


# Bring reforms to increase number of working women: PM at Niti Aayog meet

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NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi on Saturday said efforts must be made for inclusion of women in the workforce and asserted that laws and policies need to be made accordingly.

Chairing the 10th governing council meeting of the govt's policy think tank Niti Aayog, Modi emphasised the strength of the country's 'nari shakti' (women power) and urged changing of laws to empower women to join the growth trajectory. He also said there should be reforms in public and private sectors with focus on ease of working for women.

The PM urged states to develop at least one tourist destination on a par with global standards by providing all facilities and infrastructure, saying 25-30 such destinations could be created

across the country. Modi also emphasised the need to focus on health services delivery, urging states to ensure oxygen availability and be ready for any Covid-related challenges.

## Rs 1 lakh crore seed fund for Tier 2 & 3 cities soon: PM

Saying global investors were very interested in India, PM Narendra Modi on Saturday encouraged states to utilise

this opportunity & facilitate investments. Citing recent trade agreements with UAE, UK and Australia, he said states should utilise them to the optimum.

The 10th Niti Aayog governing council meeting was attended by CMs and lieutenant governors of 24 states and seven UTs and the theme was 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047'. The meeting commenced with a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of Pahalgam terrorist attack, according to an official statement.

"In the end, he (PM) was extremely delighted by the unanimous support for Operation Sindoor... the mood and atmosphere in the room. He said if the same mood can be captured and used for Viksit Bharat, Team India can certainly make India a developed nation," Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said after the meeting.

Stating that India was urbanising rapidly, the PM urged states to make cities the engine of sustainability and growth and urged them to focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. He said a Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund was being created for seed money. The PM said states must plan for skills which are linked to modern technologies such as AI, semiconductors and 3D printing and asserted that India has the potential to emerge as the skill capital of the world because of its demographic dividend.

Modi also said that a Rs 60,000 crore scheme for skilling has been approved by Centre and states must focus on modern training infrastructure and rural training hubs to enhance skilling. He said there was a need to increase the speed of development and if Centre and all states worked together like Team India, no goal was impossible. He said policies should be implemented to bring change in the lives of common citizens. "When people feel the change, it strengthens the change and transforms the change into a movement," he added.