**Concept Note:**

**Ranking and Scoring System for NIRI**

# **Background and Context**

Infrastructure development in India serves as a vital driver of economic growth, a foundation for regional balance, and a key pillar of sustainable development. To assess the preparedness of States and Union Territories (UTs) in infrastructure development, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has conceptualized the National Infrastructure Readiness Index (NIRI). NIRI aims to provide a standardized, data-driven framework to evaluate and rank infrastructure readiness across four key dimensions: Infrastructure Financing, Infrastructure Development, PPP Development, and Infrastructure Enablers.

NIRI portal is designed to measure and compare how prepared different States and UTs are when it comes to infrastructure development. It helps the government and policymakers:

* Identify strengths and gaps,
* Allocate resources better,
* Encourage healthy competition,
* Promote transparency and accountability.

# **Problem Statement**

Currently, there is no comprehensive mechanism to objectively assess and compare infrastructure preparedness across States and Union Territories. The absence of a transparent, scalable, and automated scoring framework limits the ability to identify critical gaps, benchmark performance, and inform evidence-based policy interventions. The key challenge is to develop a robust scoring engine capable of processing diverse indicators, applying standardized evaluation logic, and generating transparent, actionable insights to guide decision-making.

# **Objectives of the Proposed Framework**

* Develop a scoring engine that computes scores based on predefined formulas and logic.
* Enable ranking of States/UTs based on a total score out of 1000.
* Ensure transparency by storing raw values alongside computed scores.
* Facilitate decision-making through dashboards and workflows.
* Support policy formulation by identifying strengths and gaps in infrastructure readiness.

# **Proposed Methodology and Approach**

The National Infrastructure Readiness Index (NIRI) will score states across four categories of 250 marks each: Infrastructure Financing (budget support, private investment, innovative tools), Infrastructure Development (transport, energy, digital, social facilities, regional balance), PPP Development (project pipeline, policies, risk-sharing, execution), and Infrastructure Enablers (institutions, governance, ease of clearances, sustainability, technology use).

# **Categories and indicators:**

* **Infrastructure Financing (250 marks):** Evaluates the availability, diversity, and effectiveness of financial mechanisms to fund infrastructure projects. This includes budgetary allocations, state/central funding support, private capital inflows, innovative instruments (bonds, REITs, InvITs), and long-term financing sustainability.
* **Infrastructure Development (250 marks):** Assesses the physical creation and expansion of infrastructure across core sectors. Focuses on quantity, quality, timeliness, and regional balance of projects.
* **PPP Development (250 marks):** Measures the maturity and effectiveness of Public–Private Partnership models in infrastructure delivery. Includes pipeline of PPP projects, institutional frameworks, risk-sharing mechanisms, ease of contract execution, and investor confidence.
* **Infrastructure Enablers (250 marks):** Reviews the supporting ecosystem that makes infrastructure growth possible. This includes governance mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, policy stability, institutional capacity, skilled workforce availability, use of technology (GIS, digital monitoring), environmental clearances, and ease of doing business.

# **Indicators and Scoring Mechanism**

* Indicators include percentage-based metrics (e.g., Capex to GSDP), binary evaluations (Yes/No), and count-based scoring (e.g., number of officers trained).
* Each indicator has a defined formula mentioned in BRD.
* Scores are computed using generalized logic and stored with raw inputs for auditability.

# **Data Sources**

* Data captured via structured forms filled by State/UT nodal officers.
* Supporting documents (e.g., policies, notifications, DPRs) uploaded for validation.
* Auto-calculated fields and inline validations ensure data integrity.

# **Technology Stack**

* Web-based application with scoring engine, and dashboard.
* Backend database to store raw and computed values.
* Role-based workflow: Nodal Officer → Reviewer → Approver → Scoring & ranking.

# **Expected Outcomes and Benefits**

* Standardized assessment of infrastructure readiness across India.
* Improved transparency and accountability in infrastructure planning.
* Data-driven insights for targeted interventions and resource allocation.
* Benchmarking tool for States/UTs to learn and improve.
* Enhanced policy formulation through evidence-based evaluation.

# **Key Stakeholders and Roles**

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| **Stakeholder** | **Role** |
| State/UT Nodal Officers | Data entry, document upload. |
| MoSPI Reviewer | Validates data submitted by Nodal Officer. |
| MoSPI Approvers | Validation and approval of submissions. |

# **Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

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| **Risk** | **Mitigation** |
| Incomplete or inaccurate data | Inline validations, mandatory fields, training |
| Resistance to adoption | Stakeholder engagement, capacity building |
| Technical glitches | Robust testing, fallback mechanisms |
| Data security concerns | Role-based access, encryption, secure hosting |
| Delays in approvals | Automated reminders, escalation workflows |

**Prompt Reference:**



