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Decentralised Planning: The Process and Experiences of a Technical Support Institute

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Introduction

The planning and decision-making functions in India remained largely with the union government and the state governments until the enactment of the Constitution (73rd and 74th Amendment) Acts, 1992. These Acts of the Indian constitution mandated establishment of District Planning Committee (DPC) under the article 243ZD to decentralize the planning process at the level of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the district in every state. Presently, it is the responsibility of DPC to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the district by consolidating the plans prepared by PRIs and ULBs of the district. The primary objective of a district plan is to arrive at an integrated plan through participatory and coordinated effort of all stakeholders for the development of the district. Hence, Comprehensive District Plan (CDP) is intended to integrate multiple programmes and schemes that are in operation in the district and focused on convergence of programmes and resources in addressing the developmental challenges. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisaged decentralised district planning with active involvement of PRIs, line departments at district level, civil society organisations and the general public at large. It emphasised on integrated planning which was expected to transform the vertical