

Niti Aayog Schemes

Aspirational Districts Programme

- The aim is to quickly and effectively transform some of India's most underdeveloped districts.
- It will identify areas of immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.
- The broad ideas of the programme include -
 - i. convergence of central and state schemes
 - ii. collaboration of central, state level 'Prabhari' (in-charge) officers and district collectors
 - iii. competition among districts
- The 115 districts were chosen by senior officials of the Union government in consultation with State officials based on a composite Index.
- The parameters included are
 - i. deprivation enumerated under Socio-Economic Caste Census
 - ii. key health and education performance indicators
 - iii. state of basic infrastructure
- The baseline ranking is based on 49 indicators across 5 sectors - health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure.
- A minimum of one district was chosen from every State.
- The baseline ranking would be followed by delta ranking of these districts based on their "incremental progress".
- The progress of each district will be monitored by the dashboard which has all the latest available data in the 5 sectors given by the District Collectors.
- For each district, a four-tier supervisory mechanism has been put in place with a Central Nodal Officer from the Union Government, a State Nodal Officer from concerned State Govt, a District Nodal Officer / District Collector and a Union Minister-in-charge.

Price deficiency Payment Scheme

- The NITI Aayog has recently released a three-year action agenda for the Centre suggesting the 'Price Deficiency Payment' (PDP) system.
- Under this, farmers will be compensated for the difference between the MSPs for select crops and their actual market prices.
- For crops such as rice and wheat where MSP is effective now, the same will continue.
- For other targeted crops, price deficiency payments system will be introduced.
- However, notably there may be a cap on the extent to which the Centre will bridge the gap between MSP and market price.
- A farmer would have to register with the nearest APMC mandi and report the total area sown, to avail this benefit.
- The subsidy would be paid via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the farmer's Aadhaar-linked bank account.

Atal Innovation Mission

- AIM will be an Innovation Promotion Platform involving academics, entrepreneurs, and researchers drawing upon national and international experiences to foster a culture of innovation, R&D in India.

- The platform will also promote a network of world-class innovation hubs and grand challenges for India.
- Under this mission two major schemes were rolled out such as:
 - i. Atal Tinkering Labs
 - ii. Atal Incubation Centres

Atal Tinkering Labs

- Niti Aayog brainchild Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has selected additional 1,500 schools across the country to establish Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
- ATLs are play workspaces fitted with state-of-the-art technologies like 3D printers, robotics, sensor technology kits, Internet of things (IoT), miniaturised electronics.
- The labs are designed to spur the spark of creativity, and go beyond regular curriculum and text book learning.
- AIM will enhance the coverage of ATLs to over 98 per cent smart cities and 93 per cent districts.
- The addition of these schools will give a major boost to realise the vision of the mission to cultivate one million children in India as the innovators of tomorrow.

Self-Employment and Talent Utilization

- SETU aims to promote entrepreneurship through techno-financial, incubation and facilitation programme and thereby creating jobs through startups.
- It gives support and encouragement to young start-ups and other self-employment technology-intensive ideas.

SATH program

- Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital (SATH) was recently launched in the state of Assam in association with the state government.
- The program will be implemented by NITI along with McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium.
- The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors.
- It aims to provide support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement the solutions towards transforming the health.
- The workshop brings experts from development organizations such as World Bank, World Health Organization, UNDP, UNICEF.

Mentor India Campaign

- It is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs, established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission.
- Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
- The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, Internet of things & sensors etc.

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