

## Half-day Seminar at NITI Aayog, 14 June 2018

### India Priorities: finding smart policies using cost-benefit analysis

One of the objectives for NITI Aayog is to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in the light of national objectives. This event promises to help States and the national conversation to converge on policies that have high economic benefits relative to costs.

This matters because, every year, total government consumption is around INR17.7 lakh crore. *Imagine if just a fraction more of this could be spent on projects that do an amazing amount of social, economic and environmental good for every rupee spent. Indeed, if this conversation could help reallocate just 1% of national government spending, it could likely generate extra benefits worth INR4.4 lakh crore each year.*

The India Priorities promises to identify the very best, additional policies to help India do even better. And this seminar will help everyone – policymakers, officials, thought leaders, journalists and the public – to be better informed about costs and benefits and chose the most effective policies to help India prosper even more.

Concretely, this event will present some of the best cost-benefit research done for Rajasthan Priorities, a project by Tata Trusts and Copenhagen Consensus. These results have been profiled in Times of India, Hindustan Times, Navbharat Times, Hindustan Dainik, Andhra Jyothy, The Hindu and Economic Times along with many others.

The aim is to identify what works and what does not in terms of social, economic and environmental effects per rupee spent. Studies have been conducted across a wide range of policy areas - from education, health and governance to trade, infrastructure development, and energy – through statewide prioritization projects.

The India Consensus' prioritization projects utilizes the award-winning Copenhagen Consensus approach, which has been refined over the past ten years to improve global and regional spending priorities and has now been adapted to reflect the diversity and size of India.

At this event, the participants will hear evidence on the costs and benefits of specific policies for Rajasthan, and will be able to help prioritize in terms of delivering the most benefits given limited states budgets (with implications for all Indian states).

## Agenda

NITI Aayog, 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

### Introduction (25 min)

*The big picture: Using cost-benefit to guide policy* by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog (10 min)

*How to prioritise between policies: social costs, social benefits, value of life and time*, by Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, President Copenhagen Consensus (15 min)

### Prioritising policies (65 minutes including Q&A)

This is the core of the seminar. You will hear evidence on some of the most interesting policies suggested by many of the 800+ stakeholders for Rajasthan. All of these solutions have relevance for all states in India, and Rajasthan is used as an example. The policies will encompass solutions for areas of

- Education
- Health
- Agriculture
- Business & Industry

Each solution will be presented by some of the best Indian and international economists, who have analysed the social costs and the social benefits of specific policies for education, health, agriculture and business. You will hear their estimates of how much social good each rupee will produce across many policies, and you can quiz them on their data compared with your experience.

You will also have the chance to prioritise between the solutions, just like the Eminent Panel in Rajasthan has done. This will help all participants use cost-benefit analysis to make better priorities for the future.

### Taking prioritisation forward (25 min)

*How will Rajasthan use this prioritisation?* by Dr Jyoti Kiran, Chairperson, 5th Finance Commission, Government of Rajasthan (10 min)

*India Priorities for the other 27 states: How will Tata use to help decision making across India* by Shireen Vakil, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Tata Trusts (10min)

*Conclusion: Using cost-benefit analysis for even better Indian decisions* by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog (5 min)

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Topic	Title	Speaker	Time
<b>The big picture</b>	Using cost-benefit to guide policy	Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairperson NITI Aayog	(10 min)
<b>Smart policies</b>	Prioritising between policies: social costs, social benefits, value of life and time	Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, President Copenhagen Consensus	(15 min)
<b>Education</b>	Computer assisted learning and teacher-pupil ratios, + Q&A	Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti	(10min)
<b>Health</b>	Immunization and cash transfers for ANC visits, + Q&A	Dr. Abusaleh Shariff	(10 min)
	Heart attack pills, + Q&A	Vijaya Hebbare	(10 min)
	TB: private sector engagement + Q&A	Dr Bjorn Lomborg	(10 min)
<b>Agriculture</b>	E-mandis and Warehouses, storage & cold chain, + Q&A	Dr. Nilanjan Banik	(10 min)
<b>Business &amp; Industry</b>	Land Record Digitisation, + Q&A	Ms. Nirupama Soundararajan	(10 min)
<b>Reactions</b>	How Rajasthan will use the results	Dr Jyoti Kiran, Chairperson, 5th Finance Commission, Govt of Rajasthan	(10 min)
	India Priorities for the other 27 states	Shireen Vakil, Tata Trusts	(10 min)
<b>Conclusion</b>	Using cost-benefit for the future	Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairperson NITI Aayog	(5 min)