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Government of India
National Institution for Transforming India
NITI Aayog
(Governing Council Secretariat)

Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001

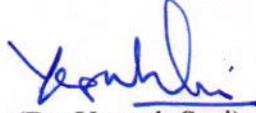
Dated: March 23, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th February, 2021– reg.

The Sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th February, 2021 on the virtual mode. A copy of the approved Minutes of the meeting are forwarded herewith for kind information and further necessary action.

Encl.: As above


(Dr. Yogesh Suri)
Sr. Adviser
Tel. 23096610

To,

All Members of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog & other participants as per the list

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, South Block, New Delhi
2. The Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi

Copy for information:

1. PS to Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
2. PS to Members (RC/VKS/VKP), NITI Aayog
3. PSO to CEO, NITI Aayog
4. Sr. PPS to SS (KRR), NITI Aayog
5. PPS to AS (RS), NITI Aayog



NITI Aayog

**6TH
GOVERNING
COUNCIL
MEETING**

Chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister

20.02.2021

Minutes

Minutes of the 6th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister held on 20.02.2021

The Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the 20th of February 2021, via video-conferencing. The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers/ Lieutenant Governors/ Administrators of 32 States/ Union Territories. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, and Minister of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare/Rural Development/Panchayati Raj as ex-officio members; Minister of Road Transport & Highways/Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Minister of Railways/Commerce and Industry and Minister of State (I/C) for Planning and Statistics & Programme Implementation as Special Invitees; Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister of Jal Shakti, Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Minister of Education, Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Power as Special Invitees keeping in view the Agenda items; Vice Chairman, full time Members of NITI Aayog; Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister & other Senior Officials from the Prime Minister's Office; CEO, NITI Aayog and senior officials of the Government of India. [The list of participants is at **Annexure**].

2. The Agenda Note, as circulated in advance to all members of the Governing Council was as follows:

- a. Making India a Global Manufacturing Hub
- b. Reimagining Agriculture
- c. Improving Physical Infrastructure
- d. Accelerating Human Resources Development
- e. Improving Service Delivery at Grassroots Level
- f. Health and Nutrition

3. **At the outset, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog** welcomed the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and other Ministers of Central Government, Chief Ministers/ Lieutenant Governors/ Administrators of States/ Union Territories and distinguished guests to the Sixth Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog. He highlighted India's fight against the pandemic as an example of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, mentioning that in a short span of time, India went from an importer of health equipment to an exporter. He stated that the Sixth Governing Council Meeting was unique as it brought together the country's highest decision-makers on one platform. He informed the members about detailed interactions with the senior State Government officials on 6th February 2021, feedback from which was incorporated in the agenda notes. Speaking on the economic recovery, he stated that the strength of recovery in India surpassed all expectations, and the structural reforms announced during 2020 had laid a strong foundation for sustaining this recovery in future. He highlighted the importance of the GC Meeting in evolving a programme of national

development and reiterated the commitment of NITI Aayog to work with the States and Union Territories as their development partner in the spirit of cooperative federalism.

4. The Hon'ble Prime Minister welcomed all dignitaries to the meeting. He emphasised the importance of the Centre and States working together to drive the progress of the country. He highlighted the need to make cooperative and competitive federalism more meaningful by taking them to the district level so as to facilitate all round development. The Prime Minister highlighted that the Centre and State partnership has been successful in managing COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a positive image for India globally.

4.1 The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the Governing Council Meeting, given that India would be celebrating 75 years of Independence soon. He urged State Governments to bring together all stakeholders and to form different Committees at the State and district level for this event. He stated that the agenda items in the meeting were highly relevant to national priorities and specific, as a result of workshop between NITI Aayog and senior officials from State Governments, prior to the Governing Council meeting.

4.2 Prime Minister outlined the significant progress made in promoting ease of living through opening bank accounts, vaccinations, increasing healthcare facilities, free gas connections and toilet construction which has brought transformative changes in the lives of the poor. He highlighted the efforts made to deliver housing for all, stating that since 2014, **more than 2.40 crore houses were built in villages and cites**. He stated that new technologies were being employed to build rapid and good quality houses in cities. Similarly, work is progressing in a mission mode to tackle the issues of scarcity of water and health problems due to polluted water so that they don't hinder the development process. The Prime Minister stated that under **Jal Jeevan Mission**, more than **3.5 crore rural households** have been already provided piped water supply. He mentioned that the BharatNet scheme was transforming India's villages by providing internet connectivity. He stressed that when the Centre and States work together in the delivery of such schemes, the pace of work further picks up and benefits are delivered at the last mile.

4.3 Noting that this year's Budget was well received as it created an atmosphere of hope. If the aspirations of the country were to be achieved, increased opportunities would need to be generated for the private sector under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat campaign. Prime Minister emphasised that AtmaNirbhar Bharat was not just about producing for domestic needs, but also for catering to the worldwide demand. He also emphasised the need to focus on the quality of products.

4.4 Prime Minister called for a focus on building infrastructure, promoting innovation, strengthening businesses, MSMEs and Start-ups, greater opportunity for education and skills to meet the aspirations of a New India. He highlighted the need for districts to specialise in products for marketing and exports. He called for enhanced competition amongst States and districts to promote exports.

4.5 Calling for greater coordination in policies between the Centre and States, Prime Minister emphasized on promoting the fishery industry and the blue economy as unlimited opportunities are available in this area for Coastal States. He urged States to take advantage of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and of the reduction in corporate taxes to boost investment and manufacturing.

4.6 Highlighting the multiplier effect of investments in infrastructure, Prime Minister stated that additional funds provided in the Budget for infrastructure creation were appreciated by all stakeholders. He further stated that with 40% share of States in the National Infrastructure Pipeline, greater synergies would be needed between the Centre and States. He further stressed the importance of the State Budgets in speeding up development and making States Atmanirbhar.

4.7 Prime Minister stressed upon the importance of improving governance and service delivery at local levels of Government with the use of technology and public participation. Highlighting the Aspirational Districts Programme where success has been achieved as a result of Centre, States and Districts working together, he stated that this model could be replicated elsewhere. He indicated that making elected representatives of Panchayati Raj system and civic bodies responsible for convergence and outcomes can further improve governance and service delivery.

4.8 Stressing on the opportunities in the agriculture sector, Prime Minister stated that despite domestic potential, India imported oilseeds worth Rs. 65,000 crores annually. Highlighting the success achieved in production of pulses, Prime Minister stressed that there were many other such commodities that India could produce for itself and the world. He called for States to utilise agro-climatic regional planning to tap these opportunities. Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of diversification and value addition, especially in the fisheries sector and the potential for coastal States to work together to cater to the global market.

4.9 Prime Minister informed that **1,500 archaic laws had already been abolished**. He further highlighted that there existed **thousands of compliances** that applied to common people that could be eliminated. Prime Minister stressed on the need to reduce the compliance burden, and to this end, he requested State Governments to form teams that would leverage technology to reduce the compliance burden. He stated that this will further improve the ease of doing business.

4.10 Stressing on the change brought about as a result of the pandemic, the Prime Minister informed that 95% of the employees in the IT sector have been working from home. He informed that the rules associated with geospatial data had been liberalised, and stated that this would go a long way towards tapping the talent of our people and ultimately improving the **Ease of Living for the common man** of the country.

4.11 Prime Minister stated that he was looking forward to hearing the experiences and suggestions of the participants of the meeting. He stressed on the need for the Central and State Governments to work together to move forward in the same direction and further emphasised the need to seize the opportunity at hand.

5. **The Defence Minister** stated that NITI Aayog was India's youngest institution and in a short span of time had made a significant contribution to India's growth story, by promoting cooperative and competitive federalism. He highlighted the importance of Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog to evolve a development agenda post pandemic period jointly by the Centre and States.

6. Defence Minister expressed that the gist of oral submissions and the written speeches of the Chief Ministers/Lt. Governor/Administrators of States/UTs shall be taken on record. Accordingly, the speeches may be kept brief highlighting the key points.

7. This was followed by the speeches of 26 Chief Ministers, 3 Lieutenant Governors and 2 Administrators of Union Territories. In the speeches, CMs/ LGs/ Administrators highlighted achievements in their respective State/ UT and offered specific suggestions including with regard to the Agenda items for consideration at various levels.

8. **The Prime Minister** in his closing remarks acknowledged the fruitful, focussed discussion and suggestions made by the Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors/ Administrators. He stated that development emerged as the key priority in the discussions. He stressed that the focus should be on balanced development of all parts of the country - from the north east to every aspirational district. He said that we need to fulfil the aspirations of youth as we near the 75th year of independence.

8.1 Acknowledging the suggestions given by many States regarding BharatNet, Prime Minister called for setting up of integrated data systems for all Government Offices.

8.2 The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of digitalisation. He informed that Census 2021 would be the first digital census and highlighted that as per the Census Act, individual information is confidential, and requested that this fact be widely shared with the public so that the data collected is accurate and credible.

8.3 Prime Minister stated that through **One District, One Product Scheme**, entrepreneurship has been promoted in the country and the same needs to be scaled and replicated. State's progress depends on progress of its districts and every State must strive towards becoming exporter of goods and services. He requested State Governments to constitute Export Promotion Councils at the State and District levels and to start working towards developing and implementing district specific export action plans.

8.4 Prime Minister further highlighted that despite having resources, India is dependent on imports of certain products, for example coal. He stated that we need to reduce dependence on imported coal and States have to play a proactive role in achieving the same.

8.5 Prime Minister stated that India has set an example worldwide in successfully managing the COVID-19 pandemic. He requested State Governments to learn from each other's experiences and fast track the implementation of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and POSHAN Abhiyaan and utilize the services of Anganwadi workers to the fullest. He also requested the State Governments to use the POSHAN tracker to monitor the Anganwadi workers and beneficiaries. Also, given the importance of health schemes at regional level, **Pradhan Mantri Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana** has been announced.

8.6 He added that, as per 2019 Global Skill Gap Study, 35-40 lakh employment opportunities would be created in the global healthcare sector over the next five years in different countries of the world and accordingly we need to prepare youth skill set for the same. Further, district hospitals and medical colleges should be prepared to use this opportunity utilising the VGF route. National Education Policy, 2020 focus on preparing the youth for future opportunities. He further stressed that the Centre and States have to work together especially in fields like education, health, nutrition and skilling.

8.7 Prime Minister highlighted that we still have a large number of children who drop out of school in India and stated that we need to address this issue. He requested that every State Government may plan an annual survey of children who drop out of school and work on improving foundational literacy and numeracy in a mission mode. For generating accountability in private and Government schools, he requested that States may setup **State School Student Authority** for protecting students' welfare.

8.8 Many steps have been taken in the direction of increasing farmers' income. The Prime Minister stressed upon the need to link agro-climatic regional planning with One District One Product. States must identify the infrastructural gaps at the State level and funds available under the Central Government Schemes such as **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana** and **Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme** may be utilised to fill these gaps. He stressed on tapping the opportunities available in the sectors such as animal husbandry, fisheries, bee keeping, etc.

8.9 Prime Minister stated that we have advanced the Central Budget to give greater clarity and time to States to undertake their own fiscal planning. The 15th Finance Commission recommendations would be implemented from this year. Life cycle of the Central Schemes has been linked with the 15th FC period which ensures timely and effective implementation of Schemes. States must benefit from this financial stability brought about by the Centre.

8.10 He stated that we have an inspirational occasion ahead of us i.e. 75th year of India's independence. States may work towards making policies for doubling the size of their economy. Further, the Central Government is moving ahead with long term expenditure framework and States can also accordingly plan their policies and regional targets in a long-term manner for better planning and achievement of outcomes in an effective manner.

8.11 On infrastructure, Prime Minister suggested States to make their own pipeline of projects which can be integrated with the **National Infrastructure Pipeline**. He stressed the importance of private sector participation including foreign investment and the need for a stable and predictable policy environment to build investor confidence and attract investment in the country.

8.12 Prime Minister highlighted that GST collections had touched Rs. 1.2 lakh crores recently. He requested State Governments to focus on GST collections in the coming months and stated that in the long run, GST would prove to be beneficial to all State economies.

8.13 Prime Minister emphasized the importance of **eradicating tuberculosis by 2025** and suggested that we learn from the coronavirus management model for ending TB in the country by 2025.

8.14 Prime Minister stated that collective efforts of Centre and States would help in realizing the aspirations of citizens of the country. He concluded by thanking all the participants for attending the meeting and for their valuable suggestions and discussions on the agenda.

9. Decisions taken during the meeting

The following decisions were taken in the meeting:

9.1 NITI Aayog to identify the actionable points from all the discussions and suggestions, including those emanating from the agenda notes and speeches of CMs/ LGs/ Administrators, and undertake follow-up action.

9.2 To mark the 75th year of Indian Independence, State Governments to bring together all stakeholders and form different Committees at the State and district level for celebrating the event.

9.3 Ensure greater coordination in policies between the Centre and States and focus on promoting the fishing industry and the blue economy specifically with the Coastal States.

9.4 For improving governance and service delivery at local levels of government, elected representatives of Panchayati Raj system and civic bodies may be increasingly engaged for convergence and improved outcomes.

9.5 Centre and States to work together to ensure that BharatNet Programme is made more effective in delivery and its services are fully utilized. Databases of different Departments at States' level may also be considered for integration for better service delivery. Confidentiality of individual information as per Census Act to be widely publicized so as to capture more reliable and accurate data for Census 2021.

9.6 Every State must strive towards becoming exporter of goods and services including through better utilization of One District One Product Scheme. State Governments may also constitute Export Promotion Councils at the State and district levels and to start working towards developing and implementing district specific export plans.

9.7 State Governments to learn from each other's experiences and fast track the implementation of ICDS and POSHAN Abhiyaan and utilize the services of Anganwadi workers to the fullest. State Governments to also use the POSHAN tracker more effectively to monitor the progress under the scheme.

9.8 Every State Government to plan an annual survey of children who drop out of school and work on foundational literacy and numeracy in a mission mode. For generating accountability in private and Government schools, States may setup State School Student Authority for protecting students' welfare.

9.9 Agro-climatic regional planning to be linked with One District One Product scheme. States may identify the gaps and utilize funds available under the Central Government Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana and Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme for tapping the opportunities available in sectors such as animal husbandry, fisheries, bee keeping, etc., that promote diversification in agriculture.

9.10 States may make their own pipeline of projects which can be integrated with the National Infrastructure Pipeline. Greater synergies to be brought about between Centres and States in the implementation of projects under NIP.

9.11 Centre and States to work together for improving GST collections and plugging remaining leakages in the system.

9.12 A national drive to be launched to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025 by adapting the coronavirus management model in terms of testing, tracking, tracing, treating and technology.

10. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants**Sixth Governing Council Meeting held on 20th February, 2021**

S. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister, Chairman
2.	Dr. Rajiv Kumar	Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
Full Time Members		
3.	Dr.V.K. Saraswat	Member, NITI Aayog
4.	Prof. Ramesh Chand	Member, NITI Aayog
5.	Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul	Member, NITI Aayog
Ex Officio Members		
6.	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence
7.	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs
8.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs (did not participate)
9.	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; Minister of Panchayati Raj
Special Invitees		
10.	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport & Highways; Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
11.	Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
12.	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Railways; Minister of Commerce and Industry
13.	Shri Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Planning
Special Invitees to the Meeting		
14.	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Minister of Health & Family Welfare
15.	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women & Child Development
16.	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti
17.	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology
18.	Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Minister of Education
19.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

20.	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
21.	Shri R. K. Singh	MOS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power
Chief Ministers/ Lt. Governor of States/UTs		
22.	Andaman & Nicobar	Shri Devendra Kumar Joshi (Lt. Governor)
23.	Andhra Pradesh	Shri Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Pema Khandu
25.	Assam	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
26.	Bihar	Shri Nitish Kumar
27.	Chandigarh	Shri V. P. Singh Badnore (Administrator)
28.	Chhattisgarh	Shri Bhupesh Baghel
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
30.	Delhi	Shri Arvind Kejriwal
31.	Goa	Dr. Pramod Sawant
32.	Gujarat	Shri Vijaybhai R. Rupani (did not participate)
33.	Haryana	Shri Manohar Lal Khattar
34.	Himachal Pradesh	Shri Jai Ram Thakur
35.	Jammu & Kashmir	Shri Manoj Sinha (Lt. Governor)
36.	Jharkhand	Shri Hemant Soren
37.	Karnataka	Shri B.S. Yediyurappa
38.	Kerala	Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
39.	Ladakh	Shri Radha Krishna Mathur (Lt. Governor)
40.	Lakshadweep	Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
41.	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan
42.	Maharashtra	Shri Uddhav Thackrey
43.	Manipur	Shri N. Biren Singh
44.	Meghalaya	Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma
45.	Mizoram	Shri Pu Zoramthanga
46.	Nagaland	Shri Neiphiu Rio
47.	Odisha	Shri Naveen Patnaik
48.	Puducherry	Shri V. Narayanasamy
49.	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh (did not participate)
50.	Rajasthan	Shri Ashok Gehlot
51.	Sikkim	Shri Prem Singh Tamang
52.	Tamil Nadu	Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami
53.	Telangana	Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao (did not participate)
54.	Tripura	Shri Biplab Kumar Deb
55.	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Yogi Adityanath
56.	Uttarakhand	Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat
57.	West Bengal	Km. Mamata Banerjee (did not participate)

Cabinet Secretary/ PMO/Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments		
58.	Dr. P. K. Mishra	Principal Secretary to PM
59.	Shri P. K. Sinha	Principal Advisor to PM
60.	Shri Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary
61.	Shri Amarjeet Sinha	Advisor to PM
62.	Shri Bhaskar Khulbe	Advisor to PM
63.	Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra	Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
64.	Shri Anup Wadhawan	Secretary, Department of Commerce
65.	Shri Sanjay Agarwal	Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
66.	Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra	Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
67.	Ms. Pushpa Subrahmanyam	Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries
68.	Shri Atul Chaturvedi	Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
69.	Shri Tarun Bajaj	Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
70.	Shri Giridhar Armane	Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
71.	Shri Alok Kumar	Secretary, Ministry of Power
72.	Shri Amit Khare	Secretary, Department of Higher Education
73.	Ms. Anita Karwal	Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy
74.	Shri Praveen Kumar	Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
75.	Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney	Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
76.	Shri Anshu Prakash	Secretary, Department of Telecommunications
77.	Shri Rajesh Bhushan	Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
78.	Shri Ram Mohan Mishra	Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development
79.	Prof. Balram Bhargava	Secretary, Department of Health Research
80.	Shri Rajesh Kotecha	Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH
81.	Shri S. Gopalakrishnan	Additional Secretary, PMO
82.	Ms. P. Amudha	Joint Secretary, PMO
83.	Shri Rudra Gaurva Shresth	Joint Secretary, PMO
84.	Shri C. Sridhar	Joint Secretary, PMO
85.	Shri Rohit Yadav	Joint Secretary, PMO
86.	Shri Arvind Shrivastava	Joint Secretary, PMO
87.	Shri Saurabh Shukla	Director, PMO
Economic Advisory Council to The Prime Minister		
88.	Dr. Bibek Debroy	Chairman
89.	Shri Ratan P.Watal	Member Secretary
Officers of NITI Aayog		
90.	Shri Amitabh Kant	Chief Executive Officer
91.	Dr. Rakesh Sarwal	Additional Secretary
92.	Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao	Additional Secretary

93.	Dr. Yogesh Suri	Sr. Adviser (G&R)
94.	Ms. Neelam Patel	Sr. Adviser (Agr)
95.	Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmad	Adviser (Industry)
96.	Ms Sanyukta Samaddar	Adviser (SDG/RD)
97.	Shri Sudhendu J. Sinha	Adviser (Infrastructure Connectivity - Transport)
98.	Shri Ch. P. Sarathi Reddy	Adviser (PAMD)
99.	Shri Avinash Mishra	Adviser (LR&WR/ NRE)
100.	Shri Neeraj Sinha	Adviser (S&T)
101.	Dr. Prem Singh	Adviser (HRD)
102.	Shri Rakesh Ranjan	Sr. Consultant, NITI Aayog

32 Chief Secretaries of States were also invited.