

**Summary Report of Discussion in the Meeting of SInC, H.P. under the
Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary
24th October 2013**

The State of Himachal Pradesh had formed the State Innovation Council on 7th January 2011 and the first meeting of SInC was held on 21st January 2012. That meeting listed the initiatives already taken by some of the Departments. Subsequently The SInC is anchored in the Dept. of Planning of the State Govt.

2. The 3rd meeting of the SInC was chaired by **Mr. P. Mitra, Chief Secretary**, Himachal Pradesh. **The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Planning, Finance, Education, Industries, S&T, IT, Agriculture, Home, Legal Affairs Departments of the State, Mr. Amandeep Garg, Adviser, Planning, Dr. Rana, Director (Agriculture), Prof. Gonsalves, Director, IIT, Mandi** representatives of the local CSIR, Palampur, and **Prof. K.K. Katoch, Vice-Chancellor of Agriculture University, Palampur** among others. The meeting was attended by a very large number of officers of the State Govt, numbering about 200 in all. 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**. The NInC was represented by **the undersigned** and **Mr. Deeptanshu, the Associate, NInC**.

3. **Dr. Shrikant Baldi, Pr. Secretary, Dept. of Planning**, welcomed the participants, and informed that the second meeting of the SInC, had been held on 3rd June, 2013. The State took the important step of creation of State Innovation Fund vide its order dated 3rd August, 2013 with an amount of Rs. 05 crores to promote excellence and creativity in the functioning of Govt. Depts/Offices and sub-offices so as to improve the service delivery for the benefit of general public. The detailed guidelines for the operation of the Fund have also been formulated and issued. The objectives of the Fund range from creation of employment opportunities in key areas by adopting innovative ideas; provision of financial assistance to implement innovative ideas for further improvement in Human development Indicators; and funding of the new pilot projects capable of being scaled-up and replicated. He further informed that three projects had already been sanctioned from the Fund namely, Manimahesh Yatra Registration Project in Chamba 2013 (Rs. 17 lakhs cost); Online Blood Bank Management Information System (Rs. 50.12 lakhs) in Health Dept.; and Computerisation of the Dept. of Information & Public Relation activities (Rs. 16 lakhs cost).

3.1 The **Chief Secretary, H.P.** 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 they would take into account the inputs received in today's meeting from the NInC, its Mentor's representative, CII and other participants in identification of the short-term goals to be achieved in the next 4-6 months, and of the

components of the Innovation Action Plan for the Twelfth Five Year Plan period. He also observed that each Dept. of the State Govt. may consider setting up of an Innovation council for a focussed application of mind to this aspect. He also endorsed the idea of holding a Grand Challenge for inviting new ideas and proposals for resolution of specific problems facing the State in various sectors. The Chief Secretary said that the Planning Commission has taken the laudable step of making room for a certain percentage of funds to be used as per the State-specific needs under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. It gives a lot of scope and flexibility for using the funds for innovative activities as per the needs of the State Govt. He asked the NInC to take up the matter with the Planning Commission to make similar provision in other Central Sector Schemes (CSS).

3. The **undersigned** 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. Acknowledging the fact that the States do keep making systemic reforms and taking new initiatives from time to time, she underlined the utility and relevance of the forum of State Innovation Council, and elaborated on its role. Continuing further, she said that the SInC is a unique platform, and has the following role to play:

(i) The key function of the SInC is creation of innovation eco-system. Disaggregating the concept of innovation eco-system, Ms Veena Upadhyaya said that it requires performance of five tasks namely, creation of policy framework at the macro level; provision of platforms for collaboration among various institutions; ICT connectivity; fostering innovation in the field of education; and setting up a system of incentives and rewards for innovation.

(ii) The SInC is intended to be a platform of convergence where all the multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral innovations will be collated and consolidated. The diffused and discursive 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. It will allow a comprehensive and a sort of 360 degree approach to the subject and not leave it confined to limited sectors.

(iii) It leads to the institutionalisation and internalisation of the culture of innovation in the planning and budgetary process of the State, and become an integral part, rather than an extrapolation to the planning process across the sectors.

(iv) The SInC is an intermediate tier between the NInC/national level entity and the District Innovation Fund (DIF) which has been created following the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission. Under this Scheme, an amount of Rs. 1 crore has been earmarked for each district in the country for innovative works. The SInC may be the natural choice for formulation of guidelines for the innovation-

based projects and for mentoring and steering the selection of projects to be funded by the DIF.

(v) The SInC is intended to be a quasi-governmental forum. She suggested the association of the Pr. Secretaries/Secretaries of the Depts of IT, S&T, Horticulture and Urban Administration also with the SInC. She also called upon the State Govt. to associate representatives of academic institutions e.g. Director of NIT, Hamirpur, Directors of Engineering Colleges, Medical Institutions, representatives of industry, and progressive agriculturists/horticulturists. As a matter of fact, the association of the suggested persons will depend on the sectors identified for innovation agenda by the SInC as per the needs of the people of the State.

(v) 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.

(vi) This forum will also help in revisiting the regulatory regimes and promotional mechanisms with a view to facilitating their being innovation-friendly.

4. She further suggested that Depts of S&T and Education may be designated as the nodal Depts 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.

4.1 The Expert, NInC 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, the last as being undertaken in the State of M.P. through a detailed study by the National Law University, Delhi. She also drew attention to the 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. There is also an added emphasis on the setting up of the Technology Incubation Centres in Karnataka. 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.

4. During the course of the meeting, the following points emerged:

- (i) Mr. Nirankar Saxena informed 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. These initiatives have been detailed at <http://www.millenniumalliance.in/>. Through the Millennium Alliance project financial support is being given for Rs. 50L to 3.75 Cr.
- (ii) FICCI gave a proposal 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 total expenditure involved for the entire scheme for five years was reported to be Rs. 300 Cr. He iterated that this proposal can be explained in detail to the State Dept. of Planning.

(Mr. Nirankar Saxena, I/C Innovation Cell, FICCI)

The IIT, Mandi, though relatively new, is all for supporting innovation. He 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 have a design-oriented curriculum at the B.Tech level. They also promote real-life team projects. Their Faculty and students have developed a 3-D printer at the low cost of Rs. 25,000/ only. 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. The IIT has also undertaken projects on social impact of technology namely, impact of internet on postal services, and tourism. The IIT proposes to set up 2-3 Incubation Centres per year in the next five years, and 02 start-ups have already been incubated.

(Prof. Timothy A Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi)

- (iii) He informed about the program of DSIR for the promotion of innovation in industrial start-ups at the rate of Rs.02 lakhs for Proof of Concept, and Rs. 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.

(Dr. RK Sud, CSIR, Palampur, H.P.)

- (iv) He informed that the University is already documenting a number of innovations. They

have also initiated a **National Agricultural Innovation Project** which will facilitate accelerated and sustainable transformation of the State's agriculture sector. He informed that mobile technology is being used in a number of areas for various agriculture projects for information dissemination.

**(Dr. K.K. Katoch, Vice Chancellor,
CSK Agricultural University Palampur)**

5. 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 by 10th January, 2014. The exercise will also take into account the inputs received during the meeting.

(ii) The State will also identify the low-hanging fruits i.e the innovation-based actions to be taken in the short run, say in the next 4-6 months.

(iii) The State will hold a Grand Challenge for inviting new ideas and proposals for resolution of specific problems facing the State in various sectors.

(iv) An innovative proposal of setting up internship programmes for MBA students in Govt. Departments will be taken up and led by the Department of Higher Education.

(v) Upon the State Govt. making available the copies of correspondence with the Planning Commission for provision of funds for the innovative activities by the State Govts under various CSS, the NInC will pursue the matter with the Planning Commission.

(vi) 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.

(vii) 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.

6. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair

Adviser to the Prime Minister,
Project on Information Infrastructure and Innovations,
Chairman, NInC.

Veena Upadhyaya
Expert, NInC
06.11.2013