is in operation. Under this scheme, there is provision of two cash prizes of Rs 5000 each (one for Hindi speaking and the other for non-Hindi-speaking staff).

Hindi Fortnight

During the Hindi fortnight, organized from 1–15 September 2019, various competitions such as Hindi essay writing, Hindi typing, Hindi translation, Hindi noting/drafting, extempore speech and knowledge of official language were organized. A Hindi dictation competition was also organized for the multi-tasking staff of NITI.

Hindi Workshops

During the year, two Hindi workshops were organized on 9 and 13 September 2017 to encourage officials to undertake more work in Hindi. As many as 16 officers and employees participated in these workshops.

Inspections Regarding Progressive Use of Hindi

In order to oversee the implementation of the Official Language Policy, seven divisions, sections, and verticals were inspected by the officers of the official language division of NITI Aayog during the year.

Organization Methods and Coordination (OM&C) Section

This section handles public grievances online through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System since January 2018. Of the 916 public grievance petitions received during the year 2019–20 till 15 November 2019, 905 were disposed of, which makes it more than a 98% disposal rate. The average disposal time is 13 days.

The vertical had organized the fourth International Yoga Day on 21 June 2019. Special sessions of Yoga, acupressure and naturopathy were organized from 17–20 June 2019 for the welfare of employees in NITI Aayog.
The OM&C also organized the 'Sehaj Yoga Meditation Session' on 29 June 2019 as well as townhall meetings under the chairpersonship of the VC.

The citizen charter of NITI Aayog was finalized on 12 September 2019. The pledge on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was organized on 30 October 2019, which was administered by the VC.

OM&C also handles work related to amendment in delegation of financial and administrative powers.

It also appoints registered medical practitioners as authorized medical attendants for the benefit of NITI Aayog employees and their family members, who do not have CGHS facility in the area of their residence, among others.

Project Appraisal and Management Division

One of the core functions of NITI Aayog is the appraisal of public-sector programmes, schemes and projects undertaken by the project appraisal management division (PAMD). This division has been assigned to discharge the following functions:

i.   Prescribe guidelines and develop formats for the submission of proposals for projects and programmes for techno-economic appraisal;
ii. Undertake support research studies to improve the methodology and procedure for appraisal of projects and programmes;
iii. Undertake techno-economic appraisal of major projects and programmes in the public sectors; and
iv. Assist Central ministries in establishing proper procedures for preparation of reports of projects and programmes.

Appraisal Work

This division conducts comprehensive appraisal of projects costing Rs 500 crore and above related to the Public Investment Board, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and the Committee of Public Investment Board (CPIB). Proposals of the Ministry of Railways costing Rs 500 crore and above, to be considered by the Expanded Board of Railways (EBR), are also appraised. Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposals are also appraised by the vertical to analyse the factors attributed to cost and time overruns and their impact on viability.

Number of Appraisals Undertaken by PAMD

During 2019–20 (up to 30 September 2019), a total of 71 appraisal notes on EFC/PIB/EBR proposals involving outlay of Rs 95,24,595.32. have been issued. The sectoral distribution of projects appraised from April to November 2019 is illustrated in the table below:

Sector group-wise projects appraised during April to November 2019

S.No.	SECTORS	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
	SECTOR-WISE NUMBER AND COSTS OF EFC/PIB PROPOSALS APPRAISED IN PAMD Vertical (1 April–30 November 2019)		
	AGRICULTURE		
1	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	9	231831.03
	ENERGY		
2	Power	4	5397.77
3	Coal		
4	Petroleum & Natural Gas		
5	New & Renewable Energy		
	TRANSPORT		
6	Railways	4	86382.67
7	Surface Transport	3	185727.00
8	Civil Aviation	3	7162.56
9	Shipping	1	4781.00
	INDUSTRY		
10	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises		
11	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		
12	Steel & Mines		
13	Petro Chemicals & Fertilisers		
14	Textiles	1	1480.00
15	Food Processing Industries		
	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY		
16	Bio-Technology		
17	Science & Technology		
18	Scientific & Ind. Research		
19	Ocean Development		
20	Earth Sciences	1	6494.00
	SOCIAL SERVICES		
21	Human Resource Development	3	2181.93
22	Culture		
23	Youth Affairs & Sports		
24	Health & Family Welfare	3	29274.93
25	Women & Child Dev.		
26	Labour & Employment	2	58376.45
27	Social Justice & Empowerment		
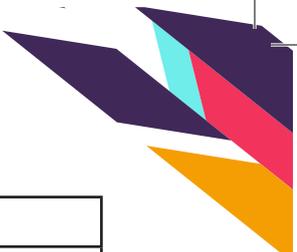
28	Urban Development		
29	Rural Development	2	6092.08
30	Minority Affairs		
31	Tribal Affairs		
32	Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation	3	548112.00
33	Food & Public Distribution		
	COMMUNICATION		
34	Information & Broadcasting		
35	Post		
36	Electronics and Information Technology		
37	Communication		
	OTHERS		
38	Home Affairs	9	26314.08
39	Tourism	1	5000.00
40	Commerce & Industry	3	51038.00
41	Environment & Forests		
42	Law & Justice		
43	Water Resources		
44	North Eastern Region (DONER)	3	8847.20
45	Consumer Affairs	3	38029.00
46	Finance/Corporate Affairs	7	19993.27
47	Planning Commission/NITI Aayog	2	17025.00
48	External Affairs		
49	Statistics & Program Implementation	1	1141.55
50	Parliamentary Affairs	1	673.80
51	Panchayati Raj		
52	Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation	1	2649.00
53	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship		
54	Personnel,Public Grievances and pensions	1	8180591.00
	Total	**71**	**9524595.32**

Task Force Report on Project and Programme Management

NITI Aayog had constituted the task force on project and programme management with the objective to lay down a plan of action advocating short-term and long-term strategies for improving project and programme management practices and aligning them with global best practices. The task force analysed the performance of the projects in the past years and recommended for adoption of the best practices for bringing about radical reforms in the ways projects are currently executed in the country.

Accordingly, QCI has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the draft policy framework, with emphasis on strengthening the government's ability to effectively manage its portfolio of projects and programmes. Other several recommendations underline the need for more efficiency and transparency in procurement and enabling of public-private investments through appropriate risk-sharing, investing more efforts at the pre-planning stage, augmenting organizational skillsets, improving stakeholder management, leveraging technology, tools and techniques and establishing robust project governance. It has been strongly suggested the actions should be initiated on the task force's recommendations by all ministries, states, public sector enterprises and a governance framework set up for institutionalization of the project and programme management discipline. A copy of this can be accessed from the website of NITI Aayog.

Parliament Section

The parliament section coordinates work related to:

1. Parliament questions
2. Calling attention notices
3. Half an hour discussions
4. Resolutions
5. Private members' bills
6. No-day-yet-named motions
7. Matters raised in Lok Sabha under Rule 377 and by way of special mention in Rajya Sabha
8. Assurances given in Parliament
9. Meetings of the various Parliamentary Committees such as the Standing Committee on Finance and the Public Accounts Committee
10. Laying of reports and papers in both Houses of the Parliament
11. Arranging of temporary and session-wise general and official gallery passes for the officers of NITI Aayog
12. Issues likely to be raised in Parliament
13. Government Business and procurement of Budget document
14. Economic Survey and President's speech to both Houses of the Parliament for distribution among the Vice Chairman, Members and officers of NITI Aayog.

The Parliament section also does the needful for arranging the briefing of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning on the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha starred questions.

During the year 2019, the section undertook the following:

1. Arranged to get approval of MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning for seven starred and 76 unstarred questions and prepared and issued the sets thereof for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in time, and also uploaded the same on the web portal of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
2. Necessary arrangements were made for the meetings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on the demands for grants (2019–20) of the Ministry of Planning.

3. Follow-up action and compilation of the action taken report on the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in its fourth report on the demands for grants (2019–20) of the Ministry of Planning.
4. The detailed demand for grants of the Ministry of Planning for 2019–20 was laid on the table of Lok Sabha and thereafter a requisite number of copies were also placed at the publication counter of both Houses of the Parliament for the purpose of circulation amongst the MPs.
5. The Annual Report of NITI Aayog (2018–19) was circulated to MPs of both Houses of the Parliament through publication counters.
6. Three assurances in Lok Sabha and one in Rajya Sabha were fulfilled during the period.
7. Background notes/replies, etc., on various subjects selected by the Standing Committee on Finance and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament were compiled and sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
8. Sessional and other passes required for the meetings held in the Parliament House premises were arranged for the Vice Chairman, members, CEO and other senior officers of NITI Aayog.
9. This section also coordinated in sending replies to the concerned MPs on the matters raised under Rule 377 in the Lok Sabha and by way of special mention in Rajya Sabha.

Public-Private Partnership

The work undertaken by the public-private partnership (PPP) vertical is broadly categorised under (i) policy and (ii) projects appraisals. More specifically, the vertical works on:

1. Developing concession agreement guiding principles/ model concession agreements in different sectors, including stakeholder consultations.
2. Reviewing and providing comments on Central government PPP projects via the PPPAC and/or SFC process.
3. Promotion of PPPs as the preferred mode for infrastructure projects.
4. Suggesting institutional, regulatory and procedural reforms.
5. Evolving suitable reforms and policy initiatives for consideration of the government and appraisal of PPP projects.

This year several path-breaking initiatives have been initiated that are aimed at promoting private and foreign direct investments in infrastructure:

The National Programme on Advance Chemistry Cell Battery Storage

NITI Aayog has drafted the contours of the national programme on advance chemistry cells battery storage. The programme pertains to provision of suitable fiscal incentives and a single-window framework to facilitate investment into 50GWh of the domestic advance cell manufacturing industry. India's accelerating progress in EVs and renewable energy deployment necessitates the facilitation of investments in such giga factories to indigenize battery production and partake in a sunrise industry. This will also enable less import dependence and secure the future of energy and transport sectors in India. The proposal is under discussion.

Redevelopment of World-Class Railway Stations through Public-Private Partnership

NITI Aayog has been engaged with the Ministry of Railways (MoR) in fast-tracking railway stations' redevelopment projects across the country. As part of this endeavour, consultations have been undertaken with various stakeholders for evaluation and redressal of challenges faced. A self-sustainable model for development of world-class stations under the PPP route has been finalized. The model has been approved to be adopted for development of all world-class stations going forward. NITI Aayog has also helped MoR finalize the concession terms and bidding documents for the same; based on which 10 stations are proposed to be bid out in the current fiscal. RfQs of four stations have already been floated and another four are in the pipeline.

Operations of Passenger Train through Public-Private Partnership

NITI Aayog along with the Ministry of Railways (MoR) is spearheading landmark reforms in railways through PPP models for operations and facilities. Private participation in sourcing and operation of modern technology trains for a delighted passenger experience is one such initiative. NITI Aayog has helped MoR in the end-to-end process for the project, starting right from conceptualization to structuring of the project, finalization of concession terms, preparation of bid documents, stakeholder consultations, etc. Pursuant to such efforts, 100 routes clustered around major urban centres such as Delhi, Mumbai, etc., are being bid out under the first phase of project.

Eco-tourism Facilities through Public-Private Partnership

As part of NITI Aayog's initiative for holistic development of islands, bidding process for development of sustainable eco-tourism projects in seven islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep have been undertaken. Additionally, several other islands have been identified for development under the second phase of the project. In order to effectively facilitate development of such eco-tourism facilities, a model concession agreement has been formulated that can be suitably adopted for proposed and other similar projects.

Redevelopment of AIIMS through Public-Private Partnership

The Union Cabinet accorded its in-principle approval for redevelopment of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) into a world-class medical university. NITI Aayog has been involved in the process of ensuring high-quality development as per international best practices in a timely and cost-efficient manner. In line with such an objective, NITI Aayog helped AIIMS undertake the bidding process for engagement of a programme-management consultant for preparation of bidding documents, identification of best practices and evaluation.

Initiatives for Revival of Construction Sector

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in 2016, approved various NITI Aayog–proposed initiatives for the revival of the construction sector, including interim partial payment of challenged arbitral awards by government entities to contractors and concessionaires against a bank guarantee (BG). This policy was lacking implementation due to requirement of BG for interest and challenge of arbitral awards. In 2019, NITI Aayog moved a proposal before the

CCEA, which approved certain measures for effective implementation of the 2016 decision: challenge of arbitral awards with the opinion of a law officer; interim payment to be released against BG only for the principal amount and not for the interest component.

Model Concession Agreement for e-Buses

To support the state governments/municipalities in their endeavour to transition to electric vehicles, NITI Aayog developed a model concession agreement for operation and maintenance of electric buses in cities for public transportation through PPP on operating expenses' (OPEX) basis—to provide cleaner, more efficient and affordable public transportation. Under the proposed model, the private partner will be required to incur the necessary capital expenses (CAPEX) for procurement of the e-buses and for O&M infrastructure, while the state transport authority will pay the operational expenses on per kilometre basis (also the bid parameter). The framework can be used to develop city-specific concessions to introduce e-buses and enable the government's plan to push zero-emission vehicles and achieve significant electrification of vehicles by 2030 without incurring huge capital investment on procurement of e-buses or setting up of maintenance and charging infrastructure.

Guidelines for Stuck Highways Projects

NITI Aayog assisted the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in developing 'the Guiding Principles for Resolution of Stuck Projects' under execution by MoRTH/NHAI/NHIDCL through BOT (Toll/Annuity/HAM), EPC, Item Rate, where the work has stopped either due to the inability of the contractor or concessionaire to continue with the project on account of bankruptcy proceedings or default (consecutive or simultaneous) on account of both the parties. These guiding principles lay down the broad framework for resolution and settlement of cases of stuck projects via conciliation, following the principles laid thereunder on a case-to-case basis.

Model Concession Agreement for Automated Inspection and Certification (I&C) Centres for Transport Vehicles

Pursuant to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, providing for notification of a date by the Central government for mandating testing and certification of fitness only at automated-testing stations and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' 2017–20 guidelines for setting up of I&C Centres, NITI Aayog to support states in timely and effective implementation, developed the 'Concession Agreement Guiding Principles for Setting up and Operating of Automated I&C Centers for Transport Vehicles'. Under this model, the concessionaire will be required to incur the necessary CAPEX for setting up the I&C centre, including the requisite equipment, while the authority will incur a 'fee per tested vehicle' payable to the concessionaire (also, the bidding parameter). This PPP model, leveraging private-sector investment and efficiencies, will facilitate swifter implementation of amended law with faster proliferation of automated I&C Centres imbibing state-of-the-art technology being set up across the country.

Model Concession Agreement for Multimodal Logistic Parks

NITI Aayog, on a request from the Department of Commerce, designed a model concession framework for 'development of multimodal logistics parks (MMLPs) through PPP' in view of the department's upcoming multimodal logistics parks policy. The model concession agreement

envisages grant of concession through BOT (Built Operate Transfer), for setting up and operating of multimodal freight-handling facility comprising mechanized warehouses with intermodal transfer facilities and offering value-added services, eventually, leading to a network of MMLPs in the country to ensure a seamless transfer of goods across modes.

Monetization of Core and Non-Core Assets

In recent years, new and innovative financial instruments have been launched, like Infrastructure Investment Trusts, Real Estate Investment Trusts, as well as models like Toll-Operate-Transfer, as part of the brown-field asset-monetization strategy for augmenting infrastructure investment. Emphasizing on increasing capital investment and at the same time ensuring overall fiscal discipline, the government is giving a major thrust to asset-monetization and recycling programme. For this initiative of the government, under the chairmanship of its CEO, NITI Aayog is steering the recycling and monetization of various underutilized and other potential assets. Under this initiative, NITI Aayog has recommended a list of potential non-core and core assets to the government and is also handholding various line ministries, departments in formulating a suitable framework for structuring the transaction and in undertaking the bid process.

Preparation of National Infrastructure Pipeline

The government had announced its intention to invest NR 100 lakh crore (USD 1.4 trillion) on infrastructure till FY 2024–25. In this regard, the finance minister approved the constitution of a task force, of which NITI Aayog is a member. The task force interacted with various stakeholders, including but not limited to Central line ministries, departments, agencies, CPSEs and state-level organizations to understand and collate information regarding the future investment pipeline in infrastructure. NITI Aayog steered the interaction with state governments and made recommendations for various structural reforms required to facilitate investment into infrastructure.

Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Unit (PPPAU)

During 2019–20 (up to 30 September 2019), 15 PPP projects with a total cost of Rs 34,256.97 crore was appraised by PPPAU. The sector-wise distributions of the projects are given below:

Table: PPP Projects appraised in 2019-20 (Up to 30.11.2019)

Sl. No.	Project Appraised	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. in Crores)
	Central Projects		
1	Road	8	7182.02
2	Silo	1	40.14
3	Seaport	3	5396.56
4	Eco-resort	1	379.00
5	Petroleum Reserves	1	21000.00
6	Marina	1	359.25
	Total	**15**	**34356.97**

RTI Cell

The RTI cell responds to all RTI queries received online https://rtionline.gov.in or physically through post.

During the year 2019–20, the cell was engaged in the following activities:

- 1168 RTI queries were received, out of which 1140 have been disposed of (up to November 2019)
- 54 appeals were received and 49 have been disposed of (up to November 2019)
- Three CIC hearings were attended (up to November 2019)

Rural Development

The rural development vertical of NITI Aayog provides overall policy guidance to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), and Ministry of Drinking Water Supply (which is now a department under the Ministry of Jal Shakti) in programmes and schemes implemented by them. It also monitors the progress of the various schemes and programmes implemented by these ministries. Later, in the month of August 2019, the subject of drinking water supply was transferred from water and land resources vertical. The rural development vertical also deals with work related to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Vice Chairman's Visit to Andhra Pradesh

A detailed note and presentation on the various issues of Andhra Pradesh were prepared for the VC's visit to Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The note was based on the information collected from various verticals and concerned ministries. The issues related to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act were also discussed in the note.

Coordinating PM and VC's visits

Physical and financial status with respect to the schemes of the rural development sector— MGNREGS, PMAY-G, DAY-NRLM, NSAP, NRDWP and SBM-G—were prepared and provided for PM's/VC's visit to the states.

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Evaluation of CSS Schemes

The vertical prepared a ToR, including information received from concerned ministries for evaluation of all rural development and drinking water supply schemes and furnished them to DMEO. The rural development sector includes National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, National Livelihood Mission-Ajeevika, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission- Rural and National Rural Drinking Water Programme. The vertical's officials have also conducted and participated in the meetings regarding bid evaluation.

Cabinet Note/EFC Proposal/SFC Memo

The vertical provided comments of NITI Aayog with respect to the following Cabinet note/EFC proposal/SFC memo received from concerned ministries.

1. **Cabinet Note**

   (i) Proposals for (a) strengthening and restructuring of the National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (NRLPS), an autonomous body under MoRD; and (b) renaming NRLPS as National Rural Employment, Skills and Livelihoods Promotion Society.
   (ii) Proposal for increase in the financial allocation for NRLPS.

2. **EFC Proposal**

   (i) Draft EFC note for implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Rural after 2 October 2019.
   (ii) Draft EFC note for appraisal of Jal Jeevan Mission-Nal Se Jal programme.
   (iii) Draft EFC proposal on Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission for its extension for 2 years or till 31 March 2022.

3. **SFC Memo**

   (i) Proposal for approval of a cluster facilitation project (CFP) under MGNREGS for the latter's effective implementation in the 112 aspirational districts and other backward areas through better planning coordination and monitoring.
   (ii) Proposal for approval of the project Unnati for skilling of MGNREGA workers with the objective to upgrade their skill base, and thereby their livelihoods so they can move from partial employment to full employment.

Examination of Detailed Project Reports on Amravati

These reports submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the Amaravati Government Complex and other essential infrastructure in Amaravati—under special financial support, under Section 94(3) of the AP Reorganization Act, 2014—were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for its comments, which were then forwarded to the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, for further action.

Parliament Question and VIP References

The division handled Parliament questions and also provided inputs for answers to Parliament questions received from other divisions of NITI Aayog as well as other ministries and departments. VIP references related to rural development schemes and the State of Andhra Pradesh were also dealt with in the vertical.

Attended Important Meetings in MoRD

The vertical attended important meetings in MoRD, such as the ones with the social advisory committee on National Social Assistance Programme, various empowered and expert

committees constituted to analyse the proposal of states to revisit the definition of kutcha houses and submitted views of NITI Aayog.

Science and Technology

Science and technology are fundamental to the social and economic progress of any country. The science and technology (S&T) vertical plays a pivotal role in policy interventions for promoting science and technology in the country, in collaboration with Central ministries/departments. It also acts as a focal point for the convergence of various inter-organizational issues of those ministries/departments.

The S&T vertical is the nodal point for examination and appraisal of science and technology plans and programmes of the following major ministries/departments:

1. Department of Science and Technology (DST).
2. Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
3. Department of Science and Industrial Research (DSIR), including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
4. Department of Space.
5. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
6. Ministry of Earth Sciences.

During the year 2019–20, the S&T vertical was involved in major policy interventions for various initiatives driven by PMO on the methanol economy, Make-in-India body armour and the ranking and rating of public-funded national research and development (R&D) labs. It has also been engaged in activities like the formulation of the India Innovation Index, technical textiles, Ayurveda-biology, establishment of the National Research Foundation, and standardization of the construction, maintenance and operation of ropeways, among others.

The highlights of the key initiatives are:

1. **Methanol Economy:** With an ambition to reduce the import of crude oil and develop indigenous fuel to cut the country's carbon footprint, NITI Aayog has been working on methanol and dimethyl ether (DME) as potential substitutes of oil and natural gas, respectively.

   [For detailed note on methanol economy, see Section F: Think Tank Activities]

2. **'Make in India' Body Armour:** An empowered committee, constituted under the chairmanship of the Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, oversees the implementation of the roadmap prepared for Make-in-India body armour. Under this initiative, various issues, such as tax holidays, exemption on minimum alternate tax and electricity duty, among others, were discussed with the Department of Revenue, a potential manufacturer and the Ministry of Textiles. Owing to regular guidance by NITI Aayog, the Indian standard for body armour was released by BIS; a Centre of Ballistic Material testing set up in the National Physical Laboratory, CSIR, New Delhi; the total requirement of body armour for all Central police forces, during the next five years, was assessed; and

various issues concerned to the procurement of body armour resolved in consultation with all stakeholders.

3. **Ranking and Rating of National Laboratories/Institutions:** The final report, with the framework for the ranking and the rating of national labs/institutions, has been submitted by NITI Aayog, to PMO, on the 9 January 2019. PMO, after accepting the report, has given the responsibility of implementing the recommendations, contained in that report, to the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. The PSA's office has constituted a working group for the evaluation of the science indicators of centrally funded R&D organizations, wherein NITI Aayog is also represented.
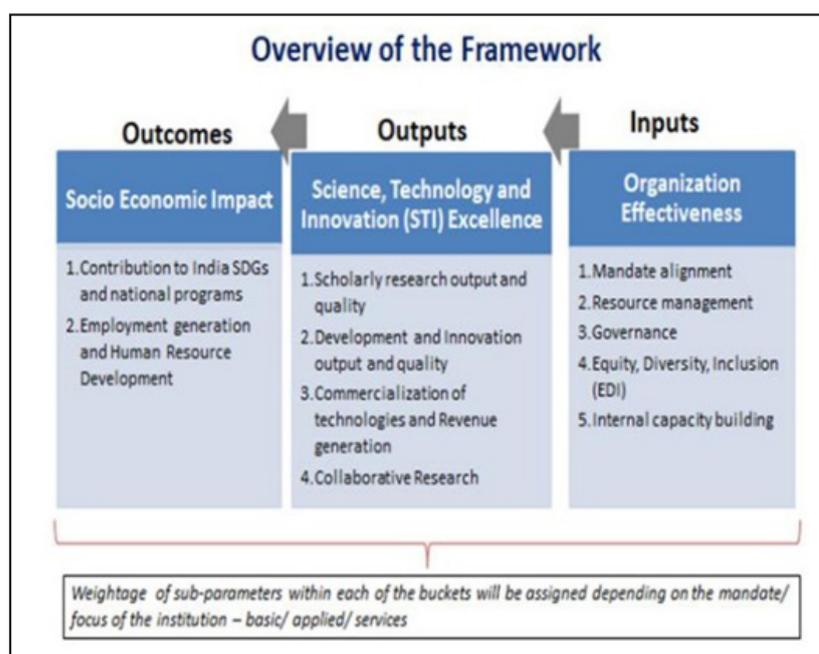
4. **National Research Foundation:** The broad idea of the establishment of the National Research Foundation was discussed, in detail, in a meeting chaired by Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, on 19 August 2019, wherein the PSA's office, secretaries of all the scientific ministries/departments (including the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Human Resource Development) and senior representatives of academic/research institutions and the industry were present. The basic objective of the establishment of the NRF is to fund, coordinate and promote research in the country. During the meeting, the structure of the NRF, the spectrum of its operations and its linkages with the administrative ministries/departments, the industry and the academia, were discussed. NITI Aayog, in partnership with the PSA's Office, DST and DHE, has been entrusted the responsibility to set up the foundation in the coming months.

5. **Initiative on Ayurveda-Biology:** A discussion with the stakeholders for synergizing, as a common national effort, the current initiatives in the country on Ayurveda-biology was held in NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog VC. The proposed new programme, the implementation of which will be led by the Ministry of AYUSH,

will serve as a platform for bringing together people from all the disciplines related to health research—be it the traditional system of medicine or the other systems of medicine.

6. The modalities of merger of two public sector enterprises, namely, the National Research Development Corporation and the Agrinnovate Ltd, have been discussed in meetings chaired by the Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, and the PSA. The major recommendations include the following:

- There is a need to define the legal status of the merged body (viz. whether it will be a society, or a special purpose vehicle or a public sector undertaking, etc.)
- It may be an autonomous society under the DSIR, which will be the best option to avoid intervention from the Public Enterprises Selection Board or the Department of Public Enterprises.
- The Administrative Control of that Society should be with the DSIR.
- The Advisory and Oversight Board (AOB) - as an independent body - will be the Statutory body to provide policy directions, investment decisions /sanction of high value projects, monitoring, restructuring the Society in case of any non-performance, selection of the Chief Executive Officer, formation/constitution of the Executive Board (EB), etc.
- The EB will oversee/monitor/implement small (tier 2) level investment decisions. The financial power of the EB will need to be defined, for this purpose.
- A corpus of Rs. 500.00 crores will need to be created.
- The revenue earned would be the property of the Society.
- A representative of the NITI Aayog, not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India, may be considered as one of the Directors in the EB.

7. In association with the concerned administrative Ministry, i.e. the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Science and Technology Vertical also deals with all the five components of the Earth System, viz., Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Cryosphere, Lithosphere and Biosphere and their complex interactions. Earth System Science covers the aspects relating to weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services. Those services include forecasts and warnings for various natural disasters (like tropical cyclones, storm surge, floods, heat waves, thunderstorm and lightning and earthquakes), harnessing living and non-living resources, ocean survey and exploration.

8. The following activities have been dealt with by the Vertical, during the period under report:

I. Comments on Memorandum, for the consideration of the Expenditure Finance Committee, on Deep Ocean Mission to develop technologies for deep sea mining of resources (like polymetallic nodules) at a water depth of 5500 m.

II. Participated in the Annual Review Meetings and Governing Council Meetings of the following autonomous institute of the Ministry of Earth Sciences:

a) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai

b) National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
c) Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad
d) National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Trivandrum

9. The draft Cabinet note, on the return of the best-in-class scientists from abroad, to India, is ready and will be circulated for inter-ministerial consultations, by December, 2019.

10. NITI Aayog has constituted a technical committee, under the chairmanship of Adviser (S&T), to standardize the construction, maintenance and operation of ropeways in India. The committee will submit its recommendations, after a wide consultative process, by February 2020.

11. The S&T vertical of NITI Aayog has successfully conducted an annual India symposium on the theme 'Science and Society' on 4 April 2019, in New Delhi, in collaboration with the PSA's office and the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University.

12. The S&T vertical is also the nodal agency, of NITI Aayog, for updating information on the e-Samiksha portal.

13. Officers of the S&T vertical have visited Aspirational Districts identified under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, and made specific recommendations for the success of the Abhiyan in those districts.

14. The examination/appraisal of the memoranda for SFC/EFC, and the draft Cabinet notes on the S&T projects of Central scientific ministries/departments, were done in a time-bound manner.

15. The S&T vertical has prepared the background material for high-level meetings and represented NITI Aayog in the following bodies:

   • The Governing Council meetings of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, DST.
   • The Governing Council meetings of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, DBT.
   • The Science and Engineering Research Board, DST.
   • The Digital Communications Commission of the Department of Telecommunications.
   • The SATCOM Coordination Committee of DoS.
   • The Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for the information technology modernization project of the Department of Posts.
   • The Inter-Ministerial Committee for the conduct of the auction of the right to use spectrum in various bands.
   • The apex committee and the sub-committees, constituted by the DSIR, the DBT and the DST, for third-party evaluation of all their schemes for their continuance from the Fourteenth Finance Commission to the Fifteenth.
   • Formulation of the National Cyber Security Strategy Policy 2020, through a committee constituted by the National Security Council Secretariat.

Skill Development and Employment

The skill development and employment vertical plays a key role in accelerating policy-driven initiatives to strengthen the human capital of the nation and identifying as well as offering solutions to critical issues concerning employment, jobs and livelihood creation, and social security. The vertical is the nodal point for the UN Sustainable Development Framework's (UNSDF) Result Group VI (or skilling, entrepreneurship and job creation).

It regularly organizes consultations with experts and stakeholders on the themes of skill development, labour and employment. In the year 2019–20, it worked on policy/strategy papers on the following themes:

Strengthening the Apprenticeship Scheme to Make Youth Employable

Consultations were organized with experts and stakeholders, including industry organizations, International Labour Organization, employers recruiting apprentices and officials from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and MHRD. This was followed up with various other discussions with stakeholders and internal deliberations. Based on these discussions, a paper on 'Strengthening of Apprenticeship Training to Make Youth Employable' was prepared and submitted.

Consultation with UN Agencies and Concerned Ministries on Declining Female Labour Force Participation and Steps to Enhance Women's Employment Opportunities

Various consultations were organized with UN agencies and relevant ministries to deliberate on the challenges around declining female labour-force participation in India. Based on these, a policy paper on 'Enhancing Women's Labour Force Participation in India' was prepared and submitted.

Mainstreaming Vocational Education with Higher Education

A consultation was organized with experts and stakeholders, including education institutions, industry organizations, International Labour Organization, and officials from All India Council for Technical Education, University Grants Commission (UGC), MHRD and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. This was followed up with various discussions with stakeholders and internal deliberations. Based on these consultations and research on international systems of vocational and technical education, a paper on 'Integration of Vocational Education with Mainstream Education' was prepared.

Online Skilling—A Way Forward

A consultation was organized with experts and stakeholders, including educational institutions, online educational platforms and officials from MHRD and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. This was followed up with various discussions with stakeholders and internal deliberations. Based on these, a paper on 'Online Skilling: A Way Forward' was prepared.

Online Jobs Platforms—Opportunities, Challenges and Way forward

A consultation was organized with experts and stakeholders, including representatives of online job platforms and officials from the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Discussion points included initiatives undertaken by online platforms and their alignment with the National Career Services Portal of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the challenges they are facing, how these initiatives can be strengthened, and exploration of technology solutions for effective job matching, understanding trends in the labour market, including demand for particular skills, and ways in which data from these platforms can be used. Based on these consultations, a paper on 'Online Jobs platforms: Opportunities, Challenges and Way forward' was prepared.

Methodology for Estimation of Employment Generated among Professionals

The vertical assisted the core committee constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme, for developing a methodology for an estimation of employment generated among professionals such as doctors, lawyers, chartered accountants, etc. The final report was submitted by the core committee.

Strengthening Skill Development in Aspirational Districts

The vertical is working with various stakeholders and agencies in the aspirational districts to impart skill training to youth and ensure certification and income-earning opportunities for trained youth. For this, it has forged partnerships with organizations referred to as 'knowledge partners', who have provided an impetus to skill-development activities in these districts. Special emphasis is laid on skill development and employability of women and the youth from marginalized sections of society. The vertical also coordinates with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and administration in the districts to collate data for skill development to calculate the ranking of each district.

Social Justice and Empowerment

The social justice and empowerment (SJ&E) vertical in the NITI Aayog is functioning as the nodal division for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The major responsibility of the vertical is to provide inputs in the formulation and strengthening of policies and programmes to safeguard and empower the interests of the socially, educationally and economically weaker sections of the society such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes (NT, SNT and DNTs), *safai karmacharis*, minorities and other vulnerable groups such as Persons with Disabilities, senior citizens, victims of substance abuse/drug addicts, beggars/destitute and transgender persons.

The vertical is also responsible for formulating and implementing guidelines for the Scheduled Castes sub-plan and the tribal sub-plan, making suggestions or modifications in the guidelines of grants under Article 275(l) and special central assistance to SCSP and TSP. The vertical is also responsible for dealing with state issues with respect to the states of Odisha and West Bengal.

The division examined various proposals meant for CCEA, EFC, SFC and modification of scheme guidelines, etc., from the concerned nodal ministries and supported the proposals with constructive suggestions. Some specific activities undertaken by the division were:

Report of the Sub-Group on Revamping of Tribal Research Institutes and Establishment of National Institute for Tribal Research and Development

The vertical and the sub-group constituted to revamp tribal research institutes had various consultations at the state and Central level and finalized a sub-group report, which was submitted to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and PMO for further action.

New Arrangement for Implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan

After wide consultations with states and union territories, Central ministries and departments, new guidelines for allocation of funds, formulation and implementation of specific schemes and effective monitoring of programmes were developed and circulated to the Centre for implementation.

Task Force for National Survey on Manual Scavengers

On the recommendation of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment constituted a task force and survey has been completed in all states except J&K (170 districts). At the national level, 56,595 persons have been identified under the surveys.

Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, one-time cash assistance of Rs 40,000 each has been provided to 39,095 persons, 1060 manual scavengers have been provided capital subsidy. Under the skill-development component, 7950 manual scavengers have been provided skill-development training.

NITI Aayog New Guidelines on Implementing Budget Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCSP and TSP)

The vertical revised the guidelines, obligating 41 Central ministries/departments to allocate

funds and formulate and implement specific schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Enhanced Allocation for Welfare of SCs and STs in 2018–19

In view of merger of plan and non-plan expenditure in 2017–18, NITI ensured adequate allocation for SCs (Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan [SCSP]) and STs (Tribal Sub-Plan [TSP]). Allocation for the welfare of SCs has increased from Rs 52,377.82 crore (BE) in 2017–18 to Rs 56,476.84 crore (BE) in 2018–19, or an increase of 8.10%. Similarly, the total allocation for the welfare of STs increased from Rs 31,919.51 (BE) crore in 2017–18 to Rs 39,134.73 crore (BE) 2018–19, or an increase of 22.10%. During 2017–18, 26 and 29 Central ministries and departments have earmarked funds for SCSP and TSP, respectively, by NITI's intervention. And in 2018–19, 29 and 37 Central ministries and departments earmarked funds for SCSP and TSP, respectively.

Review Meeting on implementation of SCSP and TSP

Two such review meetings were held—one on 11 January 2018 under the chairmanship of Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog and another under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, on 8 August 2018, with 41 Central ministries/departments—to assess the performance and deliberate operational difficulties and finalize modalities for effective utilisation of allocated funds and thereby allocate the obligated percentage of funds.

The Committee on identification of NTs, DNTs & SNTs: NITI Aayog has constituted a the Committee on identification of Denotified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes, Semi-Nomadic Tribes, and Tribes not yet formally classified, under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.

Constitution of Advisory Group and Technical Committtee for Integrated Social Protection in Ind: A committee was constituted at the national level under the leadership of NITI Aayog with technical support from UNICEF to provide expert and independent views on the microsimulation study commissioned by UNICEF. First meeting of the group was held on 4 October 2019 at NITI Aayog.

Cabinet Notes Dealt in the Division

- Draft note for the Cabinet for redesignation of one post of member in the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) as vice chairman
- Draft Cabinet note for amendment to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens' Act 2007
- Draft Cabinet note for establishing Dr Ambedkar International Centre for Socio-Economic Transformation (DAICSET) and International Centre for Buddhist Studies (Chaitya) in the Dr Ambedkar International Centre
- Draft Cabinet note on continuation of the schemes of (i) pre-matric scholarship scheme, post-matric scholarship scheme and merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme for students belonging to minority communities
- Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on restructuring of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) for minority-concentration blocks, districts.

State Matters

1. A meeting with the Chief Minister of West Bengal was held on 7 August 2018 and various issues were deliberated
2. Odisha Vikas Conclave was inaugurated by NITI Aayog VC on 24 August 2018 in which various themes were deliberated.

State Coordination

The state coordination vertical in NITI Aayog is entrusted with the responsibility to foster cooperative federalism through structured support and initiatives. The vertical provides inputs in the formulation of policies; offers institutional support to states and facilitates Development Support Services to States (DSSS) for development of infrastructure. This vertical also coordinates the work related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) 2018–22.

Some major activities undertaken by the vertical are as follows:

Projects under External Assistance Programme

The states coordination vertical has appraised nine proposals for strategic state partnership with external agencies for development and capacity building in different states.

United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) 2018–22

The Government of India, through NITI Aayog and United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in India, signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) 2018–22, which is a five-year roadmap outlining the action-oriented response of UN agencies to key national developmental priorities, integrating the Sustainable Development Goals. A joint steering committee has been set up, co-chaired by NITI Aayog VC and UNRC in India to monitor the progress under UNSDF.

During the year 2019–20, initiatives were taken up by the state coordination vertical to conceptualize the monitoring framework for seven result groups, namely (i) poverty and urbanization; (ii) health, water and sanitation; (iii) education and employability; (iv) nutrition and food security; (v) climate change, clean energy and disaster resilience; (vi) skilling, entrepreneurship and job creation; (vii) gender equality; (viii) youth development.

Two meetings of the committee have been held so far, wherein a performance assessment of these groups, comprising about 24 UN agencies in India, was deliberated upon. Besides, substantive discussions on pressing development issues were held at the level of Members, NITI Aayog. The topics for such discussions focused on the themes of health, education, water, nutrition and environment. Besides, smaller group meetings were held at the level of advisers, NITI Aayog, to firm-up the performance indicators for various result groups.

Digital Health Innovation and National Nutrition Survey

As a follow-up action of the second joint steering committee meeting for implementation of

GoI-UNSDF, a meeting on the integrated health information platform was convened on 1 May 2019, wherein a presentation on the integrated disease surveillance system was made by a representative of WHO. Subsequently, a seminar on the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) 2016–18 was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NITI Aayog, and the United Nations on 8 November 2019. Dr Vinod Kumar Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, launched the survey report.

Follow-up Action on the Issues Raised during the Governing Council Meetings

The state coordination vertical has been following up with various ministries regarding decisions taken and requests made by various states at the Governing Council meetings of NITI Aayog. The exercise has been taken up for the fifth Governing Council meeting held on 15 June 2019.

Sustainable Development Goals

Overview

With NITI Aayog moving forward on its stewardship of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), existing initiatives saw intensification, while new ones got off the ground during the year. The process of localization of SDGs matured further with states and union territories stepping up their efforts. The monitoring system on SDGs struck deeper roots with the National Indicator Framework (NIF) getting approved, states attempting to construct their own indicators and NITI Aayog releasing the SDG India Index. NITI Aayog joined SDG stock-taking processes at the regional and international levels, promoting the global implementation of SDGs.

Localization of SDGs

States and union territories have played a crucial role in designing, executing and monitoring the action on SDGs in following ways.

1. **Awareness on SDGs:** The states have devised their own strategies for sensitizing elected representatives and officials at the state, district and local levels, as well as civil society organizations and communities.

2. **Preparing vision documents and action plans to guide their efforts on SDGs:** The process of preparing SDG-aligned vision documents created conditions to promote a 'whole-of-government' approach in the states. It charted out interlinkages across sectors and developed a context and purpose for synergy. So far, 23 states have prepared their vision documents.

3. **Aligning local development plans with SDGs:** Local self-governments—both rural and urban—are best placed to put 'people first' and ensure 'no one is left behind'. Many of the SDGs are directly related to activities carried out by local governments. Several initiatives are being taken to achieve local development plans in the SDG framework.

4. **'Leave No One Behind':** A number of states and union territories have taken initiatives to conduct vulnerability mapping and reinforce people's participation in various development programmes to make them truly inclusive.

5. **Aligning the state budgets with SDGs** facilitates identification of resource gaps and preparation of multipronged strategies to rationalize expenditure prioritization, augment revenue and improve resource efficiency.

6. **Building partnerships:** States are increasingly building partnerships with various stakeholders, such as multilateral organizations, academia, civil society organizations, and the private sector to achieve the whole gamut of development targets.

NITI Aayog joined hands with UN India to analyse the initiatives of states and union territories and prepare a compendium of early lessons in localization of SDGs. The compendium drew upon the experiences of 36 states and union territories. NITI Aayog released the document 'Localising SDGs in India: Early Lessons from India' in the UN High-Level Political Forum 2019 for the benefit of the global development community and other ardent stakeholders.

SDG India Index

In view of India's federal structure and division of powers and responsibilities between the Centre and the states, the state governments must play a leading role for the country to achieve the SDGs. This multi-actor context demands that progress be carefully measured and the emerging insight used for improving performance. This imperative coupled with the approach of cooperative and competitive federalism led NITI Aayog to conceptualize the SDG India Index. The index is the world's first government-led sub-national measure of SDG progress. It measures the progress of all states and union territories in their journey towards achieving the SDGs. The first edition of the index was launched in December 2018 and the second came out on 30 December 2019. The index also comes with an online dashboard with interactive visualization of data.

The SDG India Index reveals the performance status of each state and union territory, and

that of the country as a whole on each SDG as well as on all SDGs on a composite basis. The performance is measured on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 implies full achievement of the target concerned and 0 none at all.

While the 2018 edition of the index covered 13 SDGs (goals 12, 13, 14, and 17 were excluded), the 2019 edition covers all SDGs, with ranking on 16 SDGs and a qualitative assessment on SDG 17. In place of 62 indicators in 2018, the 2019 edition includes 100 indicators. Thus, the 2019 edition of the index is more robust and comprehensive as compared to the first edition. The indicators used in the 2019 index are derived from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's National Indicator Framework.

Key Findings of the 2019 Index

The composite score for India as per the index 2019 is 60, which is an improvement from the 2018 score of 57. The highest score was achieved in SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation): 88, the lowest in SDG 2 (nutrition and zero hunger): 35.

The biggest improvement from 2018 to 2019 are in SDGs 6 (+25), 7 (+19), and 9 (+21). The
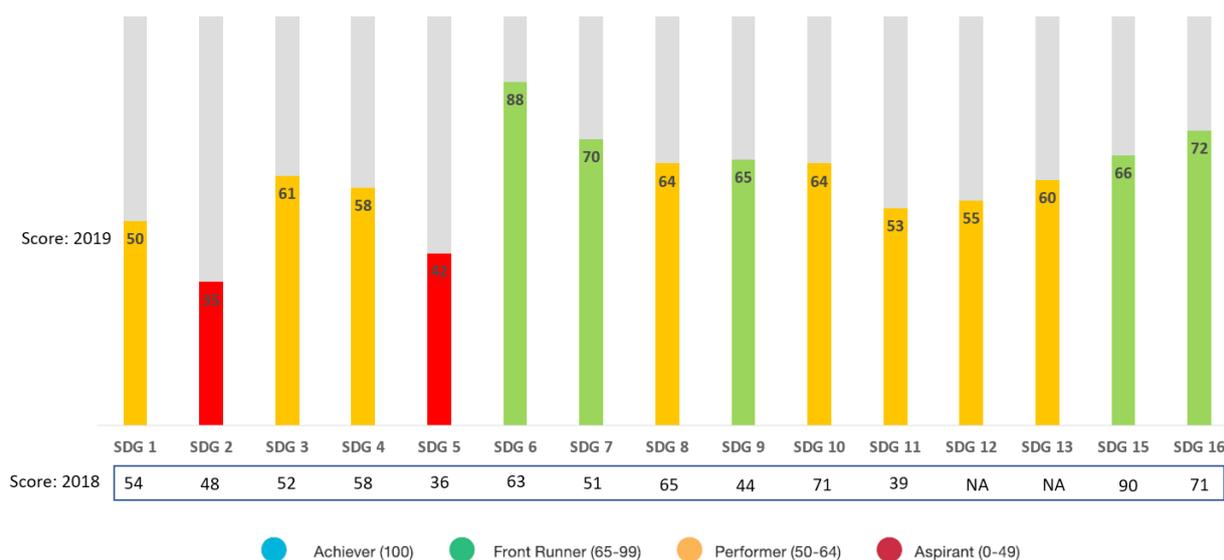
Goal-wise score for the country for 2019–20. Numbers in the box at the bottom denote score in 2018

commendable improvement in SDG 6 can be attributed to the success of Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission. The progress in SDG 7 is largely due to the universal electrification of households under the Saubhagya scheme and provisioning of clean cooking fuel under Ujjwala scheme. The advancement in SDG 9 can be credited to the coverage of habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the remarkable strides made in digital inclusion, and internet and mobile penetration. India's progress in the Ease-of-Doing Business global ranking from 77 in 2018 to 63 in 2019 also has contributed to the improvement under SDG 9.

Among the states, Kerala secured the first rank with a score of 70. Himachal Pradesh came second with 69. Among the union territories, Chandigarh achieved the top position with a score of 70 and Puducherry came second with 66. Delhi has come fifth among the nine union territories with a score of 61.

Regional and International Networking

APFSD and UNESCAP 2019

India participated in the sixth Asia–Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) at Bangkok from 27–29 March 2019 under the leadership of incumbent chairman, Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. It engaged member states, United Nations' bodies, international organizations and other stakeholders in deliberations on the theme 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality' and reviewed the status on the cluster of seven SDGs—4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnership for the goals). In a side session, NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2018 was presented in the context of monitoring of SDGs in the Asia and Pacific region. Similarly, the SDG India Index 2018 was presented in the seventy-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific held from 27 to 31 May 2019 in Bangkok.

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2019

The meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in 2019 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, was held from 9–18 July 2019 at the UN headquarters in New York. The Indian delegation to HLPF 2019 was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and included Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs and rural development), NITI Aayog. The theme of the forum was 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality'. The forum saw 47 countries presenting their national voluntary reviews (VNR). India presented its first VNR in 2017 and is scheduled to present its second VNR in the next HLPF in July 2020. Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, presented India's progress in SDGs to the HLPF in an address to the UN General Assembly.
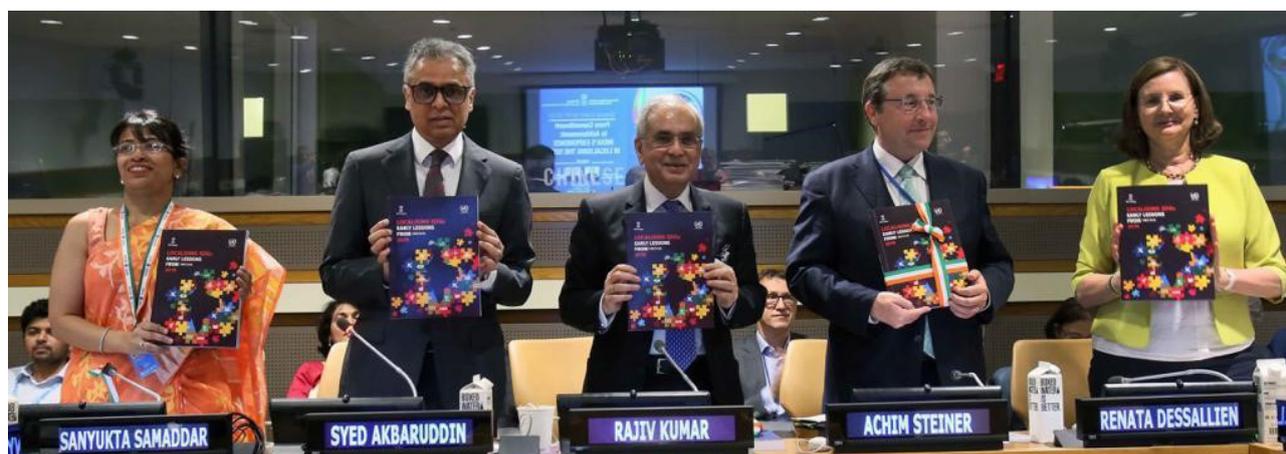
Together with the UN Resident Coordinator India and the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the United Nations, NITI Aayog hosted a side event on 16 July 2019. The event was titled 'From Commitment to Achievement: India's Experience in Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals'. It was attended by over 150 international participants from governments, international development organizations, media, academia and civil society. The panel of the event consisted of Syed Akbaruddin (Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations), Dr Rajiv Kumar (Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog), Achim Steiner (Under Secretary-General and Administrator, UNDP), Renata Lok-Dessallien (UN Resident Coordinator in India) and Sanyukta Samaddar,

Adviser (SDG), NITI Aayog. Sanyukta Samaddar delivered a presentation on India's experience on SDG localization, highlighting the findings of the SDG India Index 2018 as a benchmarking and advocacy tool.

India's VNR in 2020

The next important milestone is presentation of India's VNR 2020 in the HLPF to be held in July 2020 at New York. For the purpose, the multi-stakeholder consultation process at national as well as sub-national levels has already been rolled out. Further, as a part of the ongoing agenda, NITI Aayog continues supporting states and union territories in the implementation of SDGs, a key focus of which is capacity development for finalizing the state and district indicator frameworks on the SDGs.

Tourism

The objective of the tourism vertical is to support and suggest policies to increase the number of tourists, both domestic and international in India. A meeting on 'measures to accelerate foreign tourist arrivals in India', chaired by Principal Secretary to PM, was held in July 2019 at PMO, South Block, wherein NITI Aayog made suggestions to increase foreign tourist arrivals in India. The tourism vertical of NITI Aayog is coordinating with the concerned ministries in carrying forward the action points decided in the meeting. Following actions have been taken:

1. The GST rate for room tariffs of Rs 7500 and above has been reduced to 18% from 28%, while tax for those between Rs 1000 and Rs 7500 has been reduced to 12%. Hotels with tariffs of less than Rs 1000 do not attract any tax.
2. E-tourist visa of five years' duration has been launched, which is in addition to the one-year e-tourist visa. This visa will be with a stay stipulation of maximum 90 days, multiple entry and non-extendable. The fee for one-year multiple entry e-tourist visa has been reduced to $40.
3. A one-month e-tourist visa with double entry has been launched by MHA. No other activities will be clubbed with this visa. To encourage off-season (April-June) tourism, visa fee would be reduced from $25 to $10 during the lean period.
4. E-conference visa, in-line with the e-conference visa for government/PSU conferences has been launched for private conferences organized by private persons/companies/organizations. Organizers have to upload all the details and documentation on the MHA website at https://conference.mha.gov.in.
5. As many as 137 new peaks located in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim have been decided to be opened by MHA for mountaineering/trekking by foreigners desirous of obtaining mountaineering visa for this purpose.
6. Iconic site development: Draft master plan for development of all the iconic sites is being prepared.
7. Cruise tourism: Initiatives are underway to promote cruise tourism in India.
8. The vertical also examined the EFC note on the Central Sector Scheme - Development of Iconic Tourist sites in India

Vigilance Section

Activities

The vigilance section deals with all cases of corruption, malpractices and lack of integrity of officials and officers working at NITI Aayog. It is also responsible for issuance of vigilance status and certificates to officials and officers in the NITI Aayog.

Between 1 January–16 December 2019, around 600 vigilance clearances were issued. During this period, several RTIs and whistleblower complaints were dealt with. The cases of disciplinary proceedings against some officials and officers were disposed of.

Preventive Vigilance

Vigilance awareness week was observed from 28 October to 2 November 2019. The theme was 'Integrity: A Way of Life'. Banners were placed at vantage locations of the building with appropriate slogans. The concept of an e-integrity pledge, as envisaged by the Central Vigilance Commission, was spread through e-mail. Important provisions of conduct rules and other issues concerning vigilance awareness were circulated to the employees through e-mail with a view to create awareness regarding the rules and regulation prescribed in the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, and CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

The internal complaints committee was constituted in accordance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Act 2013.

Voluntary Action Cell

A good partnership between the government and NGOs and voluntary organizations helps in finding out innovative solutions to many problems and effectively implementing social sector initiatives. The Government of India recognizes the collaborative role of the voluntary sector in the socio-economic development of the country. The task of the voluntary action cell is to promote voluntarism in the country. The functions include preparation of policy guidelines for the voluntary sector; operationalization of a national policy on the voluntary sector, 2007; preparation of guidelines for implementation of various schemes of the government through voluntary organizations; maintenance of databases of NGOs and voluntary organizations, etc.

An important initiative of the VAC is to maintain an electronic database of NGOs and voluntary organizations, which is done through the NGO Darpan Portal (earlier called NGO Partnership System), an e-governance application to electronically maintain data regarding such organizations in the country. The portal is also an attempt to enable such organizations to operate in the country with transparency.

In order to transact business with the line ministries/departments, an NGO has to first sign up on the portal and obtain a unique identity number by furnishing the required details. Ministries/

departments implementing schemes through NGOs are also required to develop their own portal and integrate the same with the Darpan Portal to facilitate seamless flow of information. The ministries/departments can also verify the antecedents of the NGOs through the integrated system before considering any applications from them for grants.

In order to bring transparency and accountability in the portal, a meeting was held on 27 September 2016 with all concerned ministries. It was decided that the grants should not be released to NGOs that do not have a unique ID on the portal.

The Ministry of Home Affairs also made it mandatory to get a unique ID before applying/renewal of the FCRA number. It was also decided that the proposals for grants can only be processed through the portal.

Hunting/Helpdesk No. 14414 has been made operational in VAC for faster and smoother grievance redressal. Approximately 1200 grievances are being redressed every month.

Chat Bot, Voice Bot and IVRS on Helpdesk of NGO Darpan: Features like Chat Bot, Voice Bot and IVRS on the helpdesk portal of NGO Darpan have been tested and will be hosted soon. These features will act along with Hunting and Helpdesk No. 14414 and reduce the human interface and make grievance redressal faster and smoother.

Online linking/integration of Ministries/Departments with NGO Darpan: All grant-giving ministries and departments have to be on board with NGO Darpan using web services provided by NITI Aayog. The latest meeting was held on 5 September 2019; 30 out of 51 grant-giving ministries and departments have linked their portals with that of NGO Darpan's.

Central and State GIA Schemes: VAC has provided login access of the dashboard to almost all nodal officers from the Centre and state; consequently, around 44 grant-giving Central ministries have updated the information and states and union territories are in the process. The information is shown publicly for the benefit of NGOs/CSOs.

A working committee to act as a standing forum for the sustainable engagement with civil society organizations involved in various areas of service delivery has been constituted. The committee is to specifically focus on the following:

1. Health, nutrition and sanitation
2. Child rights/juvenile justice/child labour
3. Bonded labour
4. Trafficking of women and children
5. Women's empowerment and security
6. Disability and barrier-free movement
7. Elderly care
8. Basic amenities and infrastructure
9. Inclusive and alternative education
10. Skill development/vocational trainings/promotion of entrepreneurship
11. Economic empowerment through microfinance
12. Disaster relief/environment issue

The first meeting of the committee was held on 16 March 2018 under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog VC Dr Rajiv Kumar. In a meeting, it was decided to constitute five sub-groups to identify critical areas and bottlenecks in respective thematic areas so that suitable steps could be taken to address issues related to policy and operational difficulties, especially in the Aspirational Districts. Accordingly, the following five sub-groups were constituted, comprising members of the committee on the basis of the areas of their working:

Sub-Group Number and Theme	Members
Sub-Group I Livelihoods (tribal and other vulnerable groups and skill development financial inclusion)	**CSOs:** Pradaan, Industree Foundation, Barefoot College, Entrepreneur Associates, CYSD, Myrada **Representatives from Central Ministries:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development **Coordinator:** Pradaan
Sub-Group II Health Nutrition and Sanitation	**CSOs:** Akshay Patra Foundation, Sulabh International, Ramakrishna Mission, Samarthyam, Narayan Sewa Sansthan, Help Age India, Prabhaav Foundation **Representative from Central Ministries:** Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs **Coordinator:** Akshay Patra Foundation
Sub-Group III Education	CSOs: Pratham, Aid-et-Action, Sasthra Sahitya Parishath Representatives from Central Ministries: Department of School Education and Literacy, Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Department of Youth Affairs and Department of Sports Coordinator: Pratham
Sub-Group IV Access to justice (gender/child rights/bonded labour/traffiking/disability)	**CSOs:** Prayas, MSEMVS, Peace Trust, Yateem Trust, Mann Deshi Foundation, SEWA **Representatives from Central Ministries:** Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities **Coordinator:** Prayas

Sub-Group V Self-Regulation of Voluntary Sector	**CSOs:** CYSD, IC Centre for Governance, Help Age India
	Representative from Central Ministries: Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of SJE, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Tribal Affairs **Coordinator:** CYSD

VAC receives regular calls and emails regarding registration, updation, modification, etc., since PAN and Aadhaar were made mandatory, and their verification started online. 1

Women and Child Development

The women and child development (WCD) division provides policy guidance and oversees programme implementation of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) through periodic monitoring and evaluation exercises for ensuring overall survival, development, protection and participation of women and children. It is broadly guided by the twin objectives of empowering women to live with confidence and dignity and to help them nurture their children to develop to their full potential, and provide them with safe, healthy and protective environments. It also focuses on improving nutritional outcomes and the overall development of children and adolescent girls. During the year 2019–20, some of the major activities undertaken by the division were:

Quarterly Monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

As per the announcement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Maternity Benefit Programme is being implemented pan India in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013. All pregnant women and lactating mothers who had their first pregnancy on or after 1 January 2017, except those receiving maternity benefit, are eligible. The objectives are to firstly provide partial compensation for wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that women can take adequate rest before and after delivery of their first living child, and secondly, the cash incentives would improve health-seeking behaviour among pregnant women and lactating mothers. As per the mandate, NITI Aayog has been assigned the task of monitoring and evaluation of the Maternity Benefit Programme. Accordingly, eight quarterly reports have been prepared with inputs received from MoWCD and shared for performance review. The efforts of the ministry along with constant monitoring and facilitation efforts have resulted in enrolling 1.12 crore beneficiaries (pregnant women and lactating mothers) nationally and benefitted a cumulative sum of Rs 4558.93 crore under the scheme, up to end of November 2019.

Food Fortification

NITI Aayog has been facilitating the implementation of fortification of rice, wheat flour, double fortified salt, edible oil and milk in social safety programmes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the Midday Meal Scheme. In a major move, after successive stakeholder consultations at NITI Aayog, the Department of Food and Public Distribution proposed a centrally sponsored pilot scheme on fortification of rice and its distribution under the public

distribution system for a period of three years, which will focus on 15 districts initially. The scheme was approved by the Government of India in February 2019 and will be a landmark initiative to address the problem of micronutrient deficiency in India.

Evaluation of ICDS Scheme

The main objective of the study is to conduct a detailed assessment of the governance structure, incentive mechanism, delivery of key services, human resource issues and the level of their motivation. The study is being conducted by academic scholars of the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, and Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar.

Field Visits to Aspirational Districts and High-Priority States

Field visits were made to aspirational districts and high-priority states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand and Bihar in July 2019 to provide support for accelerating the implementation of the ADP, PMMVY and POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Engaging Central Public Sector Enterprises

NITI Aayog has been engaging public sector enterprises to improve the aspirational districts' indicators by creating facilities that are well-structured, scalable and sustainable. A shared ecosystem's approach has been adopted to engage with functional heads and leaders of public sector enterprises, including non-banking financial institutions (Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India [MMTC], GAIL, Power Finance Corporation [PFC], NTPC, Power Grid Corporation of India [PGCI], National Handloom Development Corporation [NHDC], Coal India Limited [CIL] and others), and the Department of Public Enterprises in order to engage these through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework. This engagement has been expanded beyond NITI Aayog's 25 aspirational districts. A total of 64 out of 99 projects have been approved and Rs 48.75 crore disbursed to the field.

## Appraisal and Examination of MoWCD Schemes and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Note

The division examined the draft note for CCEA for continuation of the sub-scheme under umbrella ICDS during the Fourteenth Finance Commission. It also examined the EFC note on universalization or fortification of rice and its distribution under public distribution system and other welfare schemes and the SFC note on revision in the pilot scheme for the same.

Schematic Briefs for PM and Minister of MoWCD's Visit to States

The division also prepared briefs on major schemes of MoWCD for the PM's visit to states. Besides providing information about the performance of the ICDS scheme, the division also highlighted the issues concerning the sector in the states and union territories and reiterated the need for close monitoring of the implementation of the scheme. Furthermore, the division has been providing inputs to the Hon'ble Minister, MoWCD, during her state visits and also has sent representative to join in the review meetings conducted in various states and union territories.

(For more on WCD reforms, see Section B: Policy and Programme Framework)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Health System for a New India: Building Blocks
Potential Pathways to Reform
November 2019

Energy Storage System
Roadmap for India: 2019-2032

Roadmap for Access to Clean Cooking Energy in India

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON
PROJECT & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL DATA AND ANALYTICS PLATFORM
VISION DOCUMENT
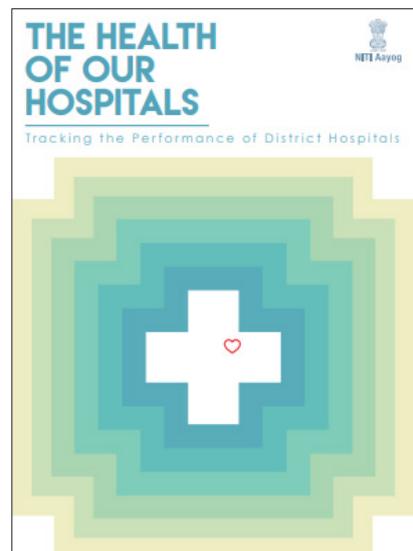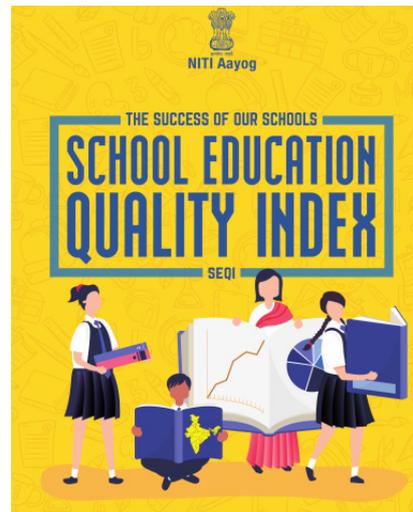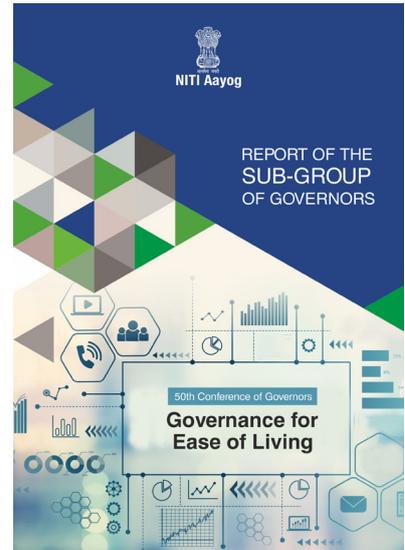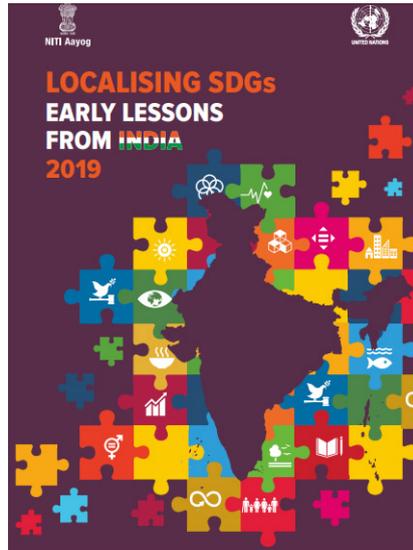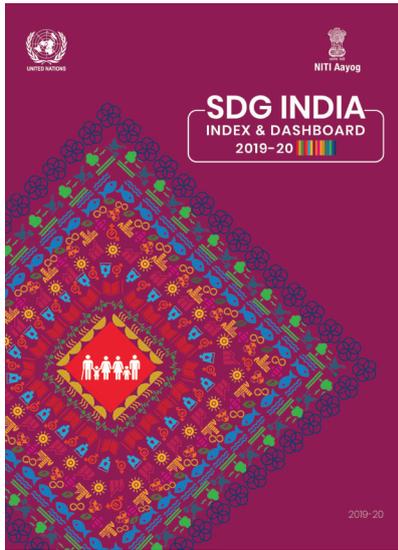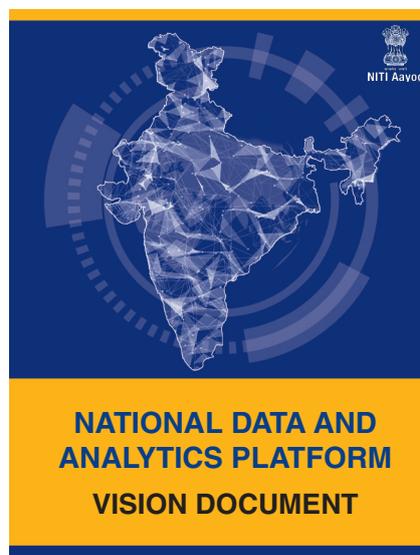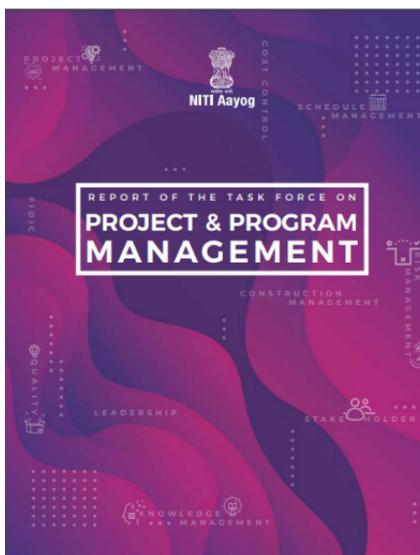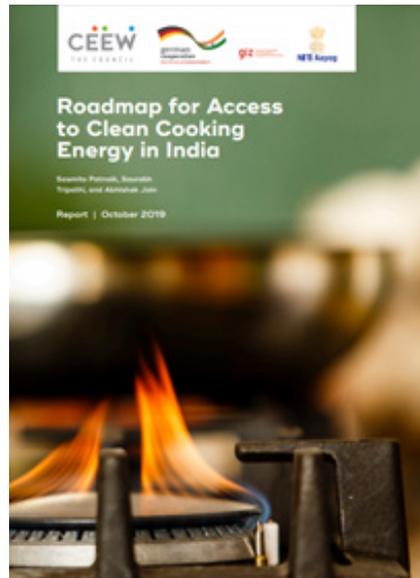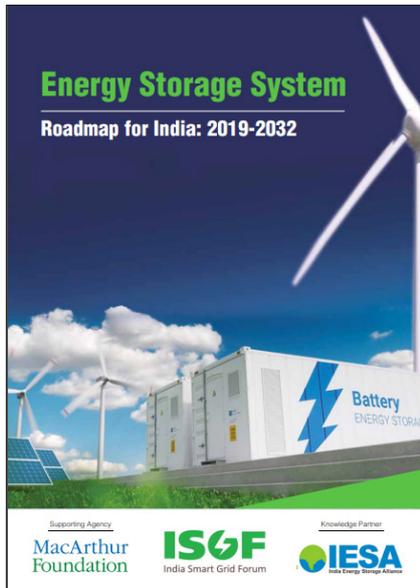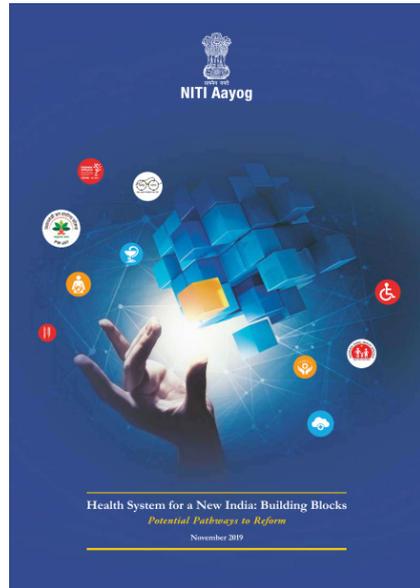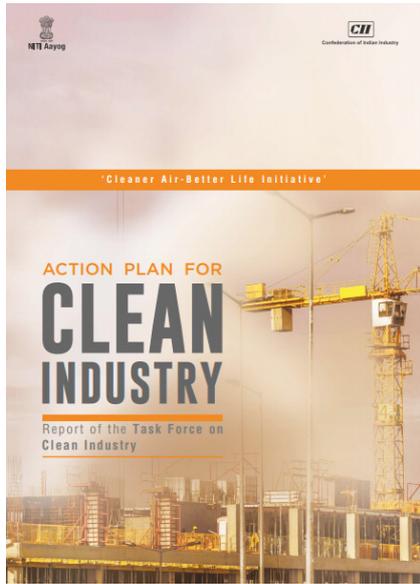
ANNEXURE I (GOVERNANCE AND RESEARCH)

Lists of Researched Studies Approved, Studies Completed, Seminars Approved and Logo Support Provided

S.No.	Topic	Name of the Organization
Table-1.1: List of New Research Studies Approved during the year 2019–20 (up to 20 Jan 2020)		
1	Impact of NHM in Health Outcomes	PGIMER, Chandigarh
2	Impact of NHM on Health Systems, Governance and Human Resources.	IIPH Gandhinagar
3	Impact of NHM on Healthcare Spending and Finances	NIPFP, New Delhi
4	Kaizen Assessment and Pilot at NITI Aayog	Kaizen Institute (SAIN) LLP, Ahmedabad
5	Rapid Assessment of Swasth Nagrik Abhiyan (SNA) of erstwhile IEC Programme.	Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi
6	Composite Water Management Index, Round II	Dalberg Development Advisors Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi
7	Health Surveys and Research Studies—MIS Component of the Umbrella Scheme for Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions	ICRIER, New Delhi
8	Preparation of Policy Interventions for Giga Scale Battery Manufacturing Units	Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram
9	Identifying Non-Core Assets for Monetization	Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram
10	Detailed Analysis of OVL Overseas Investments in Oil and Gas Assets.	Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Petroleum University (PDPU), Ahmedabad
11.	Policy Interest Rates, Market Rates, Inflation and Economic Growth.	Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare (EGROW), Noida
12	Engagement of NIPFP for Helping NITI with Strategic Disinvestment of CPSEs.	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi
13.	Design and Delivery of Capacity Building Programme for Civil Servants to Implement 2030 Agenda	Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad
14.	PPP Framework for NILERD	KPMG Advisory Services (KPMG), Chennai
15.	Prediction of GDP	Quantta Analytics Private Limited, Kolkata
16.	Impact Assessment of Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme/Amended TUFS.	Technopak Advisors Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram
17	Research Study on environmental and economic impacts of non-coking coal washeries	The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
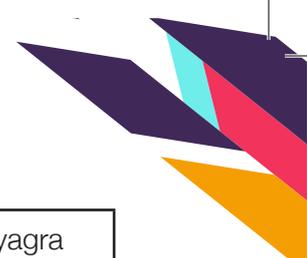
18	Public Management in Extreme : A case study Research on the Kumbh Mela 2019 held in Prayagraj Utter Pradesh	Prayagraj Mela Pradhikaran, Prayagra
19	Research Proposal on "Challenges Faced in Heritage Management in India and Policy Imperatives"	Development and Research Organization for Nature, Arts and Heritage (DRONAH)

Table-1.2:Studies Completed during the Year 2019–20 (till 20 Jan 2020)		
	Title of the Study	**Institution / Researcher**
1	Review of Udaan Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir	Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.
2	Diagnostic Study for Power Distribution Sector	CRISIL, Gurugram
3	Energy-Water Nexus and Efficient Water Cooling Technologies for Thermal Power Plants in India	Council on Energy, environment and Water, New Delhi
4	Fiscal Scenarios in Punjab: Past Trends, Future Prospects and Challenges	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
5	Improving the Effectiveness of Jan Aushadhi stores	BML Munjal University, Gurugram
6	Solar Projects of 300 GW to 500 GW by 2030	CRISIL, Gurugram
7	Redevelopment of Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex under PPP Mode	Ernst and Young Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi
8	Redevelopment of Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex under PPP Mode	Ernst and Young Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi
9	New Approaches to PPP Focussing on the Airports, Urban Rail and Integrated Solid Waste Management Sector.	CRISIL, Gurugram

Table-1.3: List of Seminars/Conference Approved during the year 2019–20 (up to 20 Jan 2020)		
Sl. No.	**Topic of the Research Study**	**Name of the Organization/Institute**
1.	NITI Aayog's Contribution to the Governance of the Country in the India Policy Summit	Global Young Action Network Foundation (GYAN), New Delhi
2.	Interdisciplinary Approach to Healthcare 2019	Symbiosis International (Deemed Universty), Lavale
3.	Recent Advancements in Natural Products Chemistry and Nanotechnology	Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Uttrakhand
4.	Indian Perspective on Space Security	International Foundation for Aviation, Aerospace and Drones (IFAAD), New Delhi
5.	Growth and Regional Development in India: Recent Experiences and Emerging Perspectives	Institute for Human Development, New Delhi

6	Oorja Ke Kshetra Mein Bharatiya Vigyan Evam Takniki Pragathi (Indian Scientific and Technological progress in the field of Energy	Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam
7	27th Annual Conference 2019 on Changing Landscape of Rural India	Punjab by Agricultural Economics Research Association, New Delhi

| Table 1.4: List of Logo Support Approved during the year 2019–20 (up to 20th Jan 2020)		
S. No	Name of the Event	Name of the Organizer
1.	IOT India Congress 2019	IET Services (India) Private Limited, Bangalore
2.	5G India 2019	Bharat Exhibitions (BE) Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi
3.	10th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress	Energy and Environment Foundation, New Delhi
4.	9th Elets Knowledge Exchange	Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
5.	Safer Mobility: Towards Safer India	Indian Road Safety Campaign, New Delhi
6.	National School Healthcare Symposium: Redefine Health for Children and Adolescents	The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries of India, New Delhi
7.	2nd India Conference on Innovation Intellectual Property and Competition	Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad
8.	ZEM ZERO Emission Mobility Show	Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi
9.	Hero Cycle World Bicycle Day 2019	Hero Cycles Ltd, Gurgaon
10.	Future Spectrum Roadmap for Satellite Broadband Services in India	Broadband India Forum, New Delhi
11.	National Campaign on Reading and Digital Reading	P.N. Panicker Foundation, Thiruvananthapuram
12.	Artificial Intelligence: Empowering Governance, Development and Business through future Generation Technologies	The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Ahmedabad
13.	World Wi-Fi Day	Broadband India Forum, New Delhi
14.	Positive Impact of IoT on Jon creation in India with special focus on Agriculture and Healthcare in rural areas	Broadband India Forum, New Delhi
15.	2nd FIT INDIA CONCLAVE 2019	Aryan Medical and Education Trust, Mumbai
16.	FICCI Heal 2019: Health of Healthcare in India	The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi
17.	Ayushman Bharat Conclave	ASSOCHAM, New Delhi
18.	2nd National Summit 2019-Financial Inclusion	CSR Research Foundation, New Delhi

19.	Digital Libraries	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
20.	National Competitiveness Forum and Porter Prize 2019	The Institute for Competitiveness, Gurgaon
21.	eXcellerate North East Expo-Awards Summit	Indian Importers Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi
22.	Two-day Summit on Expo Awards Start and Stand up North East (NER)	MSME Export Promotion Council, New Delhi
23.	Aegis Graham Bell Awards	Aegis Graham Bell Awards, Mumbai
24.	Climate Change and Disasters: Challenges, Opportunities and responses	Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad
25.	Livelihoods India Summit 2019	ACCESS Development Services, New Delhi
26.	WORLD EV SHOW	TRESCON Global Business Solution Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi
27.	Microsoft Equal Opportunity Awards 2019	Nipman Foundation, New Delhi
28.	BRIDGE Conference 2019	ICT ACADEMY, Chennai
29.	ESSCI-UTSAV 2019	Electronics Sector Skills Council of India, New Delhi
30.	Workshop on Springshed Management in Himalayas: Integrating Practice, Research and Policy	Indian Himalaya Climate Adaptation Programme
31.	India Resources Conclave	Centre for Economic Policy Research, Chandigarh
32.	India Banking Conclave	Centre for Economic Policy Research, Chandigarh
33.	India Satcom-2019	Broadband India Forum, New Delhi
34.	GeoSmart India 2019 (20th Edition)	Geospatial Media and Communications Pvt ltd, Noida,Uttar Pradesh
35.	CII Digital Infrastructure Summit 2019	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi
36.	Exclusive Round Table on EPC 4.0	Centre for Excellence in Project Management (P) Ltd., Noida and International Institute of Projects and Program Management, Noida
37.	Session on India's e-Commerce Sector (Creating a Conducive Environment for Sustainable Growth of the eCommerce Sector)	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi
38.	Smarter E/Power2Drive 2019	Messe Muenchen India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi

39.	27th Global Symposium dedicated to the first World Project Management Forum (WPMF)	Centre for Excellence in Project Management (P) Ltd., Noida and International Institute of Projects and Program Management, Noida
40.	3rd Digital Transformation Summit and Awards	SAB Events and Governance Now Ltd, Mumbai
41.	ACE DIALOGUES 2019	Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufactures Association (CEAMA), New Delhi
42	National Conference cum Exhibitionon Electric Mobility Challenges & Strategies for Effective Implementation	ASSOCHAM, Bengaluru
43	Third India International Seaweed Expo & Submit	Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata
44	Fin Tech Conference	Institute for Competitiveness, Gurgaon
45	World Future Fuel Summit 2020	Energy and Environment Foundation, Delhi
46	Asia Biggest E-Mobility Innovation, Technology Awareness, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship program	ISIE India, NOIDA
47	First International Heritage Symposium & Exhibition	IIT, Delhi, Deptt of Science & Technology and National Museum
48	10th World Petro-Coal Congress	Energy and Environment Foundation, Delhi