



livelihoods

today and tomorrow

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'7L' - Life, Living,
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and Love

Strategy for New India @ 75 - NITI Aayog

The NITI Aayog the policy think tank of Government of India has very recently launched the "Strategy for New India @ 75" document. As India is marching ahead to celebrate its 75th Independence Day on 15 August 2022, the strategy document will act as a light house This strategy document has been prepared keeping in view the 75th Independence Day. This month's livelihood magazine tries to understand the Strategy Document, various components of the documents and key policy strategies and approaches designed for the states and the country as a whole.



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On 19 December 2018, the NITI Aayog think tank of the Government of India has launched the “**Strategy for New India @75**”. The document has been prepared on the belief that economic transformation cannot happen without people’s participation. The Prime Minister has pitched in for three key things; 1. Development must become a **Jan Andolan** 2. Economic growth should ensure balanced development across all regions and states and across sectors. 3. The development strategy when implemented shall pave to bridge the gap between public and private sector.

The strategy document has defined clear objectives to be achieved by the financial year 2022-23. The document encompasses four sections; Drivers, Infrastructure, Inclusion and Governance. The four sections are further segregated in 41 areas. The document tried to recognise the progress that has been made in each area, the challenges that continue to prevail, identifying the binding constraints in each sector and suggested way forward for achieving the state objectives. The detailed list of four sections and 41 areas are mentioned in the table below:

Drivers	Infrastrucutre	Inclusion	Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Growth •Employment and Labour Reforms •Technology and Innovation •Industry •Doubling Farmer's Income (I): Modernizing Agriculture •Doubling Farmer's Income (II): Policy and Governance •Doubling Farmer's Income (III): Value Chain & Rural Infrastructure. •Financial Inclusion •Housing for All •Travel, Tourism and Hospitality •Minerals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Energy •Surface Transport •Railways •Civil aviation •Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways •Logistics •Digital Connectivity •Smart Cities for Urban Transformation •Swachh Bharat Mission •Water Resources •Sustainable Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •School Education •Higher Education •Teacher Education and Training •Skill Development •Public Health Management and Action •Comprehensive Primary Health Care •Human Resources for Health •Universal Health Coverage •Nutrition •Gender •Senior Citizens, Persons with Disability and Transgender Persons •Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Other Tribal Groups and Minorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Balanced Regional Development: Transforming Aspirational Districts •The North-East Region •Legal, Judicial and Police Reforms •Civil Services Reforms •Modernizing City Governance for Urban Transformation •Optimizing the Use of Land Resources •Data Led Governance and Policy Making

One of the key goals of the government is India should be \$4 trillion economy by the year 2022-23. All the four categories in detail mentioned various ways of economic transformation, how do we use the benefits of this transformation for the benefit of all communities across the geography of the country and in depth and also various mechanisms to monitor and ensure that this strategy works. The category wise key recommendations are enlisted below:

Drivers: This category focuses on growth and employment. The document pitches for an annual growth rate of 9% by 2022-23 for generating sufficient jobs and achieving prosperity for all. Key steps to assure this are:

- Increasing the investments i.e. gross fixed capital formation to 36 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2022 from the current 29 percent. It is also important that more than half of this investment should come from public investment. It also focuses on increasing the exports of goods and services.
- Agriculture, the focus should move to converting farmers as “agripreneurs” by expanding the e-National Agriculture Markets (e-NAMs) and replacing the current Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act with the Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (APLC) act. The document also pushes for creation of a unified national market and abolition of essential commodities act.
- Thrust to implementation of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) practices that reduce costs, improve the quality of land, enhance resilience to climate change, and improve the incomes of farmers. These practices shall also help in putting back carbon in to the land and strengthen the efforts in reduction of carbon foot print.
- Codification of labour laws must be completed and mammoth efforts should be made to scale up apprenticeships. Increasing female labour force participation.
- Moving up the ladder on Global Innovation Index, spending at least 2 percent of GDP on Research & Development (R&D) with equal contributions from both the public and private sector.
- Focus on strengthening of financial inclusion by banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured and also providing access to credit at reasonable cost

Infrastructure: This section focuses on the physical infrastructure and it is important to promote competitiveness among the industry and also provide the citizens with quality of life.

- Establishment of Railway Development Authority (RDA). Increasing the investments into railways by monetising the railway assets.
- Doubling the share of freight transported by coastal shipping and inland waterways. Providing a viability gap funding until the infrastructure is fully developed.
- Completion of the Bharat Net programme by 2019, covering all the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats. It is also intended to cover all the villages. Completion of this will help in delivering all the government services to the nook and corner of the country.
- Making 24*7 power availability to all by 2019. On one hand, reducing the imports of oil and gas by 10 percent by 2022-23 and on the other increasing the renewable energy generation capacity to 175 GW by 2022.
- Increasing the rural road connectivity by reaching last mile through *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* and also expanding the road networks through Bharatmala project and integrating with coastal road network.
- Enhancing the affordability of flying, to enable an increase in domestic sales, double the air cargo capacity, and expand airport capacity and enhancing availability and affordability of regional air connectivity.



Inclusion: This section deals with various basic amenities like health, education aimed at improving the capacities of the people. It also focuses on how we include various marginalised communities. The key recommendations are:

- Strengthening school education by universal access to education and achieving zero dropouts until class X.

- Under Higher Education, increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio, making higher education more inclusive for the vulnerable groups, improving the employability of students. At the same time focussing on the availability of quality teachers both at school and higher education level.
- Continuing the focus on harnessing the demographic dividend by skilling/re-skilling/up skilling.
- Implementation of Ayushman Bharat Programme including the establishment of 150000 health and wellness centres and rolling out of *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan*.
- Establishment of 10000 Atal Tinkering Labs aimed to upgrade the quality of school education system and skills.
- Ensuring better living conditions for workers in the urban areas by constructing of affordable houses. This should be done on the lines of saturated rural housing.
- Reducing the regional imbalances and improving regional equity by focussing on North-East region and successfully rolling out the Aspirational Districts Programme in 115 districts.
- Ensuring a life of dignity, social security and safety for senior citizens and transgender persons and enable them to actively participate in the economic development. At the same time providing opportunities and platforms for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to realize their full potential.
- Emphasis on the socio-economic development of STs, SCs, OBCs, *Safai Karmacharis*, De-Notified Tribes (DNTs), Nomadic Tribes (NTs) and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (SNTs) and also acting upon improving the human development indicators of these communities on par with the rest of the population.

Governance: The last section focuses on various institutional platforms/mechanisms available and how do we ensure the accountability of these institutions. It also focuses on how we leverage the benefits of big data for ensuring smooth governance. Emphasis is also on shifting towards performance based evaluation. The key recommendations under this section are:

- Implementing the recommendations of Second Administrative Reforms Commission.
- Establishing a new autonomous body viz., the Arbitration Council of India
- Expanding the scope of Swachh Bharat Mission to cover initiatives for landfills, plastic waste, and municipal waste and generating wealth from waste.
- Setting up a National Data Analytics Portal which shall be integrated with state specific platform in local language. At the state level each sector shall have a separate data led governance platform.

Since the inception of NITI Aayog which replaced the erstwhile Planning Commission, the government has been mooted the idea of Team India and Cooperative Federalism. But the sense of atmosphere in the states to this idea has been low and certain states visibly saying that the words and actions are entirely different. The document tried to articulate and embrace various strategies and policies through words and acronyms though at times rhetoric. But the success of the strategy document highly depends on how well the states and centre recognise and complement the best work done by each one of them, willing to generate and replicate the best practices with suitable local adjustments, allocate continuous budgets for the same, implementing them through people's institutions and participation. Most importantly, stressing on the need to balance gender and ensuring sustainability in each of the policies designed and to be implemented. ❖