



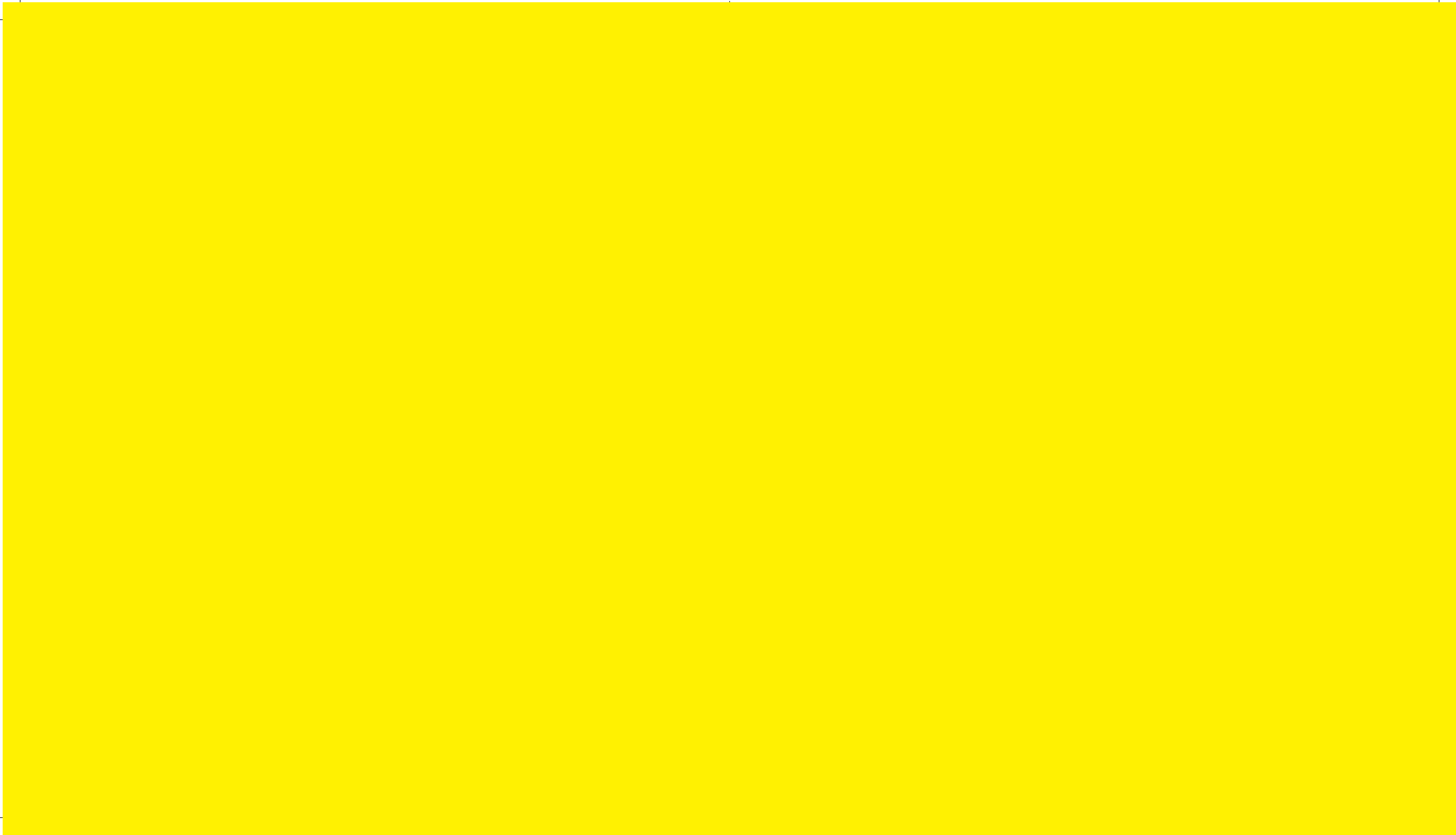
सत्यमेव जयते

NITI Aayog

# THREE

## YEARS OF NITI AAYOG

NAYI NITI, NAYI DISHA, NAYA BHARAT



**ON COMPLETION OF 3 YEARS OF NITI AAYOG'S EXISTENCE, WE LOOK BACK TO SEE HOW WE FARED IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF TRANSFORMING THE POLICY MAKING ARENA AND MOVING TOWARDS BUILDING A RESURGENT NEW INDIA.**

# 3 EVENTFUL YEARS AT NITI AAYOG

## **NAYI NITI, NAYI DISHA, NAYA BHARAT**

NITI Aayog, established in 2015, is one of Indian democracy's youngest institutions. Entrusted with the mandate of re-imagining the development agenda by dismantling old-style central planning, it was mandated to foster cooperative federalism, evolve a national consensus on developmental goals, redefine the reforms agenda, act as a platform for resolution of cross-sectoral issues between Center and State Governments, capacity building and to act as a Knowledge and Innovation hub - a huge mandate for a nascent organization.

# 3

# STRONG STATES FOR A STRONG NATION - PROMOTING COOPERATIVE AND COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

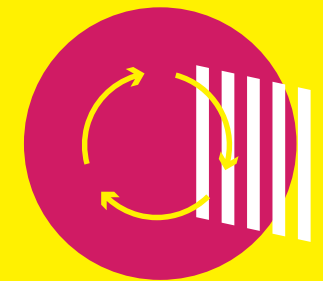
## MEASURING PERFORMANCE AND RANKING STATES ON OUTCOMES IN CRITICAL SECTORS

With emphasis on outcomes, NITI finalised indices to measure incremental annual outcomes in critical social sectors like health, education and water with a view to nudge the states into competing with each other for better outcomes, sharing best practices and innovations. District hospital index was developed to

assess the performance of district hospitals to measure and monitor hospital performance with focus on outputs and outcomes: The Guidebook was released on World Health Day 2016. The Implementation phase is presently underway in collaboration with MoHFW. Indian Statistical Institute is assisting in



data analytics. NITI has also developed a Digital Transformation Index (DTI) which will measure states' progress in ushering in digital economy, digital infrastructure, and digitally available government services.



## SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR TRANSFORMING HUMAN CAPITAL (SATH)

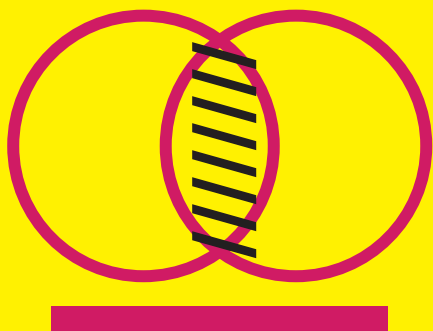
SATH aimed at initiating transformation in two key social sectors, viz. education and health by hand holding States to improve their social sector indicators and providing technical support to States over three years. The states were selected based on a certain set of challenges. Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka

were selected for improvement in their healthcare delivery and key health indicators. Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand were selected for improvement in the education sector.

# SATH

# EBSB

## EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT



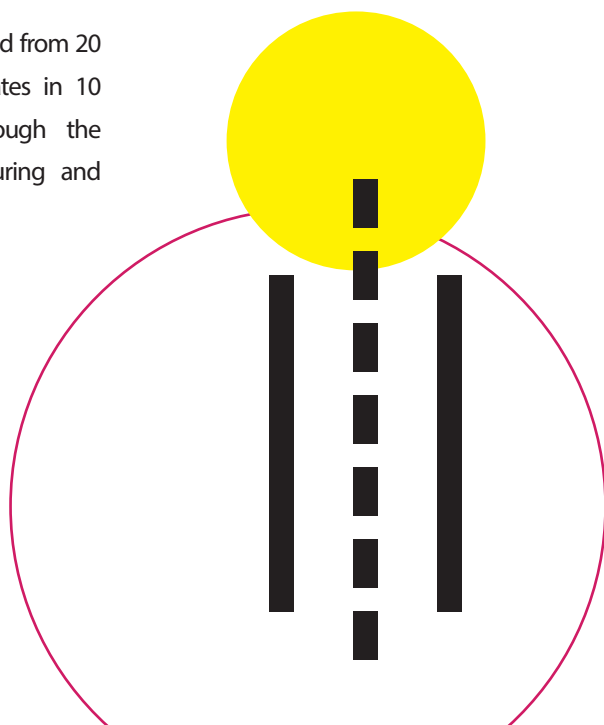
We conceptualized EBSB to unite the country and promote excellence in all walks of life through long-term inter-state engagements in cultural exchanges and education. MoUs were entered with six paired States/UTs. Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource

Development, took forward the initiative. Towards further integration, 100 commonly used conversational sentences throughout India were identified and translated into 22 Indian languages, compiled as a book and widely distributed.

## DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO STATES (DSSS) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

To establish a Centre-State Partnership Model and reignite and establish Private Public Partnership across infrastructure sectors DSSS was launched to de-risk projects and address key structural issues in project development and build institutional and organizational capacities.

Out of over 450 projects received from 20 States, 11 projects from 8 States in 10 sectors were shortlisted through the challenge method, for structuring and implementation.



## REGULATORY REFORMS



NITI finalized the consolidation of laws for Rajasthan and the work for Jammu & Kashmir and Maharashtra is in progress.

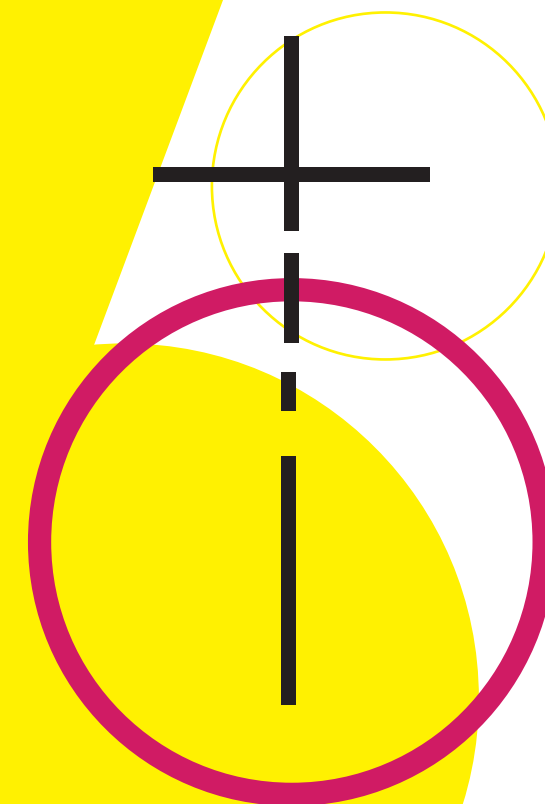
## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH

Developed a guiding framework for States for the implementation of district hospital level-focus in tier II/ tier III cities by engaging services of private/voluntary sector providers for achieving health goals of the government in areas of

prevention, diagnosis and treatment of select Non-Communicable diseases, viz. Cardiac Sciences, Oncology and Pulmonary Sciences.

## RESOLUTION OF PENDING ISSUES OF STATES WITH CENTRAL MINISTRIES

Sought pending issues with the Central Ministries from all States and UTs for expeditious resolutions. Issues received from the States of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Puducherry have since been resolved.



# STATE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT



The State of Maharashtra, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nagaland, Bundelkhand region and Delhi were supported for preparation of State Human Development Report.

## TRANSFORMATION OF 115 IDENTIFIED ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

A special initiative focusing on 115 aspirational districts which need to improve on key indicators like health, nutrition, education, basic infrastructure and poverty has been launched. The focus will be on technology and sharing of best practices. At least one aspirational district has been selected from every State and Prabhari Officers (Coordinating Officers) appointed for the all 115 districts to converge and integrate Central and State Government programmes. District Magistrate has been made the fulcrum on which the programme rests. The project would be implemented in the true spirit of cooperative federalism.

# 115

# PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH - GIVING FILLIP TO GOVERNMENT'S GOAL OF 'SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS'

- Based on recommendations made by NITI on the committed liabilities under PMS for SCs, Department of Social Justice has initiated the process for revamping of scheme to provide transparency regarding students, institutes, courses, etc. and also for clearing pending Central arrears.
- After discontinuation of Planning and merger of Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure, new guidelines for earmarking of funds for SCs and STs in the new budgeting system have been prepared.
- A report prepared on Revamping of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) to promote them as Top Class Research Institutes and circulated to States/UT and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for consultations.
- Monitoring Framework for SCSP and TSP has been developed and circulated to the nodal Ministries for online monitoring of SCSP & TSP.
- Gaps in the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 have been identified and forwarded to D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for revision of the Policy.
- Critical issues have been identified and forwarded to D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for resolution towards meeting the goals of Accessible India Campaign.
- A concept paper on the "Means of livelihood in LWE Areas: Prospects of Aroma, Honey, Dairying and other traditional Industries" has been circulated to the concerned Central Ministries, States and other Stakeholders for their views.
- Common Guidelines for Implementation of CSS/CS schemes through NGOs have been prepared and circulated.
- The new NGO-Darpan Portal which when live w.e.f. 06.04.2017 was developed giving electronic dynamic database of NGOs in the country. It facilitates NGOs to sign up and obtain Unique ID to be eligible to apply for grants from any central Ministry/Department.



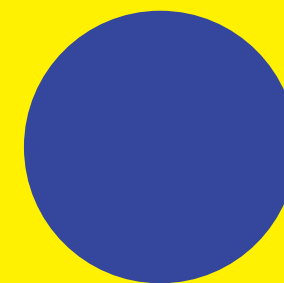
# ENABLING EVIDENCE BASED POLICY MAKING AND ENHANCING PRODUCTIVE EFFICIENCY WITH LONG-TERM VISION

## FINALIZING THE THREE YEAR- NATIONAL ACTION AGENDA

As the Government moves away from Five-Year Plans and Annual Plans to long-term vision, a three-year Action Agenda covering the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 was prepared. The Action Agenda framework allows better alignment of the development strategy with the changed reality of India. The Agenda was prepared

after detailed consultations with the State Governments, Union Territories, Ministries of the Central Government and other stakeholders like scientists, economists, journalists, voluntary organizations, industry associations and experts in education, health, culture, defence, transport and other fields. The Action

Agenda covers areas ranging from agriculture, industry, services, health, education and management of water resources, revenue and expenditure framework. It contains ambitious yet achievable proposals to achieve far-reaching changes in India's economy.



After being mandated to identify CPSEs for strategic disinvestment, NITI Aayog in consultation with administrative ministries, made recommendations in four tranches for strategic disinvestment in PSU's. So far, based on NITI Aayog's recommendations, more than 30 CPSEs have been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic

Affairs for in-principle strategic disinvestment. The process of divestment is being carried out by DIPAM and the initial transactions are expected in the current financial year after a long gap of 14 years. In line with the government's philosophy that government should not be in the business of business, more CPSEs are being

examined for strategic disinvestment. A report was submitted to the Government on 74 sick/loss-making/non-performing CPSEs. The recommendations are under implementation and so far more than 15 CPSEs are undergoing closure.

# CPSEs

# BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Development support to the North East:

North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017- To examine and suggest a road map for a new industrial policy for North Eastern and Himalayan States, a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog by the CCEA. After detailed deliberations and consultations with the stakeholders and the concerned States Governments, the Committee recommended the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017.

## Holistic Development of Islands:

NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the process of holistic development of identified islands as unique models of sustainable development. Accordingly, in consultation with key stakeholders, NITI Aayog has shortlisted 10 islands for holistic development in the first phase namely Smith, Ross, Long and Aves of Andaman and Nicobar (Package I) Little Andaman of Andaman and Nicobar (Package II) and Minicoy, Bangaram, Tinnakara, Cheriya and Suheli islands of Lakshadweep (Package III).

The consultants engaged by NITI Aayog for preparation of concept development plans and detailed master plans for Package I and Package III islands have

submitted the Draft Site Development Potential Reports in respect of these two packages in October 2017. As regards Package II (Little Andaman), technical and financial evaluation of bids have been completed. Awarding of work for the preparation of concept development plans and detailed master plans is under progress.

## Island Development Agency (IDA):

The IDA was set up on June 01, 2017 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Home Minister, Government of India. CEO NITI Aayog is the Convener of the Agency. It has so far held two meetings. As recommended by the IDA, NITI Aayog is in the process of identification of additional 10-15 Islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep for their development.

## UNDP Projects – GIS Based Planning:

All the States and UTs have been exposed to the Best Practice of GIS based planning being implemented by BISAG, Ahmedabad. On NITI Aayog's initiative, MeitY agreed to support the endeavor of GIS based planning in all States with support of BISAG for which customized software based on the actual requirement of each State/UT is being separately

developed. NITI Aayog organized the in-depth capacity development programme for State Officials at BISAG in November 2017 for customized State softwares prepared by BISAG.



NITI has been initiating radical reforms in the health sector covering wide range of critical problem areas of medical education, nutrition, drug policy, etc.

**Medical Education Sector:** To expand the Medical Education Sector, National Medical Commission Bill 2017 was framed after extensive consultations. The Bill has been approved by Cabinet and has been introduced in Parliament. National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) Bill, 2017 and the National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine Bill, 2017 have also been

finalized after extensive deliberations. Further evaluation of NIPERs was conducted and way forward for Pharmaceutical Education has been suggested.

**Evolving the National Nutrition Strategy:** National Nutrition Strategy formulated following extensive consultative process. The strategy provides the rationale and roadmap for policy makers to bring nutrition at centre stage of India's Development Agenda. It focuses on inter-sectoral convergence and identifies priority districts to tackle malnutrition and meet the country's nutrition

needs and targets.

## Establishment of National Nutrition

**Mission:** The National Council on Nutrition has been constituted under Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and a Technical Support Unit (TSU) for Monitoring & Evaluation of various programs is being setup.

## Pushing Reforms in Pharmaceuticals

**Sector:** NITI provided policy inputs for making available affordable drugs and devices.

# DRIVING INDIA'S ENERGY SECTOR

India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS), 2047 was revamped in 2015 and under third division is being used for nationally determined targets. NITI also supported three states Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam for the "Development of State Energy Calculator". On 16th November, 2017, Andhra Pradesh State Energy Calculator 2050 was launched while the other two states are ready with their respective first drafts. In the second phase, three more states - Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra have been taken up.

In a stakeholder-driven "roadmap" exercise, NITI has prepared and launched a "Report on India's Renewable Electricity Roadmap 2030" summarizing the opportunities and barriers.

NITI Aayog has engaged Deloitte and PwC to prepare the State Action Plan (SAP) for RE- Integration in 10 states (8 RE-rich and 2-non-RE rich). The prepared SAPs are awaiting states' consent.

Draft National Energy Policy (NEP), developed by NITI following large scale consultation with other departments and public feedback is under finalization.

NITI also undertook several research projects on individual areas. Two reports "Energy-water-Food Nexus" and "Decarbonisation of transport Sector" are under finalisation.

## OTHER CROSS-SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS

- Task Force on Employment and Exports: In September 2017, NITI Aayog constituted a high level Task Force under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog on Employment and Exports. The Task Force comprised of senior secretary-level officials of the government of India and external experts. The Task Force sought to bring centre-stage the role of exports in boosting employment. The Task Force has made several sector-wise recommendations to give an impetus to jobs and exports to the Union Minister of Commerce.
- Rural Drinking Water - Released Rs. 1000 crore to the States for developing water resources in 19 Arsenic and Fluoride affected States to provide safe drinking water.
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) - Serviced the Sub-Group of 9 Chief Ministers to bring out the key policy recommendations for implementing SBM. The coverage of rural households with toilets has increased from 39% since launch of the Mission on 2nd October, 2014 to 73% till November, 2017.
- Short-term measures for reforms in higher education sector, including proposals for graded autonomy; reforms in accreditation framework and many more targeted recommendations to push for quality and remove out-dated regulatory aspects of UGC and AICTE. The ministry is in advanced stages of implementing these recommendations.
- Efficiency in Port Ecosystem: NITI drove the Port Ecosystem Efficiency movement through a series of inter-sector meetings and as a result of various initiatives notable achievements were reported in cutting down delays in customs processing, loading of railway rakes in Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and documentation.
- Working of 679 Autonomous Bodies under the Central Government reviewed and the Draft Report of Phase-I has been submitted to the Government while Phase-II is under progress.

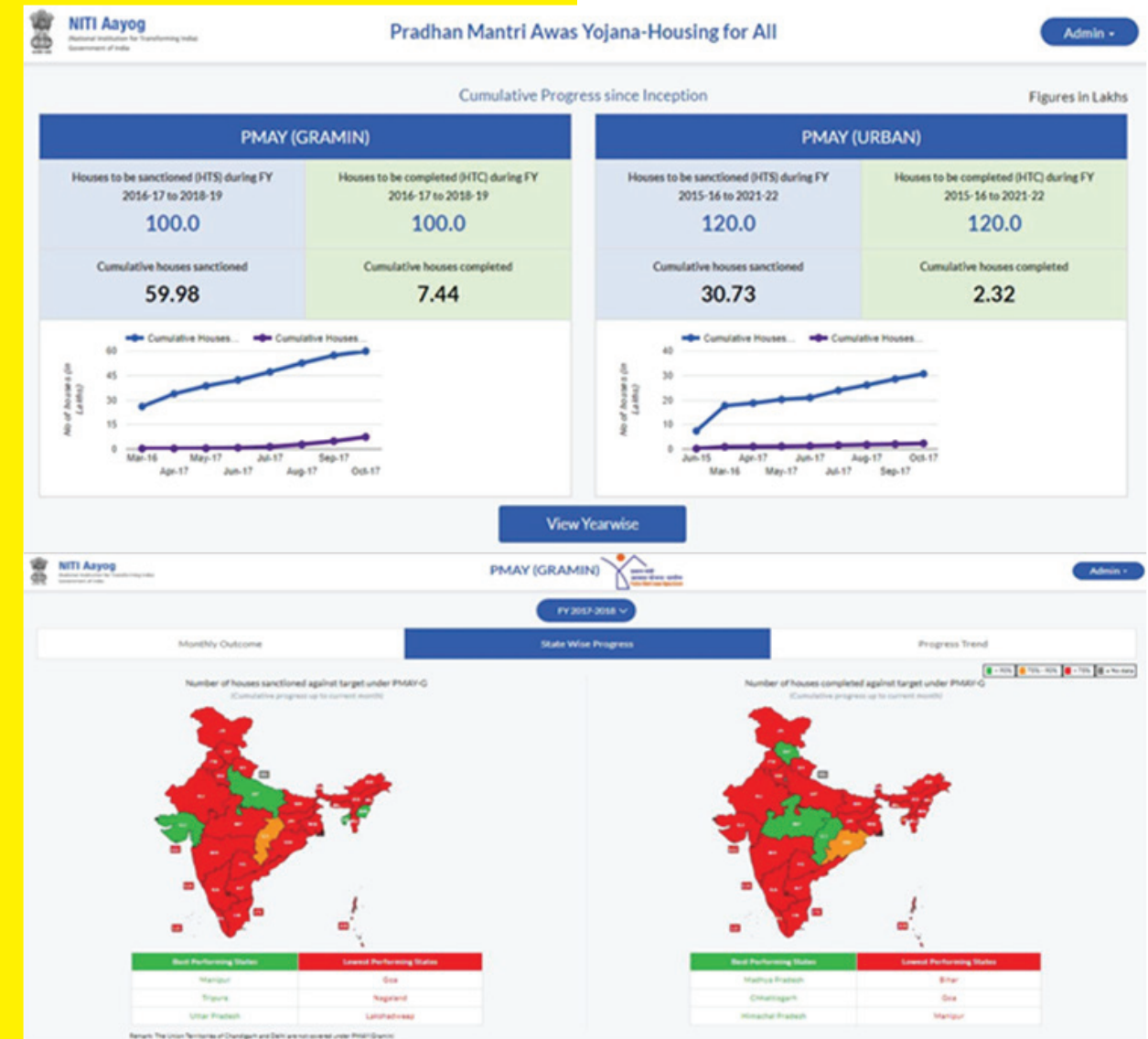
- Recommendations to transform India's gold market is under finalisation.
- Roadmap to promote Tribal Research Institutes as Top Class Research Institutes forwarded and is being examined by the Department for necessary action.
- 'Manual on Gender inclusive Planning' and 'Manual for Social Audit' has been published for use as a training & practice guide for Social Sector programme facilitators.
- Report on "Strategies for Self-reliance in Critical and Strategic Resources of Rare Earths."
- Strategy for effective utilisation and monitoring of "Fly Ash and Slag."
- Roadmap for revising the National Mineral Policy, 2018 to revitalise the growth of Mineral sector.
- A Challenge Method Guidelines for Selection of Sites for key Central Government assisted projects has been evolved.
- Strategic Mobility Framework for Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to improve public transport and Non-Motorised Transport is being finalised.
- A Sub-Group of 10 Chief Ministers on Skill Development was serviced by NITI Aayog which made recommendations for improving access, equity, relevance, quality and enhanced sources of finance. The Ministry of Skill Development is taking forward the key recommendations of the committee.
- High-level Committee under Vice Chairman set up for management of water resources in the North Eastern Region. Expert Committee also set up under CEO to examine policy for revitalisation of rivers.
- NITI Aayog is coordinating the implementation of the initiative for the merger of 36 Tribunals to 18 Tribunals among all the concerned Ministries.

# INSTITUTIONALISE PROJECT MONITORING TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFICACY OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

## PROGRAMME MONITORING

Following the paradigm shift from outlays to outcome based governance, DMEO in NITI has developed measurable output and outcome indicators for more than 850 CS/CSS outlays covering a budget of about Rs. 9.44 lakh crore while the implementing Ministries of the Government of India would continue to have the primary responsibility for monitoring the implementation of programmes, DMEO would evaluate and monitor their implementation. A web-based interactive dashboard has been developed by DMEO to monitor the progress of houses being sanctioned and constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (Rural and Urban).

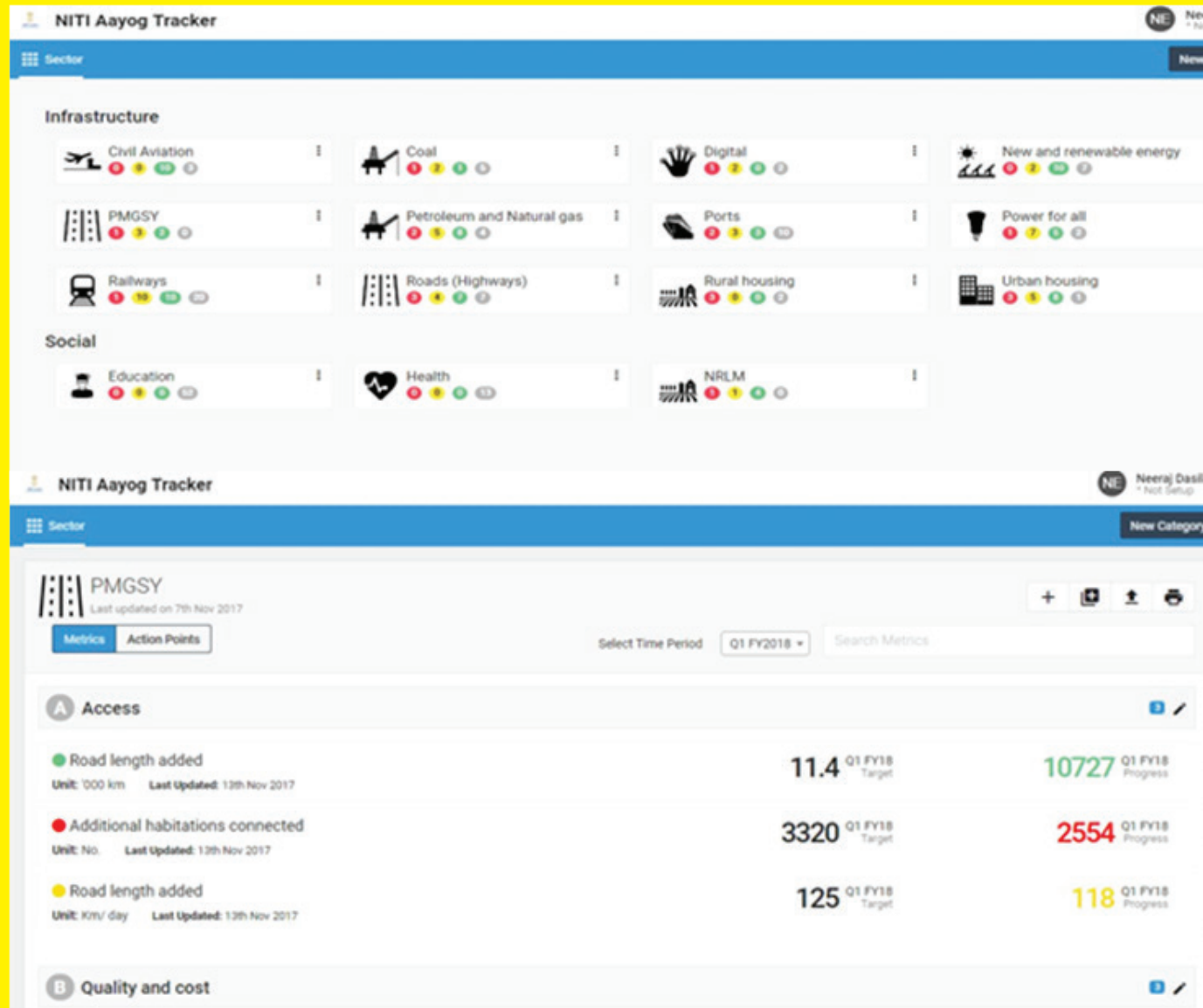
The screenshots of PMAY dashboard are as below:



# SECTORAL REVIEWS BY PMO

To monitor the implementation of major decisions taken by the Government, an interactive dashboard has been developed. At present there are 15 sectors (12 infrastructure and 3 social sectors) which are being monitored through the dashboard. During 2017, the sectors covered included Road, Railways, Airports, Ports, Digital India, Coal PNG, Power, NRE, Urban Housing, Rural Housing and PMGSY.

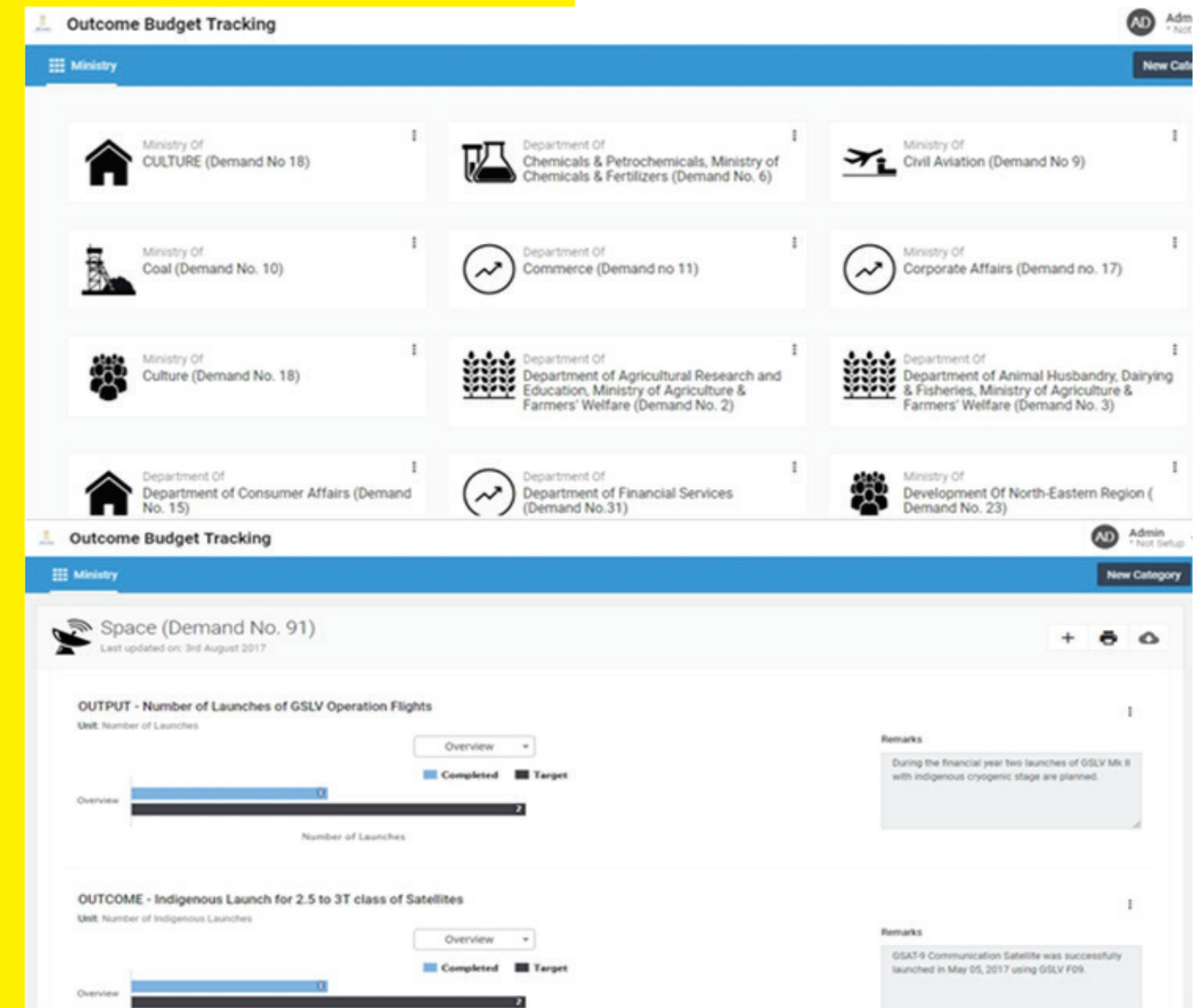
Screenshots of Sectoral Review dashboard are below:



# OUTCOME BUDGET

A web-based interactive dashboard for monitoring the implementation of Union Outcome Budget, 2017-18 has been developed and information about 69 Ministries/Departments has been uploaded on the dashboard. Ministries/Departments have access to the data which has been uploaded on the dashboard. Work is in progress to upgrade the dashboard enabling it to automatically fetch data from the MIS of Ministries and also to have granular information i.e. State and District level data.

The screenshots are below:



A rigorous exercise to bring qualitative improvement in the Output-Outcome Framework by reviewing and identifying relevant outputs and outcomes, and quantifiable and measurable indicators to monitor them has been undertaken. With the help of an external agency and in compliance to the international best practices in performance monitoring, a standardised strategy has been adopted using Strategic Outcomes Verification Process (SOVP), an analytical tool. Indicators identified through the exercise would be incorporated by the Ministry of Finance in the Outcome Budget, 2018-19.

Several presentations have been made in different fora explaining the above monitoring mechanism.

## PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Evaluation of selected programmes under implementation is also undertaken for an objective assessment of the processes and impacts of the development programmes, identification of the areas and reasons for the successes and failures at different stages of programme execution; mid-course corrections have been suggested and lessons for the future, disseminated. So far evaluation has been done for 12 programmes, including Border Area Development Programme; Command Area Development and Water Management Programme; Integrated Child Development Services; Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Programme; Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Scheme; Backward Region Grants Fund; Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana; Minimum Support Price; Role of PDS in shaping Household and Nutritional Security; Nai Roshani; Process Evaluation of introduction of DBT in TPDS in 3 UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry, and Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana.

In addition to the above, evaluation studies are near finalisation in another 5 programmes, including, MGNREGA. The Evaluation Report is under finalization for: Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation, RTE, Harmonized Sarv Siksha Abhiyaan and PMAY (Urban).

## IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the light of the global SDG indicators endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed an elaborate list of National SDG Indicators. A Task Force on SDGs has

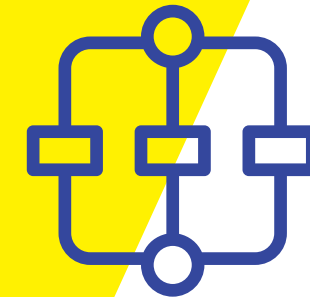
been constituted by NITI Aayog involving participation of Central Ministries, State governments and think tanks to review progress of implementation of SDGs.

# SDGs

- Mapping: NITI Mapped out 17 goals and 169 targets on concerned Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and other government initiatives to facilitate better awareness, common understanding of roles and responsibilities and faster implementation of the SDGs.
- Consultations: 18 National and Regional Consultations on various SDGs and their implementation strategies have been conducted involving Central Ministries, State Governments/UTs, United Nations, think tanks, civil society organizations, academia, international organizations and other stakeholders for sensitisation and awareness building.
- Central point for monitoring achievement and progress on SDG goals: NITI Aayog is coordinating SDG implementation across Central Ministries and States/UTs.
- Voluntary National Review Report: NITI Aayog presented India's 1st Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on implementation of SDGs on 19th July, 2017 in the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at New York.

## PROJECT APPRAISAL WING OF GOVT. OF INDIA

Since January 1, 2015, NITI Aayog has appraised 525 public funded projects with a total cost of Rs. 39,96,726 crore. In addition, 204 Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects with a total cost of Rs. 1,51,296 crore, including 158 central sector projects and 46 state sector projects have been appraised.



## MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF UNION TERRITORIES: DEVELOPMENT OF UT PROGRESS TRACKER

A Progress Tracker dashboard for Union Territories of India (UTs) has been developed, <http://progresstracker.in> to monitor and track the monthly progress of various developmental schemes/projects/initiatives of the government. The UTs feed the data, Ministries vet it and NITI Aayog/MHA undertakes monthly and quarterly monitoring. As of now, the tracker monitors the progress of 42 developmental schemes/projects/initiatives. This monitoring has impacted the delivery of services in UTs significantly.

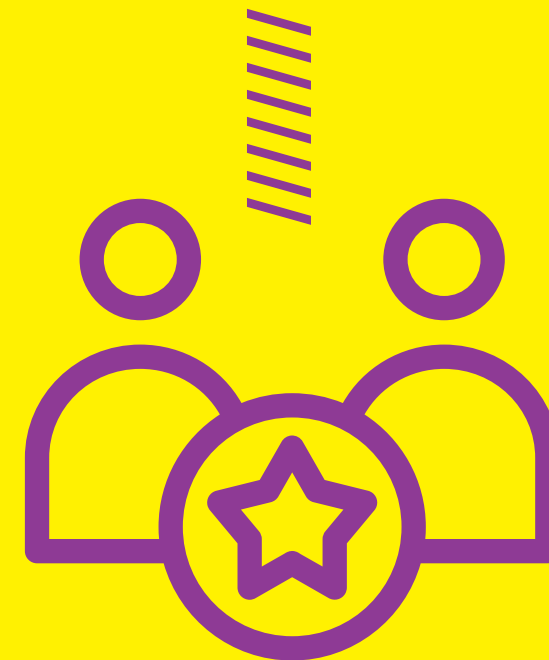
# PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND PROMOTING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION IN POLICY MAKING

NITI has provided the platform to collaborate with national and international think tanks on wide-ranging areas. Through conferences, workshops and joint research projects, NITI has enabled expert inputs in the policy making exercise of the government.

**'SAMAVESH'** - A major initiative aimed at networking and partnership with knowledge and research institutions using a hub and spoke model was launched. 34 Knowledge and Research Institutions have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NITI in knowledge sharing, and linking policy with practice.

**NITI Lecture Series on Transforming India** – Three lectures have been held where global thought leaders have addressed top policymakers on varied topics to instill debate and catalyse fresh thought in governance. The NITI Lecture Series has seen the Hon'ble Prime Minister gracing each lecture as an audience member along with other cabinet members and secretaries to the Government of India. The lecture series saw Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft and Mr. Michael Porter, Professor, Harvard Business School as keynote speakers besides other luminaries as panelists.

**Champions of Change** – In a unique initiative, two workshops of Young CEOs and Young Entrepreneurs were organised titled "Champions of Change" to make policy making responsive to stakeholder consultation. Prime Minister along with his senior Cabinet colleagues and Secretaries directly interacted with young influencers on varied themes, viz. New India by 2022; Digital India reaching last mile; Education & Skills; Energizing a Sustainable Tomorrow; Health and Nutrition; and Soft Power Incredible India, Make in India; Doubling Farmers' Income; World Class Infrastructure; Cities of Tomorrow and Reforming the Financial Sector. Recommendations made in this exercise are being implemented by the concerned Ministries.



**Conferences organised to build consensus on critical issues relating to judicial system** - A Global Conference on Arbitration was organised to discuss dispute resolution mechanisms in the country. Following this Global Arbitration Review (GAR) Awards, the most prestigious arbitration award in the world, declared India as the winner in the category 'Jurisdiction that has made great progress'. A Conference was also organised in association with Law Commission of India on the occasion of the National Law Day, 2017 on Balancing Roles of 3 Wings of the State towards India's Development.

**Oil and Natural Gas** - Two meetings (January, 2016 and October, 2017) with Global Oil & Gas Experts under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

**Some other initiatives in this regard were:**

- A meeting on "India Power Sector: Supporting a Low Carbon Transition" with IEA and other stakeholders on best practices in the field of flexible generation and storage solutions for RE.
- Five Regional Workshops conducted between February and April 2017 across India on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) in partnership with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy and United Nations Development Programme. Based on the discussion, a report was published.
- A report titled "Energising India" was prepared and launched under Joint Research Projects with Institute of Energy Economics Japan on assessing various (natural gas/ LNG, RE and coal) energy scenarios in both, India and Japan.
- For Energy Data Management in India, NITI has engaged with Energy Information Administration, and International Energy Agency (IEA). International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria is working with NITI Aayog to build up in-house Energy Modelling Capability, while Indian Space Research Organization has been entrusted with the responsibility of development of GIS Energy Map of India.
- In partnership with Govt. of Singapore, NITI Aayog organised Capacity Building workshops for State urban leaders wherein about 200 officers from 7 States attended different workshops in Delhi and Singapore.
- Providing thrust to Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor project: NITI has been the key driver of MAHSR Corridor project. The Government of India and Japan inked a Memorandum of Cooperation in December, 2015 for MAHSR Corridor project. This collaboration was based on the recommendation of the Empowered Committee for Innovative Collaborations led by VC, NITI. A 'High Level Joint Committee on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project' jointly led by VC, NITI and Special Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan is reviewing the project to accelerate the execution of this project with focus on issues like Make in India, transfer of technology, loan agreements, contractual issues, land acquisition and technical issues have been driven by NITI.

# KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION HUB

**One of the mandates of NITI was that it would 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 stakeholders. Several initiatives were taken to develop the repository of knowledge, some notable ones being :**

- Compendium on exhaustive set of case studies that reflect the States' best practices across all sectors, titled "State Forward: Best Practices from Our States"
- Developed the Good Practices Resource Book (2015) to consolidate the innovative Good Practices in Social Security, Infrastructure, Child Protection and Local Governance.
- A real-time Knowledge Portal to share best practices across sectors and States will be shortly launched reflecting the spirit of cooperative federalism, the portal will give the right to upload best practices to key government officials at State level including District Magistrate.
- Compendium "Skilling for Employability: Best Practices" highlighting best practices addressing challenges of equity, access, quality, relevance & finance by state governments, private sector & civil society was published by NITI.
- An India Energy Portal ([www.indiaenergy.gov.in](http://www.indiaenergy.gov.in)) was developed that houses these initiatives - India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 and Energy Dashboards; in its second version, the dashboards have also started to create an energy data repertoire.



## ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in NITI Aayog has strengthened the country's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by spurring innovation in schools, colleges, and driving the entrepreneurship movement.

- **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs):** To foster creativity and scientific temper in students, AIM has selected 2441 schools across India to set up ATLs, where students are designing prototypes to solve challenges they see around them, using rapid prototyping technologies that have emerged in recent years. More than 600 ATL in-charges have been trained nationwide to supervise the students.
- **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs):** AIM is providing financial support for setting up of AICs across India, which will help startups expand quicker and enable innovation-entrepreneurship, in core sectors such as manufacturing, transport, energy, education, agriculture, water and sanitation. 19 Atal Incubation Centres were selected in Round 1 and 50 more (out of 2500 applications) will be selected in January 2018.

## GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2017: WOMEN FIRST, PROSPERITY FOR ALL

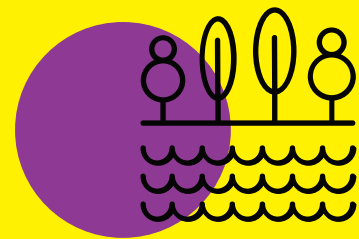
- NITI hosted the GES 2017 at Hyderabad during November 28-30, 2017 which was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the US Delegation was led by Advisor to the US President Ms. Ivanka Trump. GES connected top entrepreneurship talent with investors and startup ecosystem across the globe to innovate solutions to the challenges facing the world. Over 2500 entrepreneurs, investors and speakers from over 150 countries participated in the 53 sessions held over three days. Held under the theme Women First: Prosperity for All, the GES 2017 had 53% women entrepreneurs. A young Indian woman entrepreneur, Ms. Ajaita Shah, won the 2017 Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Catalyst Pitch Competition. This event has firmly placed India as a leader in the global entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- As a lead-up to GES, more than 50 events centering around entrepreneurship and innovation was organised in collaboration with various partner organisations all over the country. As a follow-up to GES a Women Entrepreneurship Cell has been set up in NITI Aayog.

# CATALYSING REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE



**The liberalisation era initiated in the 1990s had failed to impact the agriculture sector. Lack of transformational reforms relating to major problem areas like land tenancy and administration, agricultural marketing, etc led to farmer distress in selling their produce and realisation of adequate prices. As a consequence, the income of farmers remained much lower than the income of services and manufacturing sector workers. In view of the goal of the government to double farmers' income by 2022, a series of initiatives were taken by NITI to usher in critical reforms in the agriculture sector. Some major initiatives are:**

## MODEL ACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASING, 2017



To recognise the rights of the tenant and safeguard interests of landowners, NITI Aayog formulated a Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016 that would enable investment, technology, economy and employment in agriculture. Several States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have either already adopted or have initiated work to amend their respective laws.

## REFORMS OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING COMMITTEE ACT

NITI Aayog in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, States and other stakeholders launched in February, 2017 the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Committee (APLMC) Act 2017. States are being asked to adopt the APMC Act.

## AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND FARMER FRIENDLY REFORMS INDEX



NITI Aayog developed the first ever 'Agriculture Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index' to sensitise states about the need to undertake reforms in the three key areas of Agriculture Market Reforms, Land Lease Reforms and Forestry on Private Land (Felling and Transit of Trees). The aim of the index is to induce healthy competition between States and percolate best practices in implementing farmer-friendly reforms. This has already started showing its impact. Following the launch of the Index many states reformed the marketing laws, issued felling and transit guidelines for minor forest produce and on-farm timber produce. An ordinance was also effected by MoEFCC to modify the Indian Forest Act 1926 related to bamboo as non-tree produce.

## PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

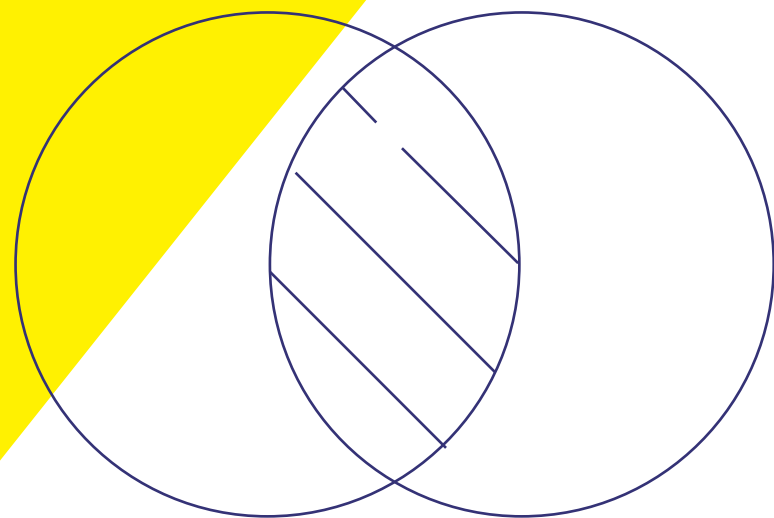
A roadmap for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana was prepared and shared with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments, the States and other stakeholders. The roadmap aims at achieving the objective of Har Khet Ko Pani as it contains strategies for storage, conveyance and on-farm application of water with emphasis on efficient and sustainable use of available water resources.

## OTHER POLICY PROPOSALS

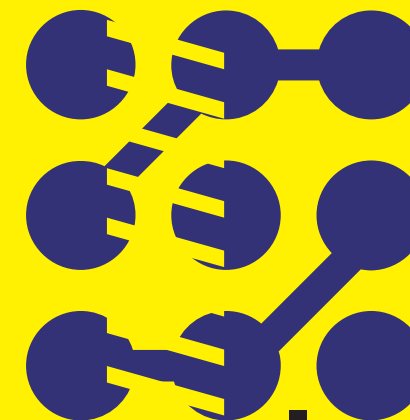
Policy Papers/Discussion Papers: In addition to the above, several papers have been prepared including on Doubling of Farmers' Income; Changing Structure of Rural Economy of India: Implications for Employment and Growth; Changing Crop Production Cost in India: Input Prices, Substitution and Technological Effects.

Rejuvenating Fertilizer Sector: To achieve the aim of India becoming self-sufficient in urea by 2022, NITI steered several committees for the revival of new plants at Gorakhpur, Sindri, Barauni and Ramagundam and selection of technology for Talcher plant. Pilot project of Introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in fertilizer was successfully completed in several States and taken forward for implementation across all States.

# PROMOTING ADOPTION OF FRONTIER TECHNOLOGY



## Promotion of Digital India



NITI acted as the key driver of the Digital Payments movement post-demonetisation. It undertook an extensive advocacy and outreach programme to promote pan-India digital payment. A mass literacy movement across Ministries, industry bodies, educational institutions and States was undertaken. 100 Digi Dhan Melas over 100 days in 100 cities were organised from December 25 to April 14. Launched a scheme to provide Central assistance to the districts for undertaking Information, Education and Communication to incentivise States/UTs and bring 5 crore Jan Dhan accounts to digital platforms. NITI also launched two other incentive schemes - the Lucky Grahak Yojana and the Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana - to promote digital payments across all sections of society. Over 16 lakh consumers and merchants won cash rewards amounting to Rs. 256 crore under these two schemes.

NITI constituted a Committee of Chief Ministers on Digital Payments with Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu, as the Convener to make recommendations on promoting digital payments. Several of the recommendations of the Interim report that was submitted to Hon'ble Prime Minister in January 2017 have since been implemented.

NITI also promoted the development of the BHIM App to enable ease of digital payments, especially in remote areas.

NITI launched the Less-cash Townships Scheme, and based on third party verification, 75 townships were certified as less-cash townships where more than 80 percent of transactions within the townships were through digital mode. Hon'ble Prime Minister declared these as less-cash townships on April 14, 2017.

# SHARED, CONNECTED AND CLEAN MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

NITI has led the initiative of evolving shared, connected and clean mobility solutions for the country to be adopted in smart cities. Report on Transformative Mobility Solutions in India titled “India Leaps Ahead: Transformative Mobility Solutions for All” as well as two policy briefs on India’s Energy Storage Mission: a Make in India Opportunity for Globally Competitive Battery Manufacturing and Valuing Society First: An Assessment of the Potential for a Feebate Policy in India have since been published. The above reports were prepared in collaboration with the think tank, viz, Rocky Mountain Institute, Colorado, USA.

A quick pilot on the proposal to develop electric vehicle infrastructure in Delhi-NCR from NOIDA to Gurgaon was developed and put in on NITI’s portal for industries’ reference. An India-France Workshop on Electric Mobility and various interactions with industries and foreign companies were held.

A ‘Term of Reference’ for policy formulation on Electric Mobility on Zero Emission of Next Generation Vehicles has been entered with METI, Japan.

# ADOPTION OF FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES IN GOVERNANCE

**Promotion of artificial intelligence (AI) for social sector:** NITI has also led the initiative of making India a leader in the global space on the AI research, with a focus on adopting AI to address problems faced in developing countries. To set the context and develop the requisite ecosystem for utilising AI technology for key sectors, viz. education, health and agriculture, NITI held international scale hackathons on AI, organised a national case study competition on use of AI in the field of AgriTech and is working with different organisations to design proof-of-concepts utilising AI technology in different sectors. Use cases have also been shortlisted in health, education, and agriculture to develop proof-of-concepts in coordination with the respective ministries which they can then take up as projects. NITI has already begun exploring ways in which advanced encryption technologies can be used so that data can be used for training AI algorithms while maintaining individual privacy.

**National Data and Analytics Portal:** Work on developing a National Data and Analytics Portal is at an advanced stage. The portal besides being a single point source of sectoral data for researchers, policymakers and citizens will also enable training dataset sharing between different organizations for AI applications. This will be a world-class platform facilitating a policy support system through accurate sourcing, storing, analysing and presentation of data in a usable and visually appealing manner. This platform will meet internationally accepted standards for safeguarding the privacy of individuals and entities and ensuring the security of data, systems and platforms. The sourcing of data will be from the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and the agencies and organisations under the administrative control of such Ministries and Departments. The NDAP will be accessible to all individuals and public and private entities.

**Blockchain for social good:** NITI is exploring ways in which blockchain can transform governance for India. An international hackathon was conducted at IIT Delhi from November 10 to 12, 2017 on blockchain in which working prototypes were solicited from premier international and national institutes on social applications of blockchain. Currently NITI is working on a strategy paper for blockchain in India which will outline use cases as well as map out the schemes of Government of India that stand to benefit from the utilisation of the technology. Partner organisations from private sector as well as state/UT Governments are being identified to implement proof-of-concepts utilizing blockchain technology in different sectors. NITI is parallelly working on a platform called ‘IndiaChain’, which will be a shared, India-specific blockchain infrastructure, utilising the power of the Jan-Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, and Mobile trinity and enable blockchain developers to build social applications.

# OTHER NEW INITIATIVES

**Methanol Economy:** To reduce the dependency on fossil fuel and to minimise imports, an Apex Committee and 5 Task Forces are working on a roadmap for the implementation of Methanol Economy. Initiatives identified include production of methanol from high ash coal and municipal solid waste, storage, transportation and R&D on methanol engines. Minister of Shipping has decided on the use of methanol blended fuel for in-land waterways transportation. The Government is contemplating a ‘Methanol Economy Fund’ to promote indigenously-produced methanol that could reduce 10 percent of India’s crude oil imports, thereby reducing the fuel bill by around 30 percent by 2030.

**Roadmap for “Make in India” in body armour:** A report has been submitted to the Government on the roadmap for Make in India in body armour. Recommendations have been made on promoting indigenous production of body armour and meet the requirements of defence, para-military and security agencies. The recommendations have been accepted and under implementation.

