



## 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

**For Prelims:** [NITI Aayog](#), [Viksit Bharat @2047](#), [Zero Poverty](#), [Aspirational Districts Programme](#), [Natural Farming](#), [Cybersecurity](#), [Cooperative Federalism](#), [SDG India Index](#), [Atal Innovation Mission](#), [Aspirational District Programme](#).

**For Mains:** Role of [NITI Aayog](#) in [Cooperative Federalism](#), Extra-Constitutional Body

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the 9th Governing Council Meeting of [NITI Aayog](#), chaired by the [Prime Minister](#), convened leaders from 20 states and 6 union territories to discuss the "[Viksit Bharat @2047](#)" theme, aiming to establish a framework for India's development as a developed nation by 2047.

### What are the Key Outcomes of the Meeting?

- **Vision of a USD 30 Trillion Economy:** India aims to become the **world's third-largest economy by 2047**, with a [GDP](#) target of USD 30 trillion. This ambition highlights the country's focus on **sustained economic growth, innovation, and global competitiveness**.
- **State Visions for 2047:** The meeting encouraged **each state and district to formulate its vision for 2047**, aligning with the national vision of a developed India.
  - Emphasising the importance of states in achieving national goals, the Prime Minister reiterated that developed **states are crucial for a developed India**.
- **Zero Poverty Objective:** A significant takeaway from the meeting was the **emphasis on eradicating poverty** at an individual level. The concept of '**zero poverty**' villages was discussed, aiming for **holistic development** starting at the grassroots.
- **Infrastructure and Investment:** The Prime Minister stressed the **importance of infrastructure, law and order, and good governance** as key factors in attracting investments.
  - An '**Investment-friendly Charter**' was proposed to **encourage states to create an investor-friendly environment**, monitored through parameters fostering healthy competition among states.
- **Education and Skill Development:** There was a **strong emphasis on skilling the youth to make them employment-ready**, leveraging India's demographic dividend as a global skilled resource hub.
- **Agricultural Productivity and Natural Farming:** Enhancing productivity, **diversifying agriculture, and promoting natural farming practices** were discussed as means to improve soil fertility, reduce costs, and access global markets.
- **Ease of Living:** Recommendations from the **3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries were considered**, focusing on **5 key themes such as drinking water, electricity, health, schooling, and land/property management**.
  - The Prime Minister encouraged States to **initiate Demographic Management Plans** to address the issues of population ageing in the future.

- The Prime Minister asked the States to **take up capacity building of government officials** at all levels and encouraged them to collaborate with the [Capacity Building Commission](#) for the same.
- The Prime Minister encouraged the **creation of River Grids** at the State level for the effective utilisation of water resources.
- **Cybersecurity and AI in Governance:** The integration of technology in governance, **addressing cybersecurity challenges, and leveraging AI** for efficient governance were highlighted as critical areas for future readiness.

## Note

- Under the overarching **theme of 'Ease of Living'**, recommendations were made during the **3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries** on the following **five key themes**:
  - **Drinking Water:** Access, Quantity, and Quality
  - **Electricity:** Quality, Efficiency, and Reliability
  - **Health:** Accessibility, Affordability, and Quality of Care
  - **Schooling:** Access and Quality
  - **Land and Property:** Accessibility, Digitization, Registration, and Mutation

## What is the Governing Council of NITI Aayog?

- **About:**
  - The [Governing Council](#) is the premier body tasked with **evolving a shared vision of national priorities** and strategies, with the active involvement of States, in **shaping the development narrative**.
  - The Governing Council, which embodies the **objectives of cooperative federalism**, presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda.
- **Members:**
  - Prime Minister of India (Chairperson)
  - Chief Ministers (States and Union Territories with legislature)
  - Lt Governors of other UTs
  - Ex-Officio Members
  - Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
  - Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog
  - Special Invitees
- **Functions:**
  - The **Governing Council Secretariat (GCS)** coordinates the meetings of the Governing Council.
    - It also **coordinates the activities of all the Verticals**, Divisions and Units of NITI Aayog.
  - GCS acts as the nodal division for coordinating matters related to the Annual Report of NITI Aayog for circulation in the Parliament.
  - The Division also **handles Parliament Questions, Standing Committee matters, RTI queries, CPGRAMS grievances**, pertaining to GCS.

## What is NITI Aayog?

- **About:**
  - The [Planning Commission](#) was replaced by a new institution called [NITI Aayog](#) on 1st January 2015 with an emphasis on a **'Bottom-Up' approach** to envisage the **vision of Maximum Governance and minimum Government**, echoing the spirit of **'Cooperative Federalism'**.
  - **It has two Hubs:**
    - **Team India Hub** acts as an interface between States and the Centre.

- **Knowledge and Innovation Hub** builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.

▪ **Initiatives:**

- [SDG India Index](#)
- [Composite Water Management Index](#)
- [Atal Innovation Mission](#)
- [SATH Project.](#)
- [Aspirational District Programme](#)
- [School Education Quality Index](#)
- [District Hospital Index](#)
- [Health Index](#)
- [Agriculture Marketing And Farmer-Friendly Reform Index](#)
- [India Innovation Index](#)
- [Women Transforming India Awards](#)
- [Good Governance Index](#)

**Drishti Mains Question:**

Q. Discuss the role of NITI Aayog in fostering cooperative federalism in India. How has it contributed to enhancing the quality of governance at both the central and state levels?

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Prelims:**

**Q. Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the (2019)**

- (a) Department of Science and Technology
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. The Government of India has established NITI Aayog to replace the (2015)**

- (a) Human Rights Commission
- (b) Finance Commission
- (c) Law Commission
- (d) Planning Commission

**Ans: (d)**

**Mains:**

**Q. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India & explain the nature of convergence, collaboration & competition for its success. (2018)**

