

NITI Aayog-Think-Tank for Transforming India

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Abstract: National institution for transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed by the union cabinet on January 1, 2015. The Govt. has replaced planning commission with a new institution named NITI Aayog. The major difference in approach to planning, between NITI Aayog and planning commission is that the former will invite greater involvement of the states, while the latter took a top-down approach with a one-size-fits -all plans. The main aim of the paper is to highlight the importance of NITI AAYOG, what is Niti Aayog, why govt. Changed Planning Commission with Niti Aayog, what is the composition of Niti Aayog, based on seven pillars of democracy, what are the main objectives and functions of Niti Aayog, how Niti Aayog is different from Planning Commission, what are the benefits of this Aayog and what are the main challenges faced by Niti Aayog in these days. Niti Aayog is definitely a welcome step in the direction of purposed planning in India from a fresh panorama. Let us hope that it succeeds against all the challenges in the path and take the India to a new level of growth. Lets hope for AACHE DIN for Niti Aayog. To study the objectives, secondary tools were used, which includes Books, Journals, Newspapers, Internet and Google Scholars.

Keywords: Empowerment, Enthusiasm, Federalism, Governance, Planning, Stakeholders, Strategy

1. Introduction

National institution for transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed by the union cabinet on January 1, 2015. The Govt. Has replaced planning commission with a new institution named NITI Aayog.

Planning commission was set up in year 1950 by the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. This commission was set up for helping all the strong centre plans and to formulate the policies which impact all states. The planning commission brought 12 five year plans and 6 annual plans in its nearly 65 year history.

The major difference in approach to planning, between NITI Aayog and planning commission is that the former will invite greater involvement of the states, while the latter took a top-down approach with a one-size-fits -all plans.

Main functions of the planning commission

- Its main function was to estimate the capital, physical and human resources of the country.
- To prepare plan that how to make best or effective utilization of human resources.
- To determine the different stages of planning and to allocate resources on priority basis.

2. Niti Aayog

National institution for transforming India (NITI Aayog) serve as a “think-tank”. It provide strategic and technical advice on key elements of policy of national and international importance. States have given more importance and freedom under this aayog. It promote cooperative federalism, make states stronger, expedite implementation of key projects and Schemes and ensure better centre- state coordination. NITI Aayog develop a common minimum national agenda and provide guidance to the States which helps them in designing their state specific agenda in accordance with national agenda. Under NITI Aayog states have given more powers and freedom in framing their state plans. All states have different economic, geographic, social,

demographic features, their priorities and problems may be different. So, states must have powers so that they can design their plans according to their problems, requirements, resources, etc. Under NITI Aayog stategovt. Have given such powers. Which helps them to improve centre-state relations, ensure better utilisation of resources, provide better solution to the state specific problems etc.

NITI Aayog infuse new policy related ideas and provide these ideas to centre Govt. And state Govt., so that they can make strategic and visionary plans. NITI Aayog also monitor the evaluation of Govt. Projects like ‘Make In India’, ‘Digital India’, ‘Swachh Bharat Programme’, etc.

3. Three Year Action Agenda

The three year action agenda covers the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. NITI Aayog has proposed ‘Fifteen Year Vision’, ‘Seven Year Strategy’ and ‘Three Year Action Agenda’ to promote Faster, Inclusive and Sustainable development of Indian Economy. NITI Aayog has proposed that now five year plan model of development be discontinued.

Government has adopted the following road map for the future w.e.f. fiscal year 2017.18

- Five year plans will be discontinued after the end of 12th five year plan.
- A longer vision of 15 years will be formulated
- To convert the longer vision into implementable policy, a seven year strategy will be formulated.
- To implement strategy, three year action agenda will be formulated.

The action agenda launched by NITI Aayog is based on Prime Minister's vision ‘Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas’. It means to achieve all- round development of India.

Composition of Niti Aayog

- **Chairperson-** Shri Narendra Modi, PM of India
- **Chief Executive Officer-** Shri Amitabh Kant
- **Vice Chairperson-** DR.Rajiv Kumar

- **Ex- Officio Members-** Shri Rajnath Singh- minister of home affairs.
 Shri Arun Jaitley- minister of corporate affairs.
 Shri Suresh Prabhu- minister of railways.
 Shri Radha Mohan Singh- minister of agriculture and farmers welfare
- **Full Time Members-** DR. Bibek Debroy, Shri V.K Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand, DR. V.K.Paul
- **Special Invitees-** Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari- minister of road transport. and highways, and minister of shipping
 Shri Thaaawar Chand Gehlot- minister of social justice and empowerment.
 Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani- minister of textiles.
- **Governing Council-** All chief ministers and lieutenant governors of states and union territories.

Niti Aayog—Based on 7 Pillars of Democracy

- 1) Pro- People >fulfil all the needs of the society as well as individuals
- 2) Pro-Activity >in anticipating and responding to citizens needs
- 3) Participation >peoples participation
- 4) Empowering >empowering women in all aspects
- 5) Inclusion Of All>Special attention to SC, ST, OBC,Garib, Rural sectors
- 6) Equality >Equality of opportunities to our country's youth
- 7) Transparency >Making govt. more visible and approachable by using Technology

4. Objectives and Functions of Niti Aayog

- Recognising that strong states make a strong nation, to engage the states in planning on a continuous basis and encourage cooperative federalism.
- Its aim is to enable institutions and stakeholders to fulfil their role in achieving sustainable and more inclusive development.
- To develop procedure to formulate plans at the village level and aggregate these plans progressively at higher levels of govt.
- To pay special attention to the section of society that are not adequately benefited from the economic progress.
- To ensure that the interest of national security is given due importance while making economic policy.
- To design long term policies and programmes, and to evaluate their progress regularly. Lessons learnt from their evaluation and feedback will be used for making improvement and corrections.
- To encourage the participation of educational and research institutions, national and international experts and practitioners.
- To foster the economic development, it provides platform to resolve inter-Sectoral and inter departmental issues.
- For the better implementation of the development programmes and policies it focus on the technology up gradation and capacity building.
- To monitor the implementation and evaluation of key projects of govt.like ‘Make In India’, ‘Digital India’, ‘Swachh Bharat Programme’, etc. In collaboration with the state govt.
- To provide a critical, directional and strategic input into the development process.

- Emerge as ‘Think-Tank’, provide govt. at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy.
- To solve states issues in time bound manner at the level of states itself.
- To design strategic and long term policy.
- Make economic policy that incorporates national security interests.
- Feedback for constant innovative improvements.
- Remove poverty and give chance to every Indian to live a life of dignity and self-respect.
- To safeguard our environment.

How Niti Aayog is different from Planning Commission

NITI AAYOG	PLANNING COMMISSION
The new national institution for transforming India will act more like a Think- Tank or advisory body	Planning commission imposed five year plans and allocated resources to achieved definite economic targets
No powers to allocate funds. The powers to allocate funds might be vested in the finance ministry	It had power to decide allocation of government funds for various programs of state and national levels
Under Niti Aayog consulting states while making policy and deciding on funds allocations	Policy was formed by the commission and states were then consulted about allocation of funds
It includes chief ministers of all states and the lieutenant governors of all union territories in its governing council, developing more power to the states of the union	Under it states role was limited to the national development council and annual interaction during plan meeting
Niti Aayog have two full time members	It had eight full time members
It has two part time members. These will be from leading universities, research institutions or other relevant institutions on rotation basis	It had no provision for part time members
Secretaries to be known as the CEO and to be appointed by the PM	Secretaries were appointed through the usual process

Advantages

- A new structure brings in new hopes and enthusiasm.
- It foster the path of development
- It make states more stronger
- As compare to planning commission, Niti Aayog is more flexible
- Under planning commission the whole planning was central, but Niti Aayog take into account constant consultationwith the heads of state government and union territories

5. Challenges

- 1) For achieving the cooperative federalism goal the new governing council has to be more active
- 2) It has replaced an institution which is older than half a decade, so the expectations of the people from the new governing council has increased. So to cope up with the expectations of the people and to bring the immediate changes may not become hindrance in the path of Niti Aayog

- 3) Niti Aayog has a considerably large amount of members as compared to the planning commission. So coming up with a consensus and trying to convince everybody is going to be a challenge for it.

6. Conclusion

- 1) Niti Aayog is definitely a welcome step in the direction of purposed planning in India from a fresh panorama
- 2) Niti Aayog seek to expedite and empower critical requirement of good governance, which is based on seven pillars of democracy. It provide critical, directional and strategic input to the development process.
- 3) Let us hope that it succeeds against all the challenges in the path and take the India to a new level of growth.
- 4) Lets hope for AACHE DIN for Niti Aayog.

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