

## **Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate NITI Aayog's two-day International Seminar – India's Leap into the Methanol Economy: Opportunities and Options for Energy Security**

**New Delhi**

**September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

NITI Aayog, in association with Department of Science and Technology, TIFAC, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the Methanol Institute (USA) and the Catalytic Think Tank (Bengaluru) is jointly organising an International Seminar on '*India's Leap into the Methanol Economy: Opportunities and Options for Energy Security*' on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

India is in the cusp of a gigantic transformation towards a developed nation. Securing India's energy needs and bringing down the import bill is one of the key focus of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. 'The Methanol Economy' promises to help India to mitigate its petroleum import costs and at the same time counter problem associated with global warming due to excess CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. India can use its abundant coal reserves and non-edible biomass to produce methanol.

Realising the potential of using methanol and DME as a transportation fuel in road transport, shipping and rail, NITI Aayog has constituted an Expert Group to develop a roadmap document for India to adopt Methanol Economy. The three groups under Production, Utilization and R&D will explore various techno commercial angles to enhance production of Methanol through Natural gas, High ash content coal and through Bio, Agri and Municipal Solid Waste. It will also draw out a technical road map to adopt both Methanol and DME as a transportation fuel, Chemical feedstock & power generation.

Through this forum, an attempt is being made to understand the viability of Methanol Economy in India, its potential uses in transport and energy sector and emerging business opportunities for India. Over the two days, technical sessions will cover the world and Indian scenario of Methanol and DME production, utility of Methanol in different sectors, technical and regulatory viability of production and policy roadmap for Methanol Economy. The discussions are expected to contribute to the development of roadmap document by the Expert Group.

The two-day event will see more than 60 global participants and 500 domestic delegates from Government of India, Academia and leaders of Indian Industry. CEO, Methanol Institute (USA), Mr. Greg Dolan, Methanol Market Services Asia, Mr. Mark Berggren, ScandiNAOS, Sweden, Mr. Bengt Ramne, , Prof. G.K. Surya Prakash, George A Olah & Judith A Olah, Noble Laureate Chair, University of Southern California, USA, Dr Raghunath Mashelkar, President - Global Research Alliance & Former DG, CSIR are slated to speak at the seminar.

Hon. Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri. Ananth Kumar, Hon Minister of Railways, Government of India, Shri. Suresh Prabhu, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. V. K. Saraswat, CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST, Mr. Upendra Tripathi, Secretary, MNRE, Secretary, Road Transport, Mr. Sanjay Mitra, Secretary, Coal, Mr. Anil Swarup, and Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog, Dr. C. Muralikrishna Kumar will be present in the meeting.