

## **NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

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The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) was set up by the Government of India in 1983. The Prime Minister is the Chairman, the Union Minister of Water Resources is the Vice-chairman, and Minister of State for Water Resources, concerned Union Ministers/Ministers of State, Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of the Union Territories are the members. The Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources is the Secretary of the Council.

The Government of India constituted a National Water Board (NWB) in 1990, under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources, to review the progress achieved in implementation of the National Water Policy and to report the progress to the National Water Resources Council from time to time. The Secretaries of Union Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Urban Development, Surface Transport, Environment & Forests, Planning and Science & Technology, Chairman of Central Water Commission, Chief Secretaries of all States/Union Territories are its members and a member (Water Planning & Projects) of Central Water Commission is the Member Secretary.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) is a premier technical organisation of India in the field of water resources since 1945. The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering schemes for control, conservation and utilisation of water resources throughout the country, for purposes of flood control, irrigation, navigation, drinking water supply and hydro power development. It also undertakes the investigation, construction and execution of any such schemes as required.

## **NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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The National Council on skill development was set up in 2008, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, as an apex institution for policy direction and review. The Ministers for Human Resource Development, Finance, Industries, Rural Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Labour and Employment and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises are its members. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Chairperson of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Chairperson of the National Skill Development Corporation and six experts in the area of skill development are its other members.

The Council is at the apex of a three-tier structure and is concerned with vision setting and laying down core strategies. The Council is assisted by the National Skill Development Coordination Board

which coordinates action for skill development both in the public and the private sector.

To promote private sector action for skill development, an institutional arrangement in the form of a non-profit corporation called the National Skill Development Corporation was set up by the Ministry of Finance.

## **CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest advisory body to advise the Central and state governments in the field of education, was first established in 1920 and dissolved in 1923 as a measure of economy. It was revived in 1935 and continued to exist till 1994.

Despite the fact that in the past, important decisions had been taken on the advice of CABE and it had provided a forum for widespread consultation and examination of issues relating to educational and cultural development, it was unfortunately not reconstituted after the expiry of its extended tenure in 1994.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) envisages that the CABE will play a pivotal role in reviewing educational development, determining the changes required to improve the system and monitoring implementation, and will function through appropriate mechanisms created to ensure contact with, and coordination among, the various areas of human resource development. Accordingly, the CABE has since been reconstituted by the Government in 2004.

The CABE consists of nominated members representing various interests in addition to elected members from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and the representatives of the Government of India, state governments and UT Administrations.

## **COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT OF PEOPLE'S ACTION AND RURAL TECHNOLOGY**

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The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was set up in the year 1986 by merging the People's Action for Development (India) (PADI) and the Council for Advancement of Rural Technology (CART). The vision of the Council is to play a dynamic and catalytic role with the various governmental agencies and Voluntary Organisations (VOs), influence public policy and contribute its share towards the many-sided development of rural India. The mission of the Council is to work in close coordination with rural VOs and empower them.

The CAPART is an autonomous body working under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development. The minister for Rural Development is the President of CAPART. It aims at supplementing Government efforts in the field of rural development by way of assisting registered non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for implementing rural development projects for upliftment of the rural masses. It works in the project mode and has been sanctioning projects to the NGOs under the following schemes:

1. Public Cooperation Scheme
2. Organisation of Beneficiaries Scheme
3. Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme
4. Disability Rehabilitation Scheme

5. Young Professional Scheme
6. Marketing of Rural Products Scheme

## **NATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPULATION**

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The National Commission on Population was constituted in May 2000 to review, monitor and give direction for the implementation of the National Population Policy (NPP), 2000 with a view to meeting the goals set out in the Policy, to promote inter-sectoral coordination, involve the civil society in planning and implementation, facilitate initiatives to improve performance in the demographically weaker states in the country and to explore the possibilities of international cooperation in support of the goals set out in the policy.

In the first meeting of the Commission, the then Prime Minister had announced the formation of an Empowered Action Group within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for paying focused attention to states with deficient national socio-demographic indices and establishment of National Population Stabilisation Fund to provide a window for canalising monies from national voluntary sources to specific aid projects designed to contribute to population stabilisation.

The Commission was reconstituted in April, 2005 with 40 members under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission are Vice Chairmen of the Commission. The present membership also includes the Chief Ministers of the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

## **STAFF INSPECTION UNIT**

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The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) was set up in the year 1964 with the objective of securing economy in the staffing of government organisations consistent with administrative efficiency and evolving performance standards and work norms. The SIU operates under the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance.

Scientific and technical organisations are not within the purview of the SIU but a committee constituted by the Head of the respective department, with a representative from SIU as a core Member, conducts study of such organisations.

In the changed scenario, and keeping in view the Government emphasis on better governance and improved delivery of services, the role of SIU has been re-defined. The SIU has been positioned to act as catalyst in assisting the line ministries and autonomous organisations in improving their organisational effectiveness.

As per the expanded mandate, in addition to its existing role, SIU would now also undertake organisational analysis primarily to cover the areas of organisational systems, financial management systems, delivery systems, client-customer satisfaction, employees' concerns etc., and suggest appropriate organisational structure, re-engineering of processes, measures to ensure optimum utilisation of resources and overcome delays besides exploring the possibilities of outsourcing some of the activities with a view to achieve enhanced output/effectiveness with only the minimum essential expenditure.

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADVISER COST

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The Office of the Chief Adviser Cost (CAC) is one of the divisions functioning in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The office is responsible for advising the ministries and government undertakings on cost accounts matters and to undertake cost investigation work on their behalf. It is a professional agency staffed by cost/chartered accountants.

The office is dealing with matters relating to costing and pricing, industry level studies for determining fair prices, studies on user charges, central excise abatement matters, cost-benefit analysis of projects, studies on cost reduction, cost efficiency, appraisal of capital intensive projects, profitability analysis and application of modern management tools evolving cost and commercial financial accounting for ministries/departments of Government of India.

The office was set up as an independent agency of the Central Government to verify the cost of production and to determine the fair selling price for Government departments including defence purchases in respect of the cases referred to. The role of the office was further enlarged and extended to fixing prices for a number of products covered under the Essential Commodities Act, such as, petroleum, steel, coal, cement, etc. under the Administered Price Mechanism (APM).

The office is also the cadre controlling office for the Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) and looks after training requirements of the officers for continuous up-gradation of their knowledge and skills.

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

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The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA to GOI) is primarily responsible for:

1. Evolving policies, strategies and missions for generation of innovations and support systems for multiple applications
2. Generating science and technology tasks in strategic, economic and social sectors in partnership with Government departments, institutions and industry.

The tasks of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA's Office), therefore, involve creation of missions and also undertaking of multi-departmental, multi-institutional projects in strategic, technological and other areas of economic/social relevance.

The PSA's Office tries to establish synergy among Government departments, academic institutions and industry. This synergy is required because, though the scientific business of the Government is divided amongst various departments, there are some areas which fall into nobody's domain and there are certain areas which fall into domains of many Ministries/Departments.

The PSA to GOI is also Chairman, ex-officio, of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) and thus the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA's Office) also serves as the Secretariat to the SAC-C.