



NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA (NITI) AAYOG-ECONOMY

News: Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

What's in the News?

- The Centre has reconstituted the NITI Aayog with 15 union ministers, including those from NDA allies and four full-time members, being a part of the government think-tank.
- The government reconstituted NITI Aayog after changes were made in the council of ministers.

About:

- NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015. It was constituted to replace the Planning Commission - instituted in 1950.
- It is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs.
- NITI Aayog acts as a platform to bring the States to act together in national interest and thereby fosters cooperative federalism.

Composition

- **Chairperson:** The Prime Minister of India

Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

- The government reconstituted the NITI Aayog, expanding the number of special invitees from five to eleven.
- This new group of special invitees includes five ministers from the BJP's allied parties.

Key post holders

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the **Chairperson** and economist Suman K Bery will continue to be the **Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog**.
- Scientist V K Saraswat, agricultural economist Ramesh Chand, paediatrician V K Paul and macro-economist Arvind Virmani will also continue to be full-time members of the government think-tank.
- BVR Subrahmanyam will also remain the CEO.
- The four ex-officio members will be:
 - Union Ministers Rajnath Singh (Defence), Amit Shah (Home), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Agriculture) and Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance).

Full time organisational framework:

- Vice Chairperson: Appointed by the PM, s/he enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister.
- Full-Time Members: Enjoys the rank of a Minister of State.
- Part-Time Members: Maximum 2.



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- Ex-Officio Members: Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Minister to be nominated by the PM.
 - **Chief Executive Officer (CEO):** Appointed by the PM for a fixed tenure, s/he enjoys the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
 - **Special Invitees:** These will be experts with relevant domain knowledge to be nominated by the PM.
- **Governing Council of NITI Aayog:**
 - The council is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national priorities and strategies, with the active involvement of States.
 - It presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda.
- **Composition of Governing Council:**
 - It is **chaired by the PM** and comprises Chief Ministers of all the States and UTs with legislatures and Lt Governors of other Union Territories.
 - The council also comprises of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog; and Special Invitees.

Performance of NITI:

- **As an action Tank:** By collecting fresh and new ideas and sharing them with the government at the Central and State level, it ensures that there is no inactivity in any organisation or institution.
- **Improving innovation:** A commendable work has been done by the **Atal Innovation Mission** (established under NITI Aayog), which has helped in improving the innovation ecosystem in India.
- **Bringing greater responsibility in the system:** Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) has been established by the NITI Aayog, which collects performance data of various Ministries on a real-time basis.
 - These data are then used at the highest policy-making levels to improve performance and establish accountability.
- **Some important initiatives of NITI Aayog:** Some of the initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, water conservation measures, approach towards artificial intelligence, have been conceptualised in NITI Aayog and respective Ministries are taking them forward.
 - **POSHAAN ABHIYAAN** by NITI Aayog is cutting across the silos within the government and helping in reducing malnourished children in India.

Promoting Federalism

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM	COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NITI has provided a platform for direct issue-based interaction between States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It promotes competitive federalism principally through pushing its sectoral



and Central Ministries thereby helping quick resolution of outstanding issues.

- The NITI Forum for North East has been constituted and tangible sectoral proposals are being implemented by the States in partnership with the North East council.
- NITI has designed some major initiatives for island development which are being implemented under the overall guidance of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It is also envisaged that like the NITI Forum for the North East, other regional councils of contiguous States could be formed.
- The first step has been taken by forming the **Himalayan States Regional Council** and forming a **coalition of all thirteen central universities in these states**.

indices which are put out in the public domain.

- The indices on water, education, health, innovation, export preparedness, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have attracted significant positive attention.
- It has also introduced a competition element in 'Aspirational Districts Program' by focusing on governance improvement on the ground.
 - These districts have shown significant improvement in indicators pertaining to health and nutrition, education etc.
- Besides, several best practices in governance have emerged from these districts which are now being scaled up and replicated at the block level in some states.

Sources: <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1573613>

<https://www.niti.gov.in/objectives-and-features>