Big Data for Better Governance

What is the issue?

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- Collaborative federalism with focus on balanced regional development is a prime objective of the Niti Aayog.
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- Effective use of big data analytics is called for, for making this developmental objective more meaningful.
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What is the need?

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- There is a notable information asymmetry at various administrative levels.
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- This is evidently hampering the targeting of various government measures and keeps the outcomes largely undermined.
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- There are entities that have outlived their utility and others that use outdated systems and processes.
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- This has to be eliminated and existing legacy systems need to be analysed with clear data points.
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- The UN, by a resolution on official statistics, expects India to produce quality statistics.
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- The purpose is to shed enough light on the true picture of material and human resources and the needs and demands of the societies.
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What should be done?

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- **Data** - Statistics must be offered as a public good for the government, enterprises and the general public.
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- The big data analytic centres do have micro data, geo-coded, along with tools for extraction of relevant information.
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- There has to be a quantitative analysis on all these.
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- There is also the need for devising a formula for aggregation of data to enforce a code of practice.
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- **Area of focus** - Health, education and demography are the significant and demanding areas in this regard.
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- Web-based reporting for timely collection, collation and dissemination should be taken up.
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- Segregating the data under different socio-economic heads would facilitate making appropriate response for concerns in each of them.
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- **Localisation** - Data at the district level would enable understanding the true picture at the ground level.
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- The impact of developmental schemes gets captured at the smallest administrative level.
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- This would be supportive for better implementation of policy initiatves and making course corrections.
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- **Organisation** - Establishing such a massive data pipeline is indeed highly challenging.
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- It should thus be ensured that data once captured are handled in an organised fashion.
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- These are essential for making the developmental initiatives meaningful.
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Source: Business Standard

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