

## 'Debate on NITI Aayog has to do with polls'

**Ahmedabad:** V K Saraswat, a member of the NITI Aayog and former Defence Research and Development Organisation chief, said on Saturday that the debate on shutting down the aayog has to do with the looming Lok Sabha election.

Saraswat was the chief guest at the 45th National Research Development Corporation meritorious innovation awards ceremony and conference, held at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII). Of the talk on the aayog, he said: "This is election time. You cannot debate on such issues."

On March 29, Congress president Rahul Gandhi had tweeted: "If voted to power, we will scrap the NITI Aayog. It has served no purpose other than making marketing presentations for the PM & fudging data."

Saraswat said that over the past five years, the aayog has done 'wonderful work' in such areas as economy, health, innovation, artificial intelligence, and energy. When he was asked about privacy concerns surrounding Aadhaar, he said that the think-tank is working with various organizations on cyber security. TNN