

# GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

## *Policies Covered In The Edition*



**National Initiative on Science, Technology  
and Innovation Statistics**

**Bal Aadhar Initiative: A Successful Effort to  
Bring More Children in its Ambit**



**"Clean Coast, Safe Sea" Campaign to Improve  
Ocean Health through Public Participation**

# 01 | National Initiative on Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics

Concerning the management of the data related to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to make knowledge-based decisions in the future, the Government of India under the chairmanship of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) has started working on the National Initiative on Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics (NISTIS). Data is the new fuel of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and thus its centralized management is the key to reap its maximum benefit for the betterment of all.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru is going to partner with the PSA office and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for the preparation of the "Detailed Project Report" regarding the initiative and will be responsible to provide the focused direction towards this great start. It will help to create a central repository of related data collected by various ministries and departments of the Government of India that will be critical for future decision-making and provide support in the area for the formulation of public policies to generate interest among various stakeholders.

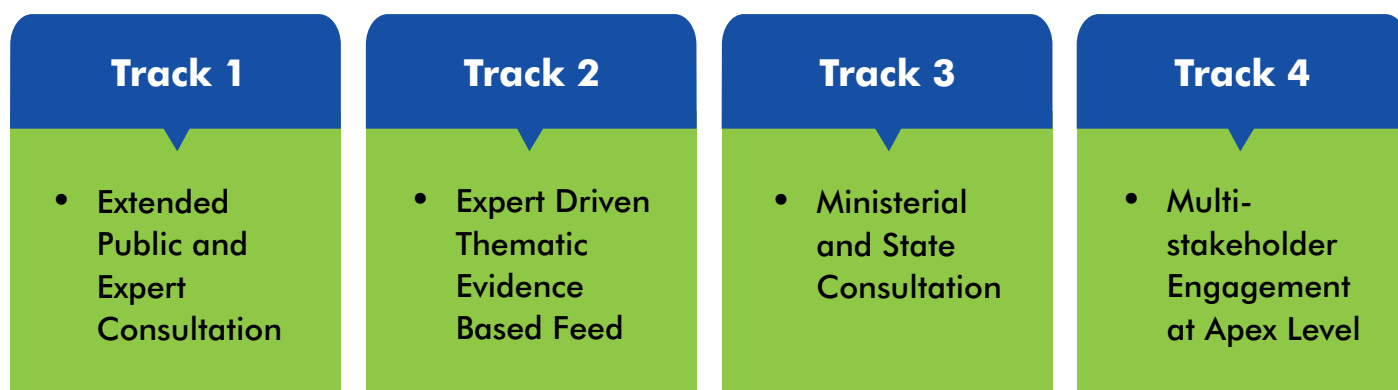
Currently, India is leaping forward in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation. Here, right from the school to the vibrant startup ecosystem of the country playing their respective roles. But, a more coordinated and cumulative effort is the need of the hour to push it to the new avenues where research, funding and government support in these essential areas can be taken forward in a more structured way. It will help in the adaption of international best practices followed in the various corners of the globe like the US, Japan, etc and enrich the in-house capacities for future endeavors.



Thus, the first meeting of its National Advisory Committee (NAC) on 4 August 2022 has paved the way for formulating a centralized mechanism to define the meaningful use of collected data and use these different statistical indicators in strengthening the Research and Development in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation in the country. It will also give support to the policy formulation and program planning of respective ministries to achieve the targeted results by redefining the sector-based priorities and focus.

This dedicated initiative has been governed by a Secretariat at the Department of Science and Technology that will also have an in-house unit regarding "Policy Knowledge and Data Support".

It will support the 5<sup>th</sup> National policy on Science, Technology and Innovation that will work under the following 4 tracks to shape the scientific future of India:



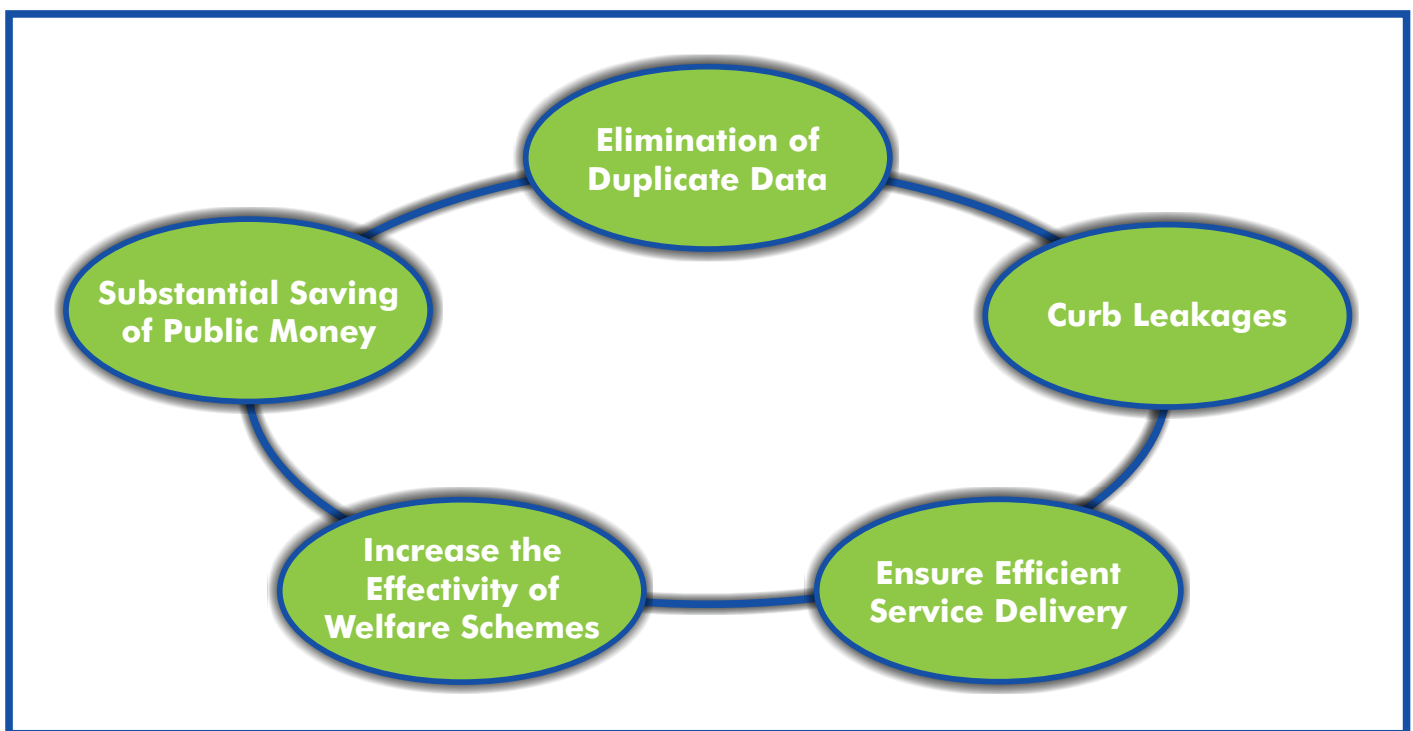
The policy thus prepares the ground for the use of statistical indicators and develops an Expert guided evidence-based inclusive growth plan for the future. This holistic development in the Science, Technology and Innovation domain will facilitate the growth of various sectors of the Indian economy and the country on a larger landscape.

As India is in the fast recovery mode from the Covid 19 crisis, the initiative is ready to set the new momentum with a centralized critical decision-making mechanism based on statistical data and present India's new outlook to the world. It will pave the way for the larger socioeconomic welfare of the people of the country including playing a major role in global scenarios related to future developments of Science, Technology and Innovation across the sectors.



The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has enrolled a total of 3.43 crore children under the Bal Aadhar initiative by July 2022. Basis the recent release of the government data on the enrollment of children in the 0-5 years age group, UIDAI has successfully enrolled 79 lakh children in the first four months of the fiscal year 2022-23 i.e. between April 2022- June 2022 under this initiative and updated the tally of enrolling 2.64 crore children (as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022) at Pan India level.

The UIDAI is a statutory authority and is currently working under the aegis of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India. The provision of the UIDAI was made by the government to issue a Unique Identification Number (UID) to all the residents across India to ensure the universal targeted delivery of welfare schemes under the Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services Act, 2016. Since then its vast coverage has ensured Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of several government welfare schemes across the country to the authentic beneficiaries and has led to the following benefits to the major stakeholders at the root level:



The Bal Aadhar initiative is an extended effort of UIDAI to reach out to the maximum number of children in the age group of 0-5 years and facilitate the parents as well as children to avail numerous welfare benefits through this. This card also works as a digital photo identity proof of children right from the time of birth and is widely demanded by schools across the country at the time of enrolling for school education.

The blue color, the Bal Aadhar card also has a unique number and is issued after the collection of

biometrics of the parent or guardian having a valid Aadhar Card and facial image of the child. A relationship proof document of the parents/guardian and child is a must for the enrollment and is preferably the birth certificate of the child. Its blue color distinguishes it from the normal Aadhar Card and will be valid only at the age of 5 years. This card is set to be upgraded along with the same unique number once after the child attains the age of 5 years and can furnish their biometric details under the Mandatory Biometric Update process at any UIDAI authorized Aadhar Seva Kendra.

The registration under this initiative is taking on fast mode and the states like Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh has already covered 70% of children under the target age group. Cumulatively, the Aadhar coverage in the country is around 94% for this age group whereas it is almost 100% among the adult population. The widespread coverage is working great for the welfare of people by providing the benefits of government welfare schemes to the last beneficiary and increasing the ease of living in the farthest corners of the country including Jammu and Kashmir and Lakshadweep.

The pan-India level coverage of Aadhar cards is ensuring free mobility of people along with their families across the country and ensures the saving of public money from bogus beneficiaries. Along with it, the Bal Aadhar card is made mandatory by the Government of India to provide the benefits of the mid-day meal facility in the government schools for poor children and limit the leakages to a large extent on the name of fake children. The process over time has presented great results in terms of nutritional upliftment of children as well as the right allocation and utilization of financial budget that is paving the way for a win-win situation for one and all.



The Ministry of Earth Sciences under the Government of India has launched a public-led campaign to improve the health of India's coasts and oceans in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Management Authority and other Central Ministries, Public Organizations, Social Groups including Education Institutions. It will be a 75-day initiative from 5th July 2022 to 17th September 2022. The culmination of this public participation-based campaign will mark the celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day.

This year, this first-of-its-kind initiative is going to coincide with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on the 75th Independence Day of the country. To mark the occasion, the 75 beaches across the country's more than 7500 km vast coastline have been identified and a citizen-led coastal cleanup drive has been carried out by a team of 75 volunteers at every 1 km. The campaign is envisaged to receive enthusiastic public participation to achieve the following goals regards to the healthy Indian coastline and ocean health:



Over the concerns of rising pollution dependent on India's coastline and ocean due to the increase in economic activities including travel and tourism, the responsibility of each stakeholder increased proportionally. Thus, it is important to spread awareness among people to save the vast ocean resources and marine environment on a mission mode. The rise in population has put pressure on marine bio diversity along with the supporting ecosystems and impacted the growth of the blue economy. To minimize this threat, it is important to make people understand its ill impact coming to human life and the country's economy at large over time.

The awareness about the threats of single-use plastic waste from Urban land-based sources has also been highlighted under this mega campaign as to nurture and grow the marine economy, a clean Sea and Safe Coastline is paramount. So, to mobilize the volunteers' at a large level the various social groups and educational institutions have come ahead and brought fresh energy to the campaign.

The launch of the "Eco Mitram" mobile app has been also planned to increase people's awareness about coastal health and add a greater number of voluntary people participation in the cleaning

activities on beaches. It will be the longest coastal clean-up drive to date across the globe where such huge public participation will be done voluntarily with all the safety and risk measures taken into account. Here, mass participation will bring a multiplier effect to save the marine ecosystem and biodiversity from continuous deterioration.

The campaign is also including a pledge ceremony for children and beach visitors for "I Am Saving My Beach" at the various beaches of the country. A National Conference and various workshops regarding the conservation of India's Coastal Ecosystem, Marine biodiversity through coastal waste management and safe beach practices are also planned under the campaign to create a holistic impact.

To recognize the people's effort in this direction, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also launched a certification scheme for India's coasts named "Blue Flag" in association with the "Foundation for Environment Education Denmark". This international organization will certify the Indian beaches on distinct 33 rigorous parameters under the following 4 broad categories:

### **Environmental Education & Information**

### **Bathing Water Quality**

### **Environment Management and Conservation**

### **Beach Safety and Services**

The campaign is aligned with the launch of a global environment initiative by the Prime Minister of India "Lifestyle for Environment" (LiFE) Movement on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The call is for a human-centric collaborative effort toward sustainable development of the future including the marine environment.

All these citizen-led efforts are envisaged to increase public participation to fulfill India's commitments regarding climate action and bring an amplifying effect on the government's effort to achieve the results in letter and spirit. Thus, to increase public awareness to restabilize the ecological balance and minimize the degradation caused by single-use plastic at the source needs to have a coordinated effort to create an impact on the ground and rejuvenate the marine economy once again to its full potential and play a major role in India's economic growth.



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## Resources

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5. <https://www.mygov.in/campaigns/stip-2020/>
6. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1852055>
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14. [https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/202204/Brochure\\_LIFE\\_vf\\_with\\_Cropmarks\\_1904\\_2022.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/202204/Brochure_LIFE_vf_with_Cropmarks_1904_2022.pdf)



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