



Daily Mains Answer Writing (Day - 44)

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How are the principles followed by Niti Ayog different from those followed by erstwhile Planning Commission in India?

(PC - Planning Commission, NA - Niti Ayog)

Structure –

- Introduction - Briefly introduce about the transition from PC to NA, what was the need, why was this done - this would impart a contextual clarity to your answer.
- Body - Write about the major principle differences between NA and PC.
- Conclusion - Write about the improvisations that still need to be made in NA mechanism, which were shortcomings of PC too.

Answer -

- The transition from PC to NA reflects the completion of transition from a state professing anti- imperialism to a Neo liberal state. It was centre to state one-way flow of policy of Planning Commission which is being followed by genuine and continuing partnership with states.
 1. Principle of Inclusion and participation - States had nil participation when it came to policy formulation and a minimal say in decision of fund allocation of development projects during PC regime whereas NA ensures full time participation to address issues and devise policies as per needs and comprises of all the states CM's and administrators of UT's.
 2. Principle of Approach- PC followed top down "one size fits all" Approach with states and UT's being barely consulted, merely worked as a provider whereas NA follows bottom up approach will give strategic and technical advice at state and union level.
 3. Principle of Planning- PC followed central planning process with the Socialism being the model followed with policies made and dictated to states whereas NA follows the process of cooperative federalism where all have an equal say from states to UT's and the policies are being designed according to the basis of market – needs and competition with a real time check on socio economic conditions.
 4. Principle of Governance and accountability – NA has established a Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office which collects data on the performance of various ministries on a real time basis ensuring the efficiency of governance while PC had no such mechanism.
 5. Principle of Working – Imposed policies on states and tied allocation of funds with the projects it approved, whereas Niti is a think tank and does not have the power to impose policies.
 6. Principle of Funding- PC had the appropriated resources and decided the allocation of Government funds for various programs at national and state levels whereas NITI is a think tank and has no power to allocate funds.
- However, like PC, NA is too a non-constitutional, non-statutory body not accountable to Parliament and if in line ministers fail to achieve these targets, NA cannot punish them, which sacrifices a bit of its accountability principle.