



National Workshop on

Empowering State S&T Councils: Towards a Collaborative Approach for Improving India's R&D Ecosystem

18th March, 2025, (9.30 AM - 5:30 PM)

Venue: Hall No. 2 & 3, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Background

Science and Technology (S&T) play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, societal development, and technological advancements. At the state level, State S&T Councils serve as key institutions responsible for implementing national and regional policies, facilitating research and development (R&D), and promoting innovation-driven solutions tailored to local needs. These councils act as a vital bridge between scientific progress and governance, ensuring that advancements in technology translate into meaningful socio-economic benefits. Over the years, State S&T Councils have undertaken several significant initiatives, including patent facilitation, technology transfer, innovation funding, science popularization, capacity-building programs, and industry collaborations. However, despite their contributions, these councils continue to face numerous challenges that hinder their ability to function effectively and take up transformational roles.

Recognizing the pressing need for a structured and strategic approach to strengthening these councils, the NITI Aayog is organising a one-day workshop on the 18th of March, 2025 on ***Empowering State S&T Councils: Towards a Collaborative Approach for Improving India's R&D Ecosystem***, as a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborative decision-making. This workshop will bring together government officials, policymakers, researchers, and domain experts to review the current status of the S&T ecosystem across different states, examine the governance and operational structures of the councils, and deliberate on key challenges that need to be addressed. The discussions will focus on assessing the role of State S&T Councils in fostering science and innovation, identifying best practices across states, improving governance and institutional efficiency, bridging resource and infrastructure gaps, strengthening industry and research linkages, and enhancing the visibility and impact of the councils to maximize their contributions to the scientific and technological landscape of the country.

A key highlight of the workshop will be the release of a Discussion paper "**Towards a Roadmap for Strengthening State S&T Councils**" by the NITI Aayog. This document will serve as a primer for concerted discussions towards a strategic blueprint for enhancing the effectiveness, sustainability, and long-term impact of the councils. It will help arriving at targeted recommendations for policy and financial support, ensuring sustained core funding, streamlining administrative processes, strengthening human resource capabilities, fostering stronger linkages between state councils, R&D institutions, universities, and industry, investing in modern research infrastructure and digital frameworks, and improving monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to enhance accountability and track progress. Through this workshop, efforts will be made to empower State S&T Councils with the necessary tools, policies, and support systems to drive scientific progress and innovation at the state level.



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NITI AAYOG

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Tentative Agenda

Time	Session Name	Time Slot	Speaker	Role
09:30 - 10:30	Inaugural Session	09:30 - 09:42	Prof. Vivek Kumar Singh Sr. Adviser (S&T), NITI Aayog, GoI.	Welcome Address and Theme
		09:42 - 09:57	Dr. Rajesh S Gokhle, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, GoI.	Remarks
		09:57 - 10:12	Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, GoI.	Remarks
		10:12 - 10:30	Dr. V.K. Saraswat Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, GoI	Chairperson's Address
10:30 - 10:35	Release of the Discussion paper "Towards a Roadmap for Strengthening State S&T Councils"			
10:35 - 10:45	Group Photograph			
10:45 - 11:15	High Tea			
11:15 - 12:15	STEM at the Core: Cultivating Statewide Research and Innovation	11:15 - 11:30	Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE	Session Chair
		11:30 - 11:45	Dr. Anita Aggarwal, Head, SEED and State S&T Programme, DST	Special Address
		11:45 - 11:55	Dr. Narendra Shah, Member Secretary, Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission, Maharashtra	State S&T Council - Maharashtra
		11:55 - 12:05	Shri Radhey Lal, Joint Director, Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh	State S&T Council - Uttar Pradesh
		12:05 - 12:15	Dr. Biman Chandra Barua, Executive Director, Assam Science Technology & Environment Council	State Council- Assam
12:15 - 13:00	Technical Session 2	12:15 - 12:25	Shri U N Sharma, Additional Surveyor General of India	Session Chair

	Science for All: Engaging Minds Through Science Centres, Planetarium, and Remote Sensing	12:25 - 12:35	Shri Sanjay Kaul, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI.	Special Address
		12:35 - 12:44	Dr. Narottam Sahoo, Advisor & Member Secretary, Gujarat Council for Science and Technology	State Council - Gujarat
		12:44 - 12:53	Shri Tasneem Habib, Advisor, Former Chief Scientist & ED, Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology	State Council - Madhya Pradesh
		12:53 - 13:00	Shri Rakesh Parihar, Research Officer, Department of Science & Technology, Rajasthan	State Council- Rajasthan
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 - 15:00	Technical Session 3 Advancing Innovation: The Role of Patent Information Centres and other structures	14:00 - 14:12	Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu	Session Chair
		14:12 - 14:22	Shri Unnat Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks	Special Address
		14:22 - 14:32	Cdr. Amit Rastogi (Retd), Chairman & MD, National Research Development Corporation	Special Address
		14:32 - 14:41	Prof. Dr. S. Vincent, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology	State Council - Tamil Nadu
		14:41 - 14:50	Shri Samuel Lalmalsawma, Principal Scientific Officer, Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council	State Council - Mizoram
		14:50 - 15:00	Dr. U T Vijay, Executive Secretary, Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology	State Council- Karnataka
15:00 - 15:50	Technical Session 4 Connecting the Dots: Linkages and Best Practices for Inclusive Development	15:00 - 15:12	Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, PSA Office	Session Chair
		15:12 - 15:22	Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Head, NCSTC & SHRI Cell, DST.	Special Address
		15:22 - 15:32	Prof. Durgesh Pant, Director General, Uttarakhand State Council for Science Technology	State Council - Uttarakhand
		15:32 - 15:42	Shri Pritpal Singh, Executive Director, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology	State Council - Punjab

		15:42 - 15:50	Dr. Deepak Gupta, Chief Scientific Engineer, Haryana State Council of Science & Technology	State Council – Haryana
15:50 - 16:55	<u>Discussion and Engagement Session</u> Widening the Horizon: Expanding the Activities and Linkages for Sustained Growth	15:50 - 15:55	Prof. Vivek Kumar Singh, Senior Adviser, NITI Aayog	Session Chair
		15:55 - 16:05	Prof. Vd. Rabinarayana Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, M/o AYUSH	Expert Remarks
		16:05 - 16:15	Shri. Arun Kumar Tripathi, Scientist G, MNRE	Expert Remarks
		16:15 - 16:25	Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space	Expert Remarks
		16:25 - 16:35	Dr. R S Maheskumar, Scientist G, MoES	Expert Remarks
		16:35 - 16:45	Shri Siva Prasad Polimetla Head, ER&D Initiative, NASSCOM	Expert Remarks
		16:45 - 16:55	Dr. Ashish Mohan, Executive Director, CII	Expert Remarks
16:55 - 17:30	Closing Session	16:55 - 17:04	Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)	Remarks
		17:04 - 17:14	Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (DST)	Remarks
		17:14 - 17:20	Shri BVR Subramanyam CEO, NITI Aayog	Remarks
		17:20 - 17:27	Dr. V.K. Saraswat Member (S&T), NITI Aayog	Valedictory Address
		17:27 - 17:30	Dr. Thyagaraju B.M. Deputy Adviser, NITI Aayog	Vote of Thanks
17:30 onwards	High Tea			
