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NITI Aayog Gets Two New Full-Time Members — Dr. Joram Aniya and Dr. R. Balasubramaniam

5 May 2026 ·

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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NITI Aayog Gets Two New Full-Time Members — Dr. Joram Aniya and Dr. R. Balasubramaniam

 5 May 2026 · 4 min read · 2 tags

WHY IN NEWS

PM Narendra Modi approved the appointment of **Dr. Joram Aniya** and **Dr. R. Balasubramaniam** as **Full-time Members of NITI Aayog** on **May 2, 2026** (PIB Press Release ID: 2257591). The appointments bring Northeast representation and grassroots governance expertise into India’s apex policy-planning body.

DR. JORAM ANIYA — HISTORIC FIRST FROM NORTHEAST

Key Facts

FEATURE	DETAIL
State	Arunachal Pradesh
Community	Nyishi — largest tribal community in Arunachal Pradesh
Historic firsts	(1) First woman from the Nyishi community to earn a PhD; (2) First person to earn a PhD in Hindi from Arunachal Pradesh; (3) First full-time NITI Aayog member from Arunachal Pradesh
Current/recent role	Associate Professor and Head, Hindi Department, Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar
Other role	Member, Arunachal Pradesh Private Educational Regulatory Commission
Experience	18+ years in teaching, research, and public policy
Scholarly work	Books on Nyishi language, indigenous cultural heritage, and grassroots knowledge systems

Significance

- Brings **Northeast India’s tribal grassroots realities** into national policymaking for the first time at this level.

- The Nyishi community (largest in Arunachal) has historically been underrepresented in national institutions.
- Expected to integrate **indigenous knowledge systems** into NITI Aayog’s development frameworks for tribal/Northeast India.

DR. R. BALASUBRAMANIAM — CIVIL SERVICE REFORM EXPERT

Key Facts

FEATURE	DETAIL
Background	Physician + public policy expert + development practitioner
Organisations founded	SVYM (Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement) — grassroots health and education NGO in Karnataka; GRAAM (Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement)
Education	Master’s in Public Administration, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University ; also a member of Prof. Ronald Heifetz’s “Leadership on the Line” teaching team
Key government role	Member (HR), Capacity Building Commission — drove PM Modi’s flagship Mission Karmayogi (civil service capacity building reform)
Core expertise	Architect of the Karmayogi Competency Framework — the foundational document for India’s civil service reform
Focus	Governance reform, civil service capacity building, leadership development, grassroots development

Significance

- Brings deep expertise in **Mission Karmayogi** — the government’s flagship civil service reform programme that aims to shift from rule-based to role-based governance.
- Harvard-trained governance expert with both grassroots credibility (SVYM, Karnataka) and elite institutional capacity (Capacity Building Commission).

NITI AAYOG — COMPOSITION (POST MAY 2, 2026)

ROLE	PERSON
Chairperson	PM Narendra Modi (ex officio)
Vice Chairperson	Suman K. Bery
Full-time Members	Dr. V.K. Saraswat; Dr. Vinod K. Paul; Shri Rajiv Gauba; Prof. Ramesh Chand; Dr. Arvind Virmani; Dr. R. Balasubramaniam (new); Dr. Joram Aniya (new)
CEO	B.V.R. Subrahmanyam (IAS)

ABOUT NITI AAYOG

FEATURE	DETAIL
Full name	National Institution for Transforming India
Established	January 1, 2015 (replaced the Planning Commission, est. 1950)
Type	Non-constitutional; government think-tank and policy body
Chairperson	PM of India (ex officio)
Key difference from Planning Commission	NITI Aayog has no fund allocation powers (unlike Planning Commission); it is advisory/strategic
Key initiatives	Aspirational Districts Programme; SDG India Index; AIM (Atal Innovation Mission); SAMAVESH

Planning Commission vs NITI Aayog

FEATURE	PLANNING COMMISSION (1950–2014)	NITI AAYOG (2015–)
Fund allocation	Yes — Five-Year Plans, block grants	No — advisory only
Approach	Top-down centralised planning	Cooperative federalism; bottom-up
Mandate	Economic planning	Policy design, innovation, long-term strategy
States' role	Passive recipients	Active partners (NITI consults states)

MISSION KARMAYOGI — CONTEXT

Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building — NPCSCB): Launched 2020. Goal: Transform India’s civil servants from rule-based to role/competency-based governance. Key vehicle: **iGOT** (Integrated Government Online Training) platform. The Karmayogi Competency Framework (designed by Balasubramaniam) defines behavioural, functional, and domain competencies for all civil service roles.

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS2 — Polity	NITI Aayog structure, Planning Commission comparison, cooperative federalism
GS2 — Governance	Mission Karmayogi, civil service reform, Capacity Building Commission
GS1 — Society	Northeast representation, tribal communities, Nyishi community

Mains Keywords: NITI Aayog, Joram Aniya, R. Balasubramaniam, Nyishi community, Mission Karmayogi, Capacity Building Commission, Karmayogi Competency Framework, iGOT, cooperative federalism, Planning Commission abolition

Prelims Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
Appointment date	May 2, 2026 (PIB PRID: 2257591)
Joram Aniya	First full-time NITI Aayog member from Arunachal Pradesh; first Nyishi woman PhD; Associate Professor, Dera Natung Govt College, Itanagar
Nyishi community	Largest tribal community in Arunachal Pradesh
R. Balasubramaniam	Harvard Kennedy School MPA; founder SVYM and GRAAM; architect of Karmayogi Competency Framework
Mission Karmayogi	Launched 2020; civil service capacity building; iGOT platform
NITI Aayog established	January 1, 2015; replaced Planning Commission (est. 1950)
NITI Aayog Chairperson	PM of India (ex officio)
NITI Aayog Vice Chairman	Suman K. Bery
NITI Aayog CEO	B.V.R. Subrahmanyam
Key difference from Planning Commission	NITI Aayog has NO fund allocation powers

Source: NITI Aayog Gets Two New Full-Time Members — Dr. Joram Aniya and Dr. R. Balasubramaniam —
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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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