

# Niti action plan to rev up economy

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The vacuum in India's "planned development" today ended when NITI Aayog released to the states a draft three-year action agenda spelling out specific sectors which need to be focused on in national development efforts.

India's planned development, highly centralized through the Five-Year Plans, took a break when the 12th Five Year Plan ended on 31st March this year. The NITI Aayog, after extensive consultations with the state governments, Central ministries and other stakeholders, drafted the Action Agenda for the next three years, and released it to Chief Ministers at its third Governing Council meet today.

The Action Agenda, which has ended the vacuum on India's development vision, does not have targets for various sectors. But it does focus on issues like health, capital expenditure, basic infrastructure and agricultural growth.

Divided into seven parts and 24 chapters, the Agenda has over 300 specific action points covering a whole gamut of sectors.

The Action Agenda's time-span coincides with the remaining period of the 14th Finance Com-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairing the 3rd Governing Council Meet of the NITI Aayog in the Capital on Sunday. SNS

mission's award (2015-20), making funding estimates easier for both Centre and States.

Chairing the Governing Council meet, attended by the chief ministers of 27 states and the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, said that the circulated vision document was a draft, and all suggestions given by the Chief Ministers will be taken into account before finalizing it.

While some Chief Ministers referred to regional imbalances, the Prime Minister laid emphasis on good governance, without which even abundance of resources would not deliver. "Old ways will not do," Mr Modi told the state chief ministers.

The NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman, Dr Arvind Panagariya, said the Aayog was preparing a 15-year Vision Document and a seven year strategy on the national development

scenario, but the three year Agenda was in fairly advanced stage and therefore given to the States for their comments.

NITI CEO Amitabh Kant said the Agenda document had "lots of good points" and its full text would be in public domain soon. He said there was no reference to farmers' loans at the Governing Council but there was consensus on doubling farmers income.

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to talk to the large assembly of state Chief Ministers on the issue of simultaneous Union and state elections. He said if it happened, the rest of the five years would be available for development work. For long, India had suffered from economic and political mismanagement, and because of poor time management, many good initiatives and schemes had failed to deliver, he noted.