



Data Governance Quality Index: NITI Aayog

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Why in News

The **Department of Fertilizers (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers)** has been ranked 3rd out of the 65 Ministries/Departments with a score 4.11 on a scale of 5 on **Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)**.

It has been ranked **2nd amongst the 16 Economic Ministries/Departments**.

Key Points

- **Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)** survey was conducted by **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), Niti Aayog** to assess different Ministries/Departments' performance on the implementation of **Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**.
- **Objective:** To drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.
- **Benefits:** Improve the implementation framework of government policies, schemes and programmes to achieve the desired goals.
- **Six major themes of DGQI:** Data Generation; Data Quality; Use of Technology; Data Analysis, Use and Dissemination; Data Security and HR Capacity and Case Studies.
- **Ministries/Departments were classified in six categories:** Administrative, Strategic, Infrastructure, Social, Economic and Scientific.

Central Schemes

- The central schemes are divided into **Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**.

- Central sector schemes:
 - These schemes are 100% funded by the Central government.
 - Implemented by the Central Government machinery.
 - Formulated on subjects mainly from the Union List.
 - **E.g.:** Bharatnet, Namami Gange-National Ganga Plan, etc.
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes are the schemes by the centre where there is financial **participation by both the centre and states.**
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are again divided into **Core of the Core Schemes, Core Schemes and Optional schemes.**
- Currently, there are **6 core of the core schemes** while 22 core schemes.
- Most of these schemes prescribe specific financial participation by states. For example, in the case of MGNREGA, state governments have to incur 25% material expenditure.
- The **6 core of the core CSS** are:
 - National Social Assistance Programme
 - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program
 - Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes
 - Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes
 - Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities
 - Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

- The **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)** was constituted in September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Program Evaluation Office (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).
- It is an **attached office under NITI Aayog**, aimed at fulfilling the organization's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate and building the M&E ecosystem in India.
- Its vision is to improve sustainable outcomes and impacts of the government. It aims to enable high-quality monitoring and evaluation of government programs to improve effectiveness, efficiency, equity and sustainability of service delivery, outcomes and impacts.
- **Monitoring through Output-Outcome Framework:** In accordance with the Union Budget for 2019-20, the **Output-Outcome Framework** represents an important reform towards outcome-based monitoring. This is a paradigm shift from measuring simply physical and financial progress, to a governance model based on outcomes. DMEO has been working with Ministries and Departments to develop this framework since 2017.

- **Evaluation:** The Government has assigned DMEQ, NITI Aayog the responsibility to conduct **independent third-party evaluation of all the CSS** in a time-bound manner so that the findings of the evaluation are made available to appropriate authorities for determining the rationalization of the schemes.

Source: PIB