



THE BHAWANIPUR
EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE



ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS '25



NITI AAYOG

Letter from the Executive Board

Hello, respected and distinguished Members,

We warmly welcome you to the simulation of the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI AAYOG at BESC AON 2025. Indian policy committees have a unique essence, providing an invaluable opportunity to understand the policies, legal frameworks, and governance mechanisms of our country. It is our expectation that you have already begun your preliminary research into the agenda and related topics, as a well-informed debate is the foundation of an effective committee.

At the outset, it is crucial to recognize the Mandate of the Committee. You are not expected to be mere replicas of the individuals you represent but rather to embody a more refined, professional, and articulate version of yourself and at the same time, represent the duty given to your office with the best of your abilities. Your arguments should reflect critical thinking and reasoned analysis rather than imitation.

Your Executive Board is here to guide the flow of debate, providing substantive input only through updates and questions. While we firmly believe that the quality of debate is of paramount importance, MUNs go beyond just discussions—they serve as a platform for learning and intellectual growth. The knowledge you gain, the perspectives you develop, and the opinions you refine here will contribute to shaping you as the future leaders of a better tomorrow. Thus, we will not only act as moderators or judges but also as mentors, ensuring that each of you benefits from this experience.

We expect active participation from all delegates, and for those new to MUNs, rest assured that we are here to support and guide you throughout the process. This background guide should serve only as a starting point for your research. At no point should it be the sole basis of your arguments. True intellectual engagement comes from delving deeper into the agenda, questioning existing narratives, and presenting well-reasoned viewpoints. Our expectation is not just the presentation of facts but a thorough analysis of their implications.

The agendas selected for this committee have been carefully curated based on their relevance to the current socio-political landscape of India. We expect all delegates to do justice to these topics by engaging in meaningful and solution-oriented discussions.

Lastly, as members of the Executive Board, we place the highest priority on professionalism and decorum. We expect all members to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, and a spirit of healthy debate. The spirit of such simulation lies in constructive discussions, persuasive argumentation, and a commitment to democratic values.

Regards,

JAI HIND!

Mr. Saptan Biswas
(Prime Minister of India)

Mr. Shounak Banerjee Chowdhury
(CEO OF NITI AAYOG)

Concept Note on NITI Aayog

Introduction

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is the apex policy think tank of the Government of India, established on January 1, 2015, replacing the erstwhile Planning Commission. It was created to adapt to the evolving socio-economic landscape and make governance more participatory, dynamic, and evidence-based. NITI Aayog focuses on policy formulation, cooperative and competitive federalism, fostering innovation, and monitoring the country's progress in economic and social development.

For a college-level committee simulation, understanding the structure, objectives, and operational framework of NITI Aayog is crucial. This concept note provides an in-depth overview of its mandate, composition, functional areas, and decision-making processes, helping participants simulate the workings of its apex body effectively.

Historical Context and Need for NITI Aayog

The Planning Commission, established in 1950, followed a centralized approach to development by formulating Five-Year Plans for resource allocation and policy implementation. However, by the early 21st century, several challenges emerged:

1. **Rigid Centralized Planning** – The top-down approach failed to accommodate regional diversity.
2. **Lack of State Involvement** – States had minimal participation in decision-making.
3. **Inefficiency in Implementation** – Plans were often delayed due to bureaucratic red tape.
4. **Economic Liberalization** – Post-1991 reforms demanded flexible, market-driven policies.

Recognizing these limitations, the Government of India replaced the Planning Commission with NITI Aayog, which promotes a bottom-up, participatory, and decentralized approach to governance.

Mandate and Objectives of NITI Aayog :

1. Cooperative and Competitive Federalism

- Strengthens collaboration between the Central and State Governments, ensuring policies align with regional aspirations.
- Encourages states to compete based on performance indices in governance, health, education, and infrastructure.

2. Strategic and Long-Term Policy Formulation

- Develops innovative and evidence-based development strategies.

- Aligns national policies with global trends, technological advancements, and sustainability goals.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation of Programs

- Tracks the effectiveness of government policies and suggests improvements based on data-driven insights.
- Uses indices like Aspirational Districts Programme to measure socio-economic progress.

4. Catalyzing Economic Growth

- Works on reforms in agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, and digital economy.
- Supports initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat to boost self-reliance.

5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

- Aligns India's development strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Tracks India's SDG progress through periodic reports and indices.

6. Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Supports initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), promoting startups, technology incubation, and skill development.
- Encourages Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

Composition of NITI Aayog

The governance structure of NITI Aayog comprises various key stakeholders who play a critical role in policy formulation and decision-making.

1. Chairperson

- The Prime Minister of India leads NITI Aayog.
- Provides strategic direction, ensures alignment with national priorities, and chairs key meetings.

2. Vice Chairperson

- Appointed by the Prime Minister, the Vice Chairperson acts as the executive head of NITI Aayog.
- Oversees policy formulation, research, and strategic initiatives.

3. Full-Time Members

- Experts in economics, governance, technology, and social policy.
- Work on specialized policy domains and provide technical expertise.

4. Part-Time Members

- Distinguished scholars, researchers, and industry leaders from reputed institutions.
- Contribute insights based on expertise in various sectors.

5. Ex-Officio Members

- Four Union Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister, representing key ministries such as Finance, Agriculture, Health, and Education.

6. Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- Appointed by the Prime Minister for implementation and administration of NITI Aayog's policies.
- Acts as the bridge between policy formulation and execution.

7. Governing Council

- Comprises Chief Ministers of all states, Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories, and senior central government officials.
- Ensures that policies reflect the interests of both central and state governments.

8. Special Invitees

- Eminent personalities from industry, academia, and civil society, invited to provide sector-specific insights.

Key Functional Areas of NITI Aayog

1. Policy Development and Implementation

- Designs sector-specific policies in infrastructure, education, health, digital transformation, and urban development.
- Ensures alignment with national and international development priorities.

2. Economic Analysis and Research

- Conducts economic studies to guide fiscal policies.
- Provides recommendations for budget allocations, tax reforms, and financial inclusion.

3. Promoting State-Centric Development

- Implements the Aspirational Districts Programme, focusing on improving healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure in underdeveloped regions.
- Encourages state-level reforms and governance improvements.

4. Digital India and Innovation

- Supports digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain technology for governance.
- Works on initiatives like Digi Locker, Aadhaar, and UPI to promote financial inclusion.

5. Sustainable and Green Growth

- Leads efforts in climate change, renewable energy, and environmental conservation.
- Encourages investments in solar, wind, and hydro energy projects.

Role of the Apex Body in the Committee Simulation

In the college-level simulation, participants will replicate the decision-making process of the Apex Body of NITI Aayog. The committee will deliberate on pressing policy issues and formulate strategic recommendations.

Agendas for Discussion:

- 1) Discussion on the Strategies for Achieving Net-Zero Emissions by 2070: Transitioning to a Green Economy.**
- 2) Discussion on a framework for improving Healthcare Accessibility and Affordability in Rural and Remote Areas.**

Expected Outcome

- Formulation of policy recommendations and strategy reports.

AGENDA 1: Discussion on the Strategies for Achieving Net-Zero Emissions by 2070: Transitioning to a Green Economy.

Achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 is a crucial target for mitigating climate change and ensuring sustainable development. Net-zero refers to balancing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with removal processes, such as carbon capture or reforestation. This transition involves systemic changes across energy production, industry, transportation, and consumer behaviour. For India, one of the world's fastest-growing economies, achieving this goal while maintaining economic growth requires innovative policies and investment in clean energy, sustainable infrastructure, and behavioural changes.

Net zero means to balance between the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) that's produced and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere. It can be achieved through a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.

From countries and companies to individuals, tackling climate change is at the top of the agenda. Action taken to limit emissions in the next decade will be critical to the future, which is why every country, sector, industry and each one of us must work together to find ways to cut the carbon we produce.

Key Strategies for Achieving Net-Zero by 2070 1. Decarbonizing the Energy Sector 2. Electrification of Transportation 3. Industrial Decarbonization 4. Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use 5. Circular Economy and Waste Management 6. Behavioural and Lifestyle Changes 7. Carbon Pricing and Policy Frameworks

Role of NITI Aayog in India's Net-Zero Transition

NITI Aayog, India's premier policy think tank, plays a pivotal role in shaping strategies for achieving net-zero by 2070. Its approach focuses on technology-driven solutions, policy frameworks, and cross-sectoral collaborations.

Key contributions include:

- **Energy Transition Roadmap:** NITI Aayog has formulated strategies to scale up renewable energy adoption and green hydrogen production.
- **EV Policy Advocacy:** The think tank has been instrumental in promoting electric mobility, developing the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme.
- **Circular Economy Initiatives:** It has developed action plans for sectors such as electronics, batteries, and plastics to reduce waste and enhance sustainability.
- **State-Level Decarbonization Strategies:** Through initiatives like the State Energy and Climate Index, NITI Aayog encourages states to implement localized clean energy policies.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** It facilitates collaborations between industries, research institutions, and international partners to finance and implement clean energy solutions.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite ambitious targets, achieving net-zero by 2070 presents challenges such as:

- **High Initial Costs**
- **Energy Security Concerns**
- **Developmental Needs**
- **Technology Gaps**
- **Behavioural Resistance**
- **Synergy within States**

To overcome these, India must enhance policy formulation and implementation through bodies like NITI Aayog.

Transitioning to a green economy is essential for India to meet its 2070 net-zero target while ensuring economic growth and energy security. Strategies focusing on renewable energy, industrial transformation, sustainable agriculture, and policy frameworks will be key. NITI Aayog's role in shaping long-term sustainability policies, encouraging innovation, and coordinating efforts across sectors will be instrumental in this transition. By aligning economic growth with climate resilience, India can become a global leader in sustainable development.

AGENDA 2: Discussion on a framework for improving Healthcare Accessibility and Affordability in Rural and Remote Areas.

Introduction

Healthcare accessibility and affordability remain major challenges in rural and remote areas, where limited infrastructure, economic constraints, and a shortage of healthcare professionals hinder the delivery of essential medical services. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive framework integrating technology, policy interventions, and community-based approaches.

Rural Health Care System

The health care infrastructure in rural areas has been developed as a three tier system and is based on the following population norms:

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal/Difficult Area
Sub-Centre	5000	3000
Primary Health Centre	30,000	20,000
Community Health Centre	1,20,000	80,000

Sub-Centres

(SCs)

The Sub-Centre is the most peripheral and first contact point between the primary health care system and the community. Each Sub-Centre is required to be manned by at least one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) / Female Health Worker and one Male Health Worker.

One Lady Health Visitor (LHV) is entrusted with the task of supervision of six Sub-Centres. Sub-Centres are assigned tasks relating to interpersonal communication in order to bring about behavioural change and provide services in relation to maternal and child health, family welfare, nutrition, immunization, diarrhoea control and control of communicable diseases programmes. The Sub-Centres are provided with basic drugs for minor ailments needed for taking care of essential health needs of men, women and children.

Primary Health Centres (PHCs)

PHC is the first contact point between village community and the Medical Officer. The PHCs were envisaged to provide an integrated curative and preventive health care to the rural population with emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects of health care.

The PHCs are established and maintained by the State Governments under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)/ Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme. As per minimum requirement, a PHC is to be manned by a Medical Officer supported by 14 paramedical and other staff. It acts as a referral unit for 6 Sub Centres and has 4 - 6 beds for patients. The activities of PHC involve curative, preventive, promotive and Family Welfare Services.

Community Health Centres (CHCs)

CHCs are being established and maintained by the State Government under MNP/BMS programme. As per minimum norms, a CHC is required to be manned by four Medical Specialists i.e. Surgeon, Physician, Gynaecologist, and Paediatrician, supported by 21 paramedical and other staff. It has 30 in-door beds with one OT, X-ray, Labour Room and Laboratory facilities. It serves as a referral centre for 4 PHCs and also provides facilities for obstetric care and specialist consultations.

Key Challenges in Rural Healthcare

1. **Lack of Infrastructure:** Many rural areas lack primary healthcare centres (PHCs), hospitals, and diagnostic facilities, leading to inadequate treatment and delayed medical intervention.
2. **Shortage of Medical Professionals:** Rural areas face a significant shortage of doctors, nurses, and specialists due to poor working conditions and financial incentives.
3. **High Out-of-Pocket Expenses:** Many rural residents rely on private healthcare due to the absence of government facilities, leading to financial strain.
4. **Limited Access to Medicines and Diagnostics:** Supply chain inefficiencies result in shortages of essential medicines and medical equipment in remote areas.
5. **Geographical Barriers:** Poor transportation and connectivity make it difficult for patients to access healthcare services in distant urban centres.
6. **Lack of Health Awareness:** Low literacy levels and inadequate health education contribute to delayed diagnoses and poor health-seeking behaviour.

Role of NITI Aayog in Strengthening Rural Healthcare

NITI Aayog plays a pivotal role in policy formulation and implementation to improve rural healthcare accessibility and affordability. Its key contributions include:

1. Ayushman Bharat and Healthcare Financing

- NITI Aayog has been instrumental in designing the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which provides health coverage for over 50 crore Indians.
- The think tank has proposed innovative financing models to strengthen public health infrastructure.

2. Digital Health Initiatives

- NITI Aayog is leading the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), which aims to create a digital ecosystem for seamless healthcare access in rural areas.
- The agency is promoting the adoption of telemedicine solutions, such as the eSanjeevani platform, to connect patients with doctors remotely.

3. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Healthcare

- NITI Aayog has developed PPP models for hospital management, diagnostics, and health service delivery, helping attract private investments in underserved areas.
- It encourages private sector participation in setting up medical colleges and training institutions in rural districts.

4. Strengthening Primary Healthcare

- The think tank has proposed a Three-Tier Healthcare Model, emphasizing the expansion of Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) at the village level.
- Its initiatives focus on enhancing the availability of essential medicines and diagnostics in PHCs.

5. Policy Recommendations for Healthcare Workforce Development

- NITI Aayog advocates for bridge courses to train mid-level healthcare providers who can serve in rural areas.
- It has recommended increasing medical seats in government institutions to produce more doctors willing to serve in remote regions.

Despite significant progress, several challenges persist:

- Funding Constraints
- Regulatory and Implementation Barriers
- Technological Readiness
- Behavioural Resistance to Telemedicine

To overcome these barriers, NITI AAYOG must come up with suitable policies and implementation models.

NOTE: You will find additional research materials in the drive link. These are only preliminary research materials. You are expected to delve deeper into the agenda.