

Summary of the Discussions of the meeting of State Innovation Council held on 24th October, 2013:

To accelerate the pace of innovation driven activities in the State and to prepare a roadmap for State Innovation Action Plan, a meeting of State Innovation Council was held on 24th October, 2013 in Shimla under Chairmanship of Sh. P. Mitra, Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

This meeting was attended by Ms. Veena Upadhyaya, Expert, NInC. On behalf of the NInC Mentor Dr. A. Didar Singh, Secretary-General, FICCI, Mr. Nirankar Saxena, Senior Director, i/c Innovation Cell, FICCI attended the meeting. The CII was represented by Mr. Akash Garg, Chairman, CII Himachal Pradesh State Council. Besides various special invitees from FICCI, CII etc., the meeting was also attended by leading Science & Technology and R&D organisations including CSIR, IIT, IIIT & NIT.

The list of participants is given at Annexure- "A".

At the outset, **Dr. Shrikant Baldi, Pr. Secretary (Planning)** welcomed the Chief Secretary, Ms. Veena Upadhyaya, Expert, National Innovation Council, Mr. Nirankar Saxena, Sr. Director & Incharge, Innovation Cell, FICCI Officers of the State Government and other participants of the meeting and informed that the Government of Himachal Pradesh seeks to explore the possibilities to harness the core competencies, local talent, resources and capabilities to create new opportunities using innovative ideas and described the importance of National Innovation Council for such promotions in the State.

He apprised that State of Himachal Pradesh has created State Innovation Fund vide notification dated 3rd August, 2013 with an amount of ₹ 5.00 crores to promote excellence and creativity in the functioning of Government Departments/Offices and sub-offices so as to improve the service delivery for the benefit of general public in pursuance of the decision taken by SInC in its meeting held on 3rd June, 2013. The detailed guidelines for the operation of the Fund have also been formulated and issued. He further informed that three projects had already been sanctioned from the Fund namely, Manimahesh Yatra Registration Project in Chamba 2013 (₹17 lakhs cost); Online Blood Bank Management Information System (₹ 50.12 lakhs) in Health Dept.; and Computerisation of the Dept. of Information & Public Relation activities (₹ 16 lakhs cost).

Opening the deliberations, **Chief Secretary** welcomed the guests and briefly gave the background on which the State Innovation Council (SInC) was constituted in the State on 7th January, 2011. Specifying the activities of State Innovation Council and actions performed by the State Innovation Council, he reiterated the pledge of State Government to transform Himachal Pradesh into an Innovative State. He expressed his support for the innovation-driven agenda for the State and acknowledged its contribution to the socio-economic development of the State in view of the inclusive nature of the innovation. He said that inputs/suggestions to be received in the meeting from the NInC, its Mentor's representative and other participants will be taken into consideration while drafting of the Innovation Action Plan for the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.

Ms. Veena Upadhyaya, after welcoming the Chairman and other participants in the meeting, outlined the objectives of the interactive colloquium and described them as

the identification of **(i)** the low-hanging fruits and **(ii)** formulation of the Innovation Action Plan (IAP)/ Roadmap.

She apprised that for creating sustainable and cost effective solutions and delineating the same to the people at the bottom of the pyramid, National Innovation Council decided to federalize the system (macro-form at National level) and create State Innovation Councils & Sectoral Innovation Councils. Till date, 28 States as well as Union Territories of the country have constituted State Innovation Councils in their States/UTs.

She appreciated the State of Himachal Pradesh for an early constitution of SInC in the year 2011. She emphatically stated that for practical, operational & managerial convenience, it is appropriate to anchor the State Innovation Council and allied activities in the Planning Department itself being multi-sectoral and policy framing department for the States. She also appreciated the innovations adopted by various departments of the State.

She urged the State Government to adopt the concept of Inclusive Innovation which is not only confined to commercial activities but also linked to the common man and in this regard, SInC has to play the role of facilitator and enabler to create an Innovation Eco-system for the State of Himachal Pradesh with focus on following activities:

- i. Policy Framework
- ii. Platform for synergic collaboration
- iii. Inter-institutional connectivity
- iv. ICT connectivity
- v. Fostering innovation in education sector especially in schools & colleges
- vi. Regime of incentives for innovation.

Following measures were suggested by her to be adopted at the State level by the State Innovation Council:

- i. Departments of S&T and Education may be designated as the nodal Departments of the SInC as they are the engines of innovation, while the Dept. of Planning acts as the overarching facilitating Dept. The State Innovation Council may also consider setting up some sectoral sub-committees in areas where the innovation-driven initiatives are to be taken. The best national talent can be associated with the sub-committees for the benefit of the people of the State.
- ii. To make SInC a quasi-governmental forum, she suggested the association of the Pr. Secretaries/Secretaries of the Departments of IT, S&T, Horticulture and Urban Administration with the SInC. She also stressed upon to associate representatives of academic institutions e.g. Director of NIT, Hamirpur, Directors of Engineering Colleges, Medical Institutions, representatives of industry, and progressive in order to have the competence, calibre & specialization of these premiere institutes in this council.
- iii. To make innovation, across various sectors, a part of the planning with a view to institutionalise and internalise innovation culture in the planning and budgetary process of the State.
- iv. SInC to be a platform of convergence where all the multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral innovations will be collated and consolidated. The diffused efforts can thus be systematized and converged, and become imbibed in the system. This platform will give the requisite breadth and depth to the concerns for innovation.

- v. An initiative may be taken in the industrial sector by establishment of Cluster Innovation Centres (CICs) in the Industry department of the State.
- vi. HP Inclusive Innovation Fund may be constituted at State level which may provide soft loans to support the projects/schemes having large social impacts instead of commercial impacts.
- vii. On the basis of National Innovation Scholarship Scheme, State may also adopt such scholarship schemes at State level and contribution of Karnataka's SInC in the education sector as well as Gujarat University Innovation Centre may be perused for replication of same in the State of HP. Innovation Centres in the University level and innovation clubs at college level should be introduced to inculcate the habit of innovative thinking amongst the youth of the State.
- viii. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) may be established preferably in the Technical Departments and a meeting may be convened with CII to have such SPV at State level.
- ix. ICT may be introduced in Judicial system.
- x. The platform of SInC can create a climate conducive to overcoming of the risk-aversion. Innovation naturally involves taking a degree of risk, and it becomes imperative to promote an element of risk-friendliness among the civil-servants and decision-makers at large through this forum. A due weightage in the RFDs of concerned departments may be given for promotion of innovative ideas by the department.

She also provided the details of the national level initiatives by the NInC such as MSME Clusters, India Inclusive Innovation Fund, Tod Fod Jod, National Innovation Scholarship Scheme and ICT in Judicial System. She also apprised about the various initiatives being taken by States like ICT in Judicial System by PM, lead taken by the State of Karnataka in fostering innovation in the field of education by providing budgetary support to the colleges for setting up of the Innovation Clubs in colleges, and Innovation Centres in the Universities. The need for an organic link between the SInC and the District innovation Fund (H.P. having 12 districts would get Rs. one crore for each district) by way of the former approving the guidelines at the State level, and mentoring and guiding the selection of projects was also underlined. The State may also consider holding a national level Workshop/Seminar on 'Unleashing Innovation'. It will not only provide rich inputs for the IAP but also disseminate the message on the State's commitment to the innovation agenda far and wide.

During the course of deliberations on the various points/issues related to innovation agenda for the State the meeting, the following points emerged:

- i. **Mr. Nirankar Saxena, I/C Innovation Cell, FICCI** informed through a presentation about initiatives taken up by FICCI such as DST-Lockheed Martin India Innovation Growth Program (IIGP); DRDO-FICCI Accelerated Technology Assessment and Commercialization (ATAC) Program; and FICCI – USAID – TDB-Millennium Alliance. The Millennium Alliance project has been initiated for inspiring innovation and sharing solutions across identified sectors such as basic education, agriculture/ food security, maternal & child health, family planning & reproductive health, water, clean energy & climate change.

Joint Director, FICCI gave a presentation on “Developing Livelihoods in HP: An overview and a Strategy”. The proposal spoke of some initiatives namely, Technology Incubator; Mahila Sahakari Bank (MSB); Watershed Development; Solar Energy; Enhancing agriculture and Livestock Productivity and Imparting Skills and Vocational Training. The proposed is for promoting 50,000 new livelihoods and improving incomes by 25% of the 4 lakh in existing livelihoods over five years. For the implementation of this project total funding need will be Rs 300 crore over five years, Pr. Secretary (Planning) requested all the concerned departments to prepare project proposals and send the same to FICCI for funding.

- ii. **Prof. Timothy A Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi** expressed his readiness to take steps for opening of Innovation Centre and also for taking up the initiative of Tod Fod Jod as recommended by the NInC. He further informed that they follow an inter-disciplinary culture in teaching and research and IIT faculty and students are involved in training in innovation to school children. They have also developed innovative technologies for the Himalayan region namely, internet-based education, e-Health, mobile-based agricultural advisory services, and use of pine-needles for fuel and electricity. He suggested that the State Government through its various educational/research institutes can also participate in such initiations and IIT would like to promote innovation in schools through development of experiments, training materials, and training of teachers in participation with the Government of HP.
- iii. **Dr. RK Sood, Pr. Scientist CSIR, Palampur, HP** briefed about the various programmes/projects being run or initiated by CSIR, Palampur for the promotion of agriculture, floriculture and horticulture sectors and its allied products. He informed about the program of DSIR for the promotion of innovation in industrial start-ups at the rate of ₹ 2 lakhs for Proof of Concept, and ₹ 20 lakhs for the next stage of development. He also informed that they had developed the brine-based technology for the preservation of vegetables. They were requested to give a wider publicity to the incentives and support available under the CSIR Mission-800.

Pr. Secretary (Finance & Planning) proposed that CSIR should be in contact of the concerned departments of HP for this purpose and awareness about their projects should be made so that the people of Himachal Pradesh may be benefited by such projects. He suggested to have collaboration with Agriculture department for various agricultural projects being undertaken by them.

- iv. **Dr. K.K. Katoch, Vice Chancellor, CSK Agricultural University Palampur** informed that the University has already undertaken a number of innovations. National Agricultural Innovation Project has been initiated with a view to facilitate accelerated & sustainable transformation of the State’s agriculture sector. He informed that mobile technology is being used for the dissemination of agriculture extension programmes in a number of areas.

Chief Secretary gave following suggestions:

- i. Departmental Innovation Committees should be created in every Department and such committees should come out with innovative ideas pertaining to their Department.
- ii. Youngsters in the Universities, IITs, Colleges and Schools etc. should be encouraged to have out of the box thinking for solving the problems. Suggestions should be invited from students of various Universities, Colleges, Schools etc. The best innovative ideas with practical applicability could be given prizes.
- iii. Education and Technical Education departments should prepare and implement programme for students to work as trainees in Government departments/ organizations. This is part of Congress Party Manifesto which has been adopted as Policy Document by the Government. The scheme could be similar to internship scheme of Planning Commission, which can be downloaded from Planning Commission.
- iv. He also requested Ms. Veena Upadhyaya that the matter may be raised with the Planning Commission and Central Government Ministries for funding on the pattern of RKVY to encourage innovation. She assured that the matter will be taken up at appropriate level in the GoI and Planning Commission.

The following key decisions were taken during the course of the meeting:

- i. The State Innovation Council will formulate the Innovation Action Plan (IAP) for the Twelfth Five Year Plan and inputs/suggestions given in the meeting will be taken into consideration while drafting of the Innovation Action Plan for the State.
- ii. Identification of the low-hanging fruits using innovation and actions thereon to be taken by the State Government.
- iii. An innovative proposal of setting up internship/training programmes, for students enrolled in various professional courses such as MCA, MBA, etc., in Government Departments/Organisations will be taken up by the Departments of Higher Education & Technical Education.
- iv. Upon the State Govt. making available the copies of correspondence with the Planning Commission, the NInC will pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and Central Government Ministries for provision of funds for the innovative activities by the State Governments under various CSS.
- v. The IIT, Mandi will take steps for opening of Innovation Centre and also take up the initiative of Tod Fod Jod as recommended by the NInC as agreed to by the Director, IIT, Mandi.
- vi. The State will consider holding a national level Workshop/Seminar on 'Unleashing Innovation'. It will not only provide rich inputs for the IAP but also disseminate the message on the State's commitment to the innovation agenda far and wide.

Chairman thanked Ms. Veena Upadhyaya for her guidance and hoped for the continued support of National Innovation Council. Pr. Secretary thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution and ideas to prepare an effective Innovation Action Plan for the State.

List of participants

Sr. No.	Name of Officer	Designation & Department
	Mr./Mrs./Ms.	
1	Ajay Mittal	Addl. Chief Secretary (AR).
2	Tarun Shridhar	Pr. Secretary, (Rev. & Forests).
3	R.D. Dhiman	Pr. Secretary (Edu, TE & Inds.)
4	Narinder Chauhan	Chief Electoral Officer, HP
5	Subhasish Panda	Secretary, GA/SA/SWD
6	Rakesh Sharma	Sp. Secretary, Tourism & TD.
7	Rajeev Sharma	Spl. Secretary, (RD).
8	Amitabh Avasthi	Spl. Secretary (Health).
9	H.R. Sharma	Spl. Secretary,(Power)
10	Gopal Sharma	Spl. Secretary (Transport)
11	R.S. Gupta	Spl. Secretary (Trg. & FA).
12	V.R.R. Singh	Director, HFRD, Shimla.
13	Dr. D.K. Gupta	Director, LAC.
14	J.C. Rana	Director, Agriculture, HP.
15	Vijay Chandan	Director, Technical Education.
16	Dinkar Burathoki	Director, Hr. Education.
17	Ashok Sharma	Director, Elementary Education.
18	Mohan Chauhan	Director, Industries, HP.
19	Priyatu Mandal	Director, Food & Supplies / IT.
20	T.A. Gonsalves	Director, IIT, Mandi.
21	Ram Rattan Chaunan	Under Secretary (LAC)
22	Padam Singh Chauhan	Dy. Secretary (Agr.LA & Emp.)
23	S.S. Dehal	GM (Projects), HPPTCL.
24	Manol Kumar Vaidya	Jt. Director, Research, YS Parmar UHF, Solan.
25	Dr. K.K. Katoch	Vice Chancellor, CSK, HP Agr. Uni. Palampur.
26	Dr. R.K. Sud	Pr. Scientist, CSIR- Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology, Palampur.
27	Neeta Chauhan	CII, Shimla Office.
28	Atul Sharma	Head, CII, HP.
29	Surinder K.Sharma	Dy. Director, Horticulture (Inf.) HP Shimla.
30	Dr. Vijay Bhardwaj	Head, Crop Improvement, CPRI, Shimla.
31	Krishan Thakur	RA, CPRI, Shimla.
32	Dr. Amar Dev	Jt. Director, Hr. Education (C).
33	Dr. Anjana Sood	Asso. Prof. SCERT, Solan.
34	Karan Sharma	Director, CSC-SPV, DIT.
35	Sanjeev Ganata	Programmer, DIT.
36	Om Prakash Sharma	Sr PS-----.

37	Dr. Hemant Gupta	Jt. Member Secretary, HPSCST&E.
38	Anil Gupta	SE (P&M), HPPWD, Shimla.
39	Dr. Gopal Beri	OSD, Directorate of H&FW.
40	Joginder Jhangta	Sr. Asstt, Directorate of H&FW.
41	Rakesh Attri	Statistician, Directorate of H&FW.
42	Mast Ram	Sr. Asstt o/o D.F.S., Shimla-9.
43	R.S. Dhiman	Supdt. Gr.II, FCS&CA Deptt.
44	Sohan Singh Thakur	Jt. Secretary (Law).
45	Roshan Chauhan	Section Incharge, Panchayati Raj. Deptt.
46	Rajinder Kumar	Sr. Asstt. Panchayati Raj Deptt.
47	Deep Kumar	Supdt. R.D. Deptt., HP Shimla-9.
48	Ashish Kohli	Jt. Director, El. Education.
49	M.L. Azad	Jt. Director, El. Education.
50	Kewal Sharma	Jt. Director, Panchayati Raj.
51	Dr. K.D. Ryot	Director, Animal Husbandry, HP.
52	Dr. Seema Chahal	Tech. Officer, Directorate of Animal Husbandry.
53	Subhash Gupta	Chief Engineer (Energy).
54	R.M. Mukul	SE (Works), I&PH Deptt.
55	Mohinder Singh	Principal, Govt. ITI, Shimla.
56	Dr. R. Chauhan	Sr. Industries Advisor, Deptt. of Industries.
Planning Department		
1.	Dr. Shrikant Baldi	Pr. Secretary (Fin. & Plg.).
2.	Dr. Amandeep Garg	Adviser(Planning)
3.	Basu Sood	Joint Director
4.	Surender Paul	Deputy Director
5.	Arjun Singh Chauhan	Deputy Director
6.	Manmohan Singh Rana	Deputy Director
7.	Tara Chand Chauhan	Research Officer
8.	N.K. Sharma	ARO
9.	Maya Ram Negi	ARO
10.	DeshRaj	ARO
11.	Hemant Sharma	Statistical Assistant
12.	Bhag Singh	Computer