

Bihar's Progress in Basic Indicators

Why in News?

Recently, <u>NITI Aayog's</u> CEO highlighted Bihar's achievements in key development areas such as education, health and governance.

Key Points

- Performance in Education and Health: Bihar is making notable progress in basic indicators like education and health, expected to catch up with national standards in a few years.
- Aspirational Blocks: Improved governance and service delivery are transforming aspirational blocks into inspirational ones.
- Al in Governance: Bihar is the first Indian state to implement an Al-driven decision support system for policymakers and mid-career officers.
- BIPARD's Role: The Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development
 (BIPARD) introduces three advanced labs focused on data-driven governance, simulation-based training, and collaborative policy formulation.
 - Introduction of New Labs at BIPARD:
 - **GenNext Lab**: This lab will leverage secure <u>artificial intelligence</u> to train administrators in data-driven decision-making, predictive analysis, and governance optimization.
 - Niti Shala Lab: An immersive learning environment using advanced simulation technologies. Trainees will engage with real-world scenarios to enhance their governance skills.
 - Viksit Chintan Kaksh: A collaborative space for state officers to strategize and deliberate on pivotal policy decisions. Equipped with communication and datasharing tools to drive policy consensus and governance reforms.

NITI Aayog

Background:

- Planning Commission was replaced by a new institution NITI Aayog on 1st January, 2015 with emphasis on 'Bottom -Up' approach to envisage the vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, echoing the spirit of 'Cooperative Federalism'.
- It has two Hubs.
 - Team India Hub acts as interface between States and Centre.
 - Knowledge and Innovation Hub builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.

Composition:

- **Chairperson**: Prime minister
- **Vice-Chairperson**: To be appointed by Prime-Minister
- Governing Council: Chief Ministers of all states and Lt. Governors of Union Territories.
- **Regional Council:** To address specific regional issues, Comprising Chief Minister and Lt. Governors Chaired by the Prime Minister or his nominee.
- **Ad-hoc Membership**: Two members in ex-officio capacity from leading Research institutions on a rotational.
- **Ex-Officio membership**: Maximum four from the Union council of ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

- **Chief Executive Officer**: Appointed by the Prime-minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- **Special Invitees**: Experts, Specialists with domain knowledge nominated by the Prime Minister.

Objectives:

- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded Think Tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions
- To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.
- To offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- To 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.

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