

'NITI Aayog' has replaced the Yojana Aayog (Planning Commission) – New Institution replaces the Old

Posted on January 6, 2015 by Neeraj Mishra



On January 1 2015, the Government of India replaced the 64-year-old Yojana Aayog (Planning Commission) with a new institution named NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India).

The NITI Aayog has a distinctly innovative structure to enable states to participate in policy making which would help India become a challenging economic power.

The objective of the NITI Aayog is "to provide a critical directional and strategic participation into the development process". It will act as a "think-tank" and advise the Centre and states on policy matters.

Structure of NITI Aayog –

i. Chairman – The Prime Minister will be the chairman of NITI Aayog.

ii. 1 Vice Chairman

– Arvind

Panagariya (eminent economist) is

the first Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog.

iii. 2 Full

time members – Bibek Debroy, an Economist, and **V.K. Saraswat**, Former Secretary Defence R&D, are the full time members of the Aayog.

iv. Ex-officio 4 members – Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Arun Jaitley, Suresh Prabhu and Radha Mohan Singh have been named Ex-officio members.

iv. Special Invitees – Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Thawar Chand Gehlot and Smriti Irani are special invitees.

v. It will also have a Governing Council, comprising Chief Ministers of each of the states and Heads of all Union Territories. The Governing Council replaces the earlier National Development Council.

Difference**between NITI Aayog and Planning Commission –**

- In 1950, the Planning Commission was set up by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, to formulate Five-Year Plans.
- The Planning Commission was set up to help formulate a strong Centre-driven plan and frame policies that would impact each of the states. Under the Planning Commission, the flow of policy was directed from the centre to the states.

The NITI Aayog has been programmed for open and ongoing involvement and partnership of every state of India, which means that now state governments can play a direct and active role in achieving national objectives while catering to their unique needs. States need not merely be dictated to by the Centre.

- The big difference, thus, is that States will now have a greater role in formulating plans.
- Earlier, the Planning Commission formulated plans and then asked the States to implement them (provided they agreed); now, the States themselves will be able to actively participate in planning. Hence, communication gaps would no longer exist and plans would be implemented more effectively.

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