NITI Aayog plans 5 national workshops on PM's 25 years in governance

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News

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) said on 15 November 2026 that NITI Aayog will hold a series of five National Workshops to draw lessons from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years as Head of Government. He became Chief Minister of Gujarat on 7 October 2001 and Prime Minister in May 2014; the 25 years were completed on 7 October 2026. The themes are 'Leadership as Mission' (Nov 2026), 'Governance as Delivery' (Jan 2027), 'Development as Inclusion' (Apr 2027), 'Civilisational Identity' (Jul 2027) and 'India as a Global Force' (Sep 2027). The first workshop is on 17 November 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with four first-hand accounts: Kutch reconstruction after the 2001 earthquake, the Covid-19 response, Lakhpati Didi and the opening of the space sector. Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan will close it and launch the 'Karmayogi Sankalpa' on the iGOT Karmayogi platform. About 900 participants are expected.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Organiser	NITI Aayog – PIB release, 15 Nov 2026
Series	Nov 2026 – Oct 2027; five workshops
First workshop	'Leadership as Mission' – 17 Nov 2026, Bharat Mandapam

Point	Details
Four accounts	Kutch rebuild, Covid-19, Lakhpati Didi, space sector
Speakers	P.K. Mishra (PM's Principal Secy), Uday Kotak, R. Balasubramaniam (NITI Member)
NITI office-bearers (PIB)	Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri; CEO Anurag Jain
Closing	Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan – 'Karmayogi Sankalpa'
Participants	About 900; 250 in deliberations

Background

- Structure: NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was set up on 1 January 2015 by a Union Cabinet resolution; it is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. It replaced the Planning Commission, itself created by a Cabinet resolution on 15 March 1950. The Prime Minister is its Chairperson; it has a Vice Chairperson, full-time members, Union Ministers as ex-officio members and a CEO. As a 'think tank' without fund-allocation powers, it aims to foster cooperative federalism.
- Governing Council: chaired by the Prime Minister, NITI Aayog's Governing Council includes Chief Ministers of all States and of Union Territories with legislatures, and Lieutenant Governors of other UTs (2015 notification). The Aspirational Districts Programme (January 2018; 112 districts; 49 indicators under 5 themes – health & nutrition, education, agriculture & water resources, financial inclusion & skill development, basic infrastructure) and the Atal Innovation Mission are among its key initiatives.
- Disaster management: the massive earthquake that struck Kutch, Gujarat, on 26 January 2001 devastated towns such as Bhuj and Bhachau. Gujarat then passed a State Disaster Management Act in 2003, followed nationally by the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which created the PM-chaired National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), a specialist rescue force.
- Schemes: a 'Lakhpati Didi' is a self-help-group member earning a household income of at least ₹1 lakh a year; it comes under the Rural Development Ministry's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The space sector was opened to private players in 2020 with the creation of IN-SPACe. 'Mission Karmayogi' (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building) was approved in 2020; iGOT Karmayogi is its online learning platform and the Capacity Building Commission guides it.

Tamil Nadu link: 'Lakhpati Didi', discussed at the workshop, rests on self-help groups; Tamil Nadu's women's SHG movement began in 1989 in Dharmapuri district with IFAD assistance (Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project) (TN Rural Development Department policy note). Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar are in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme. Cabinet Secretary Dr T.V. Somanathan, who will close the workshop, is a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is a member of NITI Aayog's Governing Council.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) said on 15 November 2026 that NITI Aayog will hold a series of five National Workshops to draw lessons from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years as Head of Government.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Organiser: NITI Aayog – PIB release, 15 Nov 2026; Series: Nov 2026 – Oct 2027; five workshops; First workshop: 'Leadership as Mission' – 17 Nov 2026, Bharat Mandapam; Four accounts: Kutch rebuild, Covid-19, Lakhpati Didi, space sector.

What is the background to this news?

Structure: NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was set up on 1 January 2015 by a Union Cabinet resolution; it is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. NITI Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission on 1 January 2015, was created through what?

A) Constitution amendment

B) Act of Parliament

C) Cabinet resolution

D) Ordinance

Answer: C – Explanation: A Cabinet resolution – so it is neither constitutional nor statutory. The Planning Commission (1950) was created the same way.

2. Who chairs NITI Aayog's Governing Council, of which State Chief Ministers are members?

A) President

B) Prime Minister

C) NITI Vice Chair

D) Union Finance Minister

Answer: B – Explanation: The Prime Minister. Members include CMs of States and of UTs with legislatures, and Lieutenant Governors of other UTs.

3. Which specialist rescue force was constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, enacted after disasters like the 2001 Kutch quake?

A) NDRF

B) CISF

C) ITBP

D) Assam Rifles

Answer: A – Explanation: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), raised in 2006, works under the Home Ministry with NDMA guidance.

4. Lakhpati Didi, too, is built on self-help groups. In which district did Tamil Nadu's women's SHG movement begin in 1989 with IFAD assistance?

A) Madurai

B) Dharmapuri

C) Tirunelveli

D) Nagapattinam

Answer: B – Explanation: Dharmapuri – it began in 1989 with IFAD (the Rome-based UN agricultural development fund) assistance and was extended to the then Salem and South Arcot districts in 1991-92.

5. The iGOT Karmayogi platform, on which the 'Karmayogi Sankalpa' is to be launched, is part of which national programme?

A) Rural youth skilling

B) Teacher training

C) Civil-service capacity

D) Farm extension

Answer: C – Explanation: Mission Karmayogi (2020) – an online learning platform for government officials, guided by the Capacity Building Commission.

Sources: PIB Chennai (Release 2336564, 15 Nov 2026); PIB Delhi (Release 2336457, 15 Nov 2026); NITI Aayog – Composition of Governing Council (notification, 16 Feb 2015); TN State Planning Commission (Aspirational Districts); TN Rural Development Department Policy Note (SHGs). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.