

PART A: News pertaining to Planning Commission



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आज का विचार (महात्मा गांधी के मूल्यवान वचन)

“सत्य के मुकाबले में कोई भी चीज रख दीजिये, सत्य सदा ही भारी होगा।”

1. New era dawns: Niti Ayog empowers states for development; Prime

Minister Narendra Modi to head new body

Iftikhar Gilani, Daily News and Analysis: 02.01.2015



On the last day of 2014, curtains came down on the last relic of the Nehruvian socialist economy with the Union government replacing the Planning Commission (Yojna Ayog) with another body, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Ayog).

In 1950, Jawaharlal Nehru, who admired Joseph Stalin's drive to industrialise the Soviet Union, set up and chaired the Commission to map out a development path for India's agrarian economy.

A 2,883-word long Cabinet resolution on setting up this institution calls it a Think Tank of the government or a "directional and policy dynamo," providing governments at the central and state levels relevant strategic and technical advice." Noted economist Arvind Panagariya (62) will be the vice-chairman in the NITI Ayog. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced in his Independence Day address to the nation that the Planning Commission would be dumped. US-based academic Panagariya is a free market, right wing economist who, over the last two years, has been writing advisories to the BJP about how to run the economy. He had also openly offered his services and now has been given the job he wanted.

How will NITI differ from Planning Commission?

Unlike the Planning Commission, the new body is for governance across the public and private domains, the Cabinet resolution says. "Everyone has a stake in ensuring good governance and effective delivery of services. Creating Jan Chetna, therefore, becomes crucial for people's initiative. In the past, governance may have been rather narrowly construed as public governance. In today's changed dynamics – with 'public' services often being delivered by 'private' entities, and the greater scope for 'participative citizenry', governance encompasses and involves everyone." The NITI Aayog will also seek to put an end to slow and tardy implementation of policy, by fostering better inter-ministry and better Centre-State coordination.

Will it be Modi's economic bureau?

Yes. Modi took the chief ministers into confidence on December 7 to go ahead with the new institution to strengthen "cooperative federalism" by promoting the concept of "Team India," noting that even then prime minister Manmohan Singh said on April 30 last year that the current structure of the Planning Commission has "no futuristic vision in the post-reform period".

What else does the resolution say?

The Cabinet resolution, which provides the ideological framework, invokes Mahatma Gandhi on constant development in life, BJP ideologue late Deen Dayal Upadhyaya for uplifting the downtrodden, Swami Vivekananda, Constitution's architect Dr Ambedkar and Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar, to let the NITI Ayog act as the "pillars" that provide a "Bharatiya approach to development." It prescribes 13 objectives on which the NITI Ayog has to remain focussed.

Will NITI devolve more powers to states?

The new body will allow state governments to determine the architecture of economic growth and development, the resolution says: "The one-size-fits-all approach, often inherent in central planning, has the potential to create needless tensions and undermining the harmony needed for national effort. The resolution quotes Dr Ambedkar that it is "unreasonable to centralise powers where central control and uniformity is not clearly essential or is impracticable."The Planning Commission was unpopular with chief ministers as it engaged in promotion of Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy.."

How is it structured?

The structure will be the same as the Planning Commission with the Prime Minister remaining its chairperson, but the difference lies in its governing council comprising chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors of Union territories and fixed-tenure regional councils to address specific issues, affecting more than one state or region.

How will members be nominated?

The new institution leaves scope for the PM to nominate experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees. The members of the new body will include PM as the chairperson, his nominee as the vice-chairperson, full-time members, rotational part-time members, four Union ministers as ex-officio members, a chief executive officer for a fixed tenure in the rank of the secretary to the Centre and the usual secretariat.

2. Planning Commission to be renamed 'Neeti Ayog'

The Times of India: Jan 1, 2015, 10.50 AM IST

NEW DELHI: The Planning Commission, which was established in 1950, has been renamed 'Neeti Ayog'.

An official announcement to this effect is likely to be made later today, according to TV reports.

The decision comes nearly three weeks after Modi held consultations with chief ministers at a meeting where most favoured restructuring of the Socialist-era body but some Congress chief ministers opposed disbanding of the existing set-up.

Reports say the decision to rename the Plan panel was taken at Monday's Cabinet meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has maintained that the Planning Commission has outlived its utility and time has come to replace it with a new body.

In his Independence Day address to the nation, PM had announced his govt's intent to set up a new body.

While addressing the Chief Ministers on December 7, Modi had invoked former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who had said on April 30 last year that the current structure has "no futuristic vision in the post-reform period".

However, the govt's move has faced strong resistance from Congress.

Congress leader Manish Tewari, speaking to Times Now, called the move ' a fluff with no substance'.

The Trinamool Congress also slammed the government's move.

(With inputs from PTI)

3. With Niti Aayog, states get a seat at Modi's roundtable

Jan 02 2015 : The Times of India (Delhi)

PM: End of one-size-fits-all approach

Centre Embraces Consultative Policy-Making

The government on Thursday replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission -a relic of the Socialist era -with a Niti Aayog or National Institution for Transforming India, marking a major shift in policy making by involving states.

To be headed by PM Narendra Modi, the new body will have a governing council comprising CMs of all states and Lt Governors of Union Territories and will work towards fostering "co-operative federalism" for providing a "national agenda" to the Centre and states. The membership of states has rendered the National Development Council, a body of CMs that approves five-year Plans, defunct.

The new body, which would remain at its predecessor's address in Lutyens' Delhi, will have a vice-chairperson and CEO to be appointed by the PM. Columbia University professor Arvind Panagariya was under consideration for vicechairperson, sources said. The Niti Aayog, which will serve as a policy think tank for the central and state governments, will have 7-8 full-time members and two part-time members, while four Union ministers would serve as ex-officio

members. The two part-time members would be from leading universities and research organizations; the number of full-time members has not been specified as yet.

Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge would also be part of Niti Aayog as “special invitees nominated by the PM“. Modi, who announced the dismantling of Planning Commission in his maiden Independence Day speech last year, hailed the replacement in a series of tweets, saying the inclusion of CMs and LGs will “foster a spirit of cooperative federalism“. “Through Niti Aayog, we bid farewell to a ‘one size fits all’ approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality ,“ Modi tweeted.

The scrapping of the Planning Commission addresses the long-held view that the body , which was conceived at a time when the Centre was supposed to occupy “commanding heights of economy“, had outlived its relevance because of diminished role of the state and the emergence of the private sector and also due to the foci of economic activities shifting to states.

Beginning with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's dismissing the body as a “bunch of jokers“, the Commission's utility had been increasingly called into question, with state governments protesting against their limited role in the planning process despite Congress's protests against what it has called the assault on Nehruvian policies.

The Modi government focused on the lament of the states and an important evolutionary change from the past will replace a centre-to-state one-way flow of policy by a genuine and continuing partnership with the states. The declared intent to empower states has played well as nonNDA chief ministers have also supported the dissolution of Planning Commission.

Significantly , Modi and the official statement also stressed that the Niti Aayog will pay special attention to the poor who have not benefited from development process. “A pro-people, pro-active and participatory development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality is the guiding principle behind Niti Aayog“, Modi said in one of his tweets. It also said that the new institution “has to provide at the Centre and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice“ on key policy issues.

For the full report, log on to <http://www.timesofindia.com>

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NOW DEFUNCT

- PM to head Niti Aayog, **appoint vice-chairman, CEO**
- **7-8 full time members** likely besides **2 part-time members** from leading universities and research bodies. **4 Union ministers** will be members
- Will have **governing council** of CMs, heads of UTs. **Regional council** to tackle issues related to more than one state/region

WHAT IS NEW?

- Focus will be on **cooperative federalism**. In the Planning Commission states did not have representation but there was a National Development Council
- Shift from **top-down planning** to **consultative** policy making



- Panel will serve as **govt think tank** on key policy issues
- Will maintain resource centre on good governance and best practices
- Experts have been debating the future of the Planning Commission and feel it has **long outlived its utility** and its policies do not reflect the changing times

HOW IT HAPPENED

Aug 13 | Cabinet approves scrapping of Planning Commission

Aug 15 | PM announces Planning Commission will be **abolished**

Dec 7 | CMs interact with PM Narendra Modi to **work out contours** of the new entity



4. LANDMARK CHANGE IN POLICYMAKING - Modi Sarkar Puts Bharat First with Plan Panel Heir

Jan 02 2015 : The Economic Times (Delhi)

PM-led NITI Aayog to have all CMs and lieutenant-governors as its key members

The NITI Aayog, which will replace the Planning Commission, will be responsible for formulating what the government described as “a Bharatiya approach to development“. The new organisation -NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India -is being seen as a think tank that will foster “cooperative federalism“ rather than take a top-down approach.

“An important evolutionary change from the past will be replacing a Centre-to-state oneway flow of policy by a genuine and continuing partnership with the states,“ the government said in

the statement unveiling the body on New Year's Day . “The institution must have the necessary resources, knowledge, skills and ability to act with speed to provide the strategic policy vision for the government as well as deal with contingent issues.“

The Planning Commission, which was set up in 1950, was among the principal targets of the Narendra Modi government that came to power in May , seeing it as symptomatic of a way of thinking that was obsolete. “In the context of governance structures, the changed requirements of our country point to the need for setting up an institution that serves as a think tank of the government -a directional and policy dynamo,“ the government said. “The proposed institution has to provide governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy.“

The body will be headed by the prime minister and comprise a vice chairperson, besides full-time and part-time members. Aside from that, it will have up to four members of the council of ministers and a chief executive officer of secretary rank.

No names have been announced yet but the rooms of the deputy chairman and members of the erstwhile Planning Commission at what used to be its headquarters at Yojana Bhawan in New Delhi are being readied for the team that is likely to assume charge shortly.

Arvind Panagariya, professor of economics at Columbia University, is among those being tipped as vicechairperson. He couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

“NITI Aayog will seek to provide a critical directional and strategic input into the development process,“ the government said, pitching it as an institution that will create a greater stake for states in development. “The Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy, that was the hallmark of the Planning Commission era, is now sought to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states.“

This is sought to be achieved through a governing council consisting of all chief ministers and lieutenant-governors of union territories besides regional councils set up for a specified tenure and experts, specialists and practitioners as special invitees nominated by the prime

minis ter. The decision comes nearly three weeks after Modi held consultations , with chief ministers at a meeting where most favoured restructuring of the Socialist-era Planning Commission while some belonging to t Congress opposed disbanding the existing setup.

Modi had announced in his Independence Day speech that the Planning Commission would be replaced by a new body that was in sync with the global economy.

The government said on Thursday that the Aayog will provide a “national agenda“ for the prime minister and chief ministers while recognising that “strong states make a strong nation“.It will also interact with other national and international think tanks, as also with educational and policy research institutions.

According to Arun Maira, former member of the Planning Commission, the structure of NITI Aayog may not be entirely new but getting the chief ministers involved in formulating the country's development vision was the right way to go.

“The idea to create an institution where states' leaders will be part and parcel of the collective thinking with the Centre and other stakeholders in formulating a vision for the development of the country is right on as compared with the previous structure, where a handful of people formulated the vision and then presented it to the National Development Council (NDC),“ he said. “This was not entirely absorbed and adopted by the latter.“ NDC comprises chief ministers of all states.

The announcement drew criticism from Congress, which cited the move as being against the tenets of Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister and a driving force behind the establishment of the Planning Commission.

“Constructive reform of Planning Commission vs alteration of identity and basic structure cos of anti nehruvianism & congism: support former not latter,“ party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi tweeted.

While the Planning Commission went through numerous operational makeovers over the years -ranging from being a simple planning body to a powerful 'control commission' to a fiscal decentralisation instrument to an official think tank -voices had begun to grow louder for an overhaul even before the new government took charge.

Subsequently, a consultation process was launched for suggestions on the structure and role of the new body and there was a strong view that this should play the role of a catalyst and provide a platform to the Centre, states and experts to discuss issues and arrive at the best solutions.

NITI Aayog will create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and partners, the government said. It will offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda. In addition, it will monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and focus on technology upgradation and capacity building.

The objective of the new body is to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states. It will develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government. Aayog will design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy.

The Structure

PM will be Aayog's chairman

Vice-chairman will be an executive authority, appointed by PM

4-5 full-time members, who will be domain experts, will assist the vice-chairman

CEO will replace secretary of the erstwhile Plan panel

Two part-time members from varsities, in ex-officio capacity, will be appointed on rotational basis

Up to four council ministers would be nominated by the PM as ex-officio members

There will be regional councils, set up for a specified tenure to address specific issues

Other key depts would be monitoring and evaluation division and knowledge and research division



5. 2014 Ended up Being The Year of Challenges & Reforms for India

Jan 02 2015 : The Economic Times (Delhi)

In 7 months, govt has taken up many reform-oriented measures

2014 was one of the most challenging years for India. For two consecutive years our GDP growth was sub 5%. Employment generation had declined, the revenue buoyancy was low and the country had become investment starved.

The 2014 general election results brought in an air of freshness. After thirty years, the Indian electorate gave a majority to a single party in the Lok Sabha. The Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi promised to be decisive and firm. The popular expectation was that the Government would usher in an era of reforms and growth.

In the past seven months, the Government has undertaken more reform oriented measures than any Government in recent memory . Some of the steps are as under: Outlining the vision of cooperative federalism through the creation of successor to the Planning Commission. The new structure would provide an alternative to the command and control economy .

Building a national consensus and introducing a bill to amend the constitution to implement the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Opening the gates of investment by raising FDI limits in the insurance, defence and the railways. The FDI conditions in real estate have been liberalised.

Issuing an ordinance to amend the complicated procedures of the land acquisition law. The new law facilitates development but balances it with higher compensation, relief and rehabilitation measures for the farmers. Compensation and RNR package has been made entirely applicable to the thirteen exempted laws.

Clearing up the mess in the coal and power sector, a law has been introduced to facilitate a transparent and non-discretionary method of allocation of coal blocks, enabling commercial mining to enhance the potential of the sector. This will cut down power cost and increase generation.

Deregulation of diesel prices and facilitating the opening up of petrol and diesel sector to private investment.

Raising the gas prices while maintaining a balance between cost to the consumers and the need of gas exploration in the country. Moderating inflation and particularly inflation in agricultural items. Replacing the model of cooking gas subsidy to direct transfer so deserving consumers get benefit and leakages in subsidy are plugged to the benefit of the exchequer.

Unleashing an era of financial inclusion, providing Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana where over 10 crore accounts of the weaker sections have been opened. The DBT cash benefits will be transferred to this account. Account holders have an accidental, LIC policy and overdraft facility.

Launching flagship programmes such as Swachch Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India and Skilled India so that the real image and potential of India is explored. Facilitating States like Rajasthan to usher in an era of labour law reforms.

Major tax rebates given to tax payers by raising the income tax limit, and providing incentives on both savings and housing investments. Rationalizing tax management to end the image of India having an ultraaggressive tax policy .

Resolving of pending disputes through appropriate mechanisms so that our tax structures do not become a disincentive against investments.

Giving major tax rebates to the manufacturing sectors which is facing a slowdown.

Undertaking various banking sectors reforms such as recapitalisation of banks, professionalizing managements, bringing Government equity to 52% and allowing greater autonomy to banks and financial institutions.

Undertaking major steps to unearth black money , both domestically and that lying in foreign bank accounts. Assessment of assesses with illegal foreign accounts available with the

government in India to be completed by 31st March, 2015 and prosecutions launched against those against whom evidence is available.

Amending provisions of the Companies Act to add to ease of doing business in India.

Giving major boost to tourism by introduction of e-visa.

Various measures for trade facilitation by allowing 24 X 7 custom clearance on 17 airports and 18 seaports. Despite major reforms steps taken, there are still challenges which economy faces. Investment needs to be enhanced and encouraged. Infrastructural spending has to be stepped up. Manufacturing sector has to be given a major push. This has to be done through encouraging public and private investment. This is our resolve for the upcoming year.

A Facebook post



6. NITI Aayog is new policy body

Puja Mehra

The Hindu January 2, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: January 2, 2015 09:23 IST New Delhi, January 2, 2015

PM Modi to head panel that will give strategic advice

On New Year's Day, the Modi government set up NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in place of the Planning Commission. The Prime Minister will head the new institution tasked with the role of formulating policies and direction for the government. Its governing council will comprise the Chief Ministers and the Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.

The Prime Minister will appoint the Aayog's Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer. Asian Development Bank's former Chief Economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be the first Vice-Chairperson.

The government plans to adopt a "Bharatiya" approach to development, says the resolution of the Union Cabinet for setting up the Aayog. India needs an administration paradigm in which the government is an enabler rather than a provider of first and last resort, it says.

The Aayog will recommend a national agenda, including strategic and technical advice on elements of policy and economic matters. It will also develop mechanisms for village-level plans and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.

The institutions of governance and policy have to adapt to new challenges and must be built on the founding principles of the Constitution, the resolution says. On the planning process, it says that there is a need to separate the process from the strategy of governance.

Transforming India, it further says, will involve changes of two types — consequences of market forces and those that would be planned. "The maturing of our institutions and polity also entails a diminished role for centralised planning, which itself needs to be redefined."

A state-of-the-art resource centre for good governance practices is also proposed.

The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 through a Cabinet Resolution, which the Modi government scrapped in August 2014.

id panel that will give strateg

THINK TANK 2.0

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA WILL FOSTER CENTRE-STATE COOPERATION

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
Chairperson PM	Chairperson PM
Governing Council Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors of UTs	National Development Council (PM, Cabinet, CMs, State FMs)
Regional Councils (PM, CMs)	Not applicable
Vice-Chairman, appointed by PM	Deputy Chairman, appointed by PM
Ex officio members Central Ministers	Ex officio member Minister of Planning
PM-appointed CEO	Secretary Planning



Source: PIB, Planning Commission website

Asian Development Bank's former Chief Economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be the first Vice-Chairperson

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A state-of-the-art resource centre for good governance practices is also proposed.

The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 through a Cabinet Resolution, which the Modi government scrapped in August 2014.

■ 'BHARATIYA MODEL'

It's anti, durniti, says Opposition

NEW DELHI: The Opposition on Thursday criticised as mere "fluff" and "gimmickry" the government's decision to restructure the Planning Commission and rename it NITI Aayog, and voiced apprehension that it would discriminate against the States and help "corporates call the shots" in policymaking.

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of the Planning Commission as "anti and durniti" [no policy and bad policy]. "If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said," he said. "It being the stakeholder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate against the States," Congress leader Manish Tewari said.

Veteran CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta said dismantling of the Planning Commission would lead to an unregulated economy. "It is not a change of name. The Planning Commission is being abolished because they [government] don't believe in planning," he said. — PTI

7. Bharatiya' governance model unveiled

The Hindu

Published: January 2, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: January 2, 2015 05:49 IST New Delhi, January 2, 2015



A view of the Planning Commission building in New Delhi.— PHOTO: Shanker Chakravarty

The Modi Government on Thursday unveiled its 'Bharatiya' governance model in the resolution for setting up the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.

The resolution, approved by the Cabinet, reaffirms that India is a diverse country with distinct languages, faiths and cultural ecosystems. "This diversity has enriched the totality of the Indian experience," the resolution says.

Politically too, India has embraced a greater measure of pluralism which has reshaped the federal consensus, it says. "States do not want to be mere appendages of the Centre... They seek a decisive say in determining the architecture of economic growth and development."

India no longer seeks the alleviation of poverty, states the resolution, but rather its elimination. "Poverty elimination remains one of the most important metrics by which alone we should measure our success as a nation."

The essence of effective governance is defined to include pro-people agenda, citizens' participation, all-round women empowerment, equality of opportunity to the youth and transparency. Inclusiveness with special attention to the socially and economically disadvantaged sections and minorities is also included in the scheme of effective governance.

Enabling legislation

The role of Government as a player in the industrial and service sectors is proposed to be reduced. “Instead, Government has to focus on enabling legislation, policy making and regulation.”

India’s middle class, including the neo-middle class, is unique in terms of its size and purchasing power, says the resolution. “Our continuing challenge is to ensure that this economically vibrant group remains engaged and its potential is fully realised.”

The resolution also says that the Non-Resident Indian community spread across more than 200 countries is a significant geo-economic and geo-political strength. “Future national policies must incorporate this strength in order to broaden their participation in the new India beyond just their financial support.”

Urbanisation has to be viewed as an opportunity to use modern technology to create a wholesome and secure habitat while reaping the economic benefits that it offers, states the resolution.

Policy-making must focus on providing necessary support to the more than 50 million small businesses, which are a major source of employment creation, in terms of skill and knowledge upgrades and access to financial capital and relevant technology.

8. 'NITI Aayog': New Name for Restructured Planning Commission

NDTV: January 01, 2015 10:39 IST



FILE photo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: India's Planning Commission will be renamed "NITI Aayog" as part of a restructuring plan announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech. 'NITI' is an acronym for "National Institution for Transforming India," said officials. The new plan body, sources say, will have up to five full time members and four union ministers. The permanent members are expected to be experts from various fields. The change comes almost 65 years after India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, a socialist who admired Joseph Stalin's drive to industrialize the Soviet Union, set up and chaired the Commission to map out a development path for India's agrarian economy.

- The panel reported directly to the Prime Minister, who was its chairman. Earlier this month, PM Modi held discussions with chief ministers on replacing the body with a 'Team India' concept that would give states a greater role in developing Asia's third largest economy.

There was no consensus among chief ministers. Those from Congress-ruled states said the plan panel should be reinvented rather than scrapped and replaced. States ruled by the BJP and its allies agreed to the restructuring, but insisted on a greater role in policy-making. The Centre and states also failed to agree on whether Five-Year Plans and the annual state plans should be retained or dumped.

There was broad consensus, however, on the need to strengthen federalism and give states more powers and greater flexibility to implement programmes. All states had agreed that the principle of "one-size-fits-all" for schemes and programmes does not work. The opposition Congress has criticised the restructuring plan, calling it "shortsighted and dangerous".

Story First Published: January 01, 2015 10:39 IST

9. Planning Commission to be renamed ‘Neeti Ayog’

Indian Express: 02.01.2015



PM Modi had announced in his Independence Day speech that the Planning Commission would be replaced by a new body. (Source: IE Archive)

The Planning Commission, which was established in 1950, will be called ‘Neeti Ayog’ in its new avatar, months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that it will be replaced by a new body.

The decision comes nearly three weeks after Modi held consultations with chief ministers at a meeting where most favoured restructuring of the Socialist-era body but some Congress Chief Ministers opposed disbanding of the existing set-up.

Modi had announced in his Independence Day speech that the Planning Commission would be replaced by a new body which is in sync with the contemporary economic world.

While addressing the Chief Ministers on December 7, he had invoked former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who had said on April 30 last year that the current structure has “no futuristic vision in the post-reform period”.

He had pushed for an effective structure which strengthens “cooperative federalism” and the concept of “Team India”.

There were indications that the new structure will have the Prime Minister, some Cabinet ministers and some chief ministers along with technocrats and experts in various fields.

10. Planning Commission: Curtains drawn over 65-yr-old legacy body

The Indian Express: 02.01.2015

The new institution would also have a CEO while Prime Minister would be the Chairperson.

Set up by India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Planning Commission brought 12 five-year plans and six annual plans involving fund outlays of over Rs 200 lakh crore in its nearly 65-year-history.

Bringing down curtains on it, the government on Thursday replaced the fabled Planning Commission (Yoyana Aayog) with a new body named NITI Aayog, or the National Institution for Transforming India.

The Plan Panel, as it was commonly known, was set up by a simple government resolution on March 15, 1950 and has withstood many political and economic upheavals.

Incidentally, the new body has also been set up through a Cabinet Resolution, which has invoked words of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Swami Vivekanand and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

It was a decisive mandate for a change of government during a politically and economically supercharged 2014 that finally led to the epitaph being written for Plan Panel.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his first Independence Day speech on August 15, 2014 that the Commission would get a replacement.

The new institution, which would remain at its predecessor's address, a few blocks away from the Parliament, would also have a CEO, while Prime Minister would be the Chairperson.

While it went through numerous operational makeovers over the years of its existence, ranging from being a simple planning body to a powerful 'control-commission' to a fiscal decentralisation instrument to an official think-tank, the voices had begun to grow louder for an overhaul even before the new government took charge in May 2014.

The defeat of the last UPA government, however, led to immediate resignation of the Commission's Deputy Chairman, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who was at the helm of affairs for a decade, and other members in the last week of May.

Subsequently, a consultation process was launched for suggestions on the structure and role of the new body.

It was suggested that instead of a "Control Commission", the new body should play the role of a catalyst and provide a platform to the Centre, states and experts to discuss issues and come out with the best solutions.

Incidentally, Nehru himself is said to have faced resistance to the idea of setting up of the Planning Commission, but it went on to become a major platform for successive governments to formulate and push forward economic policies and other development plans.

The Commission was set up as part of the government's declared objectives to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of resources, increasing production and offering employment opportunities.

It was charged with the responsibility of assessing all resources of the country, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for the most effective and balanced utilisation of resources and determining priorities.

The first Five Year Plan was launched in 1951 with total outlay of little over Rs 2,000 crore and two subsequent five-year plans were formulated till 1965, when there was a break because of the Indo-Pakistan Conflict.

Two successive years of drought, devaluation of currency, a general rise in prices and erosion of resources disrupted the planning process and after three Annual Plans between 1966 and 1969, the fourth Five-year plan was started in 1969.

The Eighth Plan could not take off in 1990 due to the fast changing political situation at the Centre and the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 were treated as Annual Plans. The Eighth Plan was finally launched in 1992.

During the first eight Plans, the emphasis was on a growing public sector with massive investments in basic and heavy industries.

However, since the launch of the 9th Plan in 1997, the emphasis on the public sector has become less pronounced and the current thinking on planning in the country, in general, is that it should increasingly be of an indicative nature.

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11. Renaming of Plan panel due to ‘anti-Nehruvianism’: Congress

The Indian Express

By: [Express News Service](#) | New Delhi | Posted: January 2, 2015 1:28 am |

Updated: January 2, 2015 6:21 am

The rechristening of the Planning Commission by the NDA government on Thursday met with the expected opposition from the Congress.

The party said “anti-Nehruvianism” and “anti-Congressism” were behind the government’s decision to rename the Planning Commission as “Niti Aayog”.

The party’s chief ministers have already objected to replacing the Planning Commission at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month.

“Mere change of name from Yojana Aayog to Niti is not objectionable if it is coupled with real reform. Otherwise, it will be purely cosmetic like earlier naming ceremonies,” Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said. He said the Congress would have supported constructive reform of the Planning Commission.

But the “alteration of identity and basic structure”, he said, is being done because of anti-Nehruvianism and anti-Congressism.”

Former union minister Manish Tewari too hit out at the government. “It is not a question of fighting a war. It is a matter of principle. The opposition BJP used to go to extra lengths talking about federalism and how the sanctity of federalism has to be maintained. And now they are going exactly the reverse way,” he said.

“If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said. If the North Block or the Finance Ministry have a very short-term view of both fiscal and monetary objective (and) is going to be the final arbiter between the states and the Centre... It being the stake holder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate against the states,” he said.

12. NITI Aayog replaces Planning Commission, PM Narendra Modi to chair panel

The Indian Express By: [ENS Economic Bureau](#) | New Delhi | Posted: January 2, 2015 1:38 am | Updated: January 2, 2015 9:53 am



We bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development: PM Modi.
(Source: IE archive)

The government on Thursday announced that the Planning Commission had been revamped and rechristened as the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, with a multi-tiered structure including a governing council that comprises the chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors of union territories.

To be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the revamped institution will serve as a government “think tank” with the mandate to provide strategic and technical advice on issues of “national and international importance” to the Centre and states.

“Having served as a CM in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that,” tweeted Modi, who had in his Independence Day speech mooted the idea of replacing the Planning Commission,

which was set up in 1950 and seen as a vestige of the socialist era. He also held consultations with state governments on December 7 on this issue.

“A pro-people, proactive & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog... Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a ‘one size fits all’ approach towards development. The body celebrates India’s diversity & plurality,” he tweeted.

The Prime Minister’s Office said that the centre-to-state one-way flow of policy, that was the hallmark of the Planning Commission era, is now sought to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states.

The NITI Aayog, set up by a resolution of the Union Cabinet, will have a multi-tiered structure, with the PM as the chairperson, a governing council comprising the chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors of union territories, regional councils to be set up on region and state specific issues, and experts and specialists as the PM’s special invitees.

“The regional councils will be convened by the Prime Minister and will comprise the chief ministers of all the states and lieutenant governors of union territories in the region. These will be chaired by the chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee,” said an official statement.

In addition, the full-time organisation framework of the NITI Aayog will comprise the PM as its chairperson, who will appoint a CEO and vice-chairperson. It will also have some full-time members and two part-time members, while four union ministers will serve as ex-officio members.

While the two part-time members will be from leading universities and research organisations, the number of full-time members has not been specified as yet. Sources said the names of the members are likely to be announced over the next few days.

While the Planning Commission was primarily responsible for deciding on plan spending of the Centre and allocation to state governments, the NITI Aayog will provide a “national agenda framework for the Prime Minister and the chief ministers” after evolving “a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states”. Invoking the words of national and spiritual leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda and BR Ambedkar, the government said the new agency will also “foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with states” as well as develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level. The revamp however, did not go well with Opposition parties who said it was mere “fluff” and “gimmickry”. “If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said...,” said Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari. CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of the Planning Commission as “aniti and durniti” (no policy and bad policy).

PLANNING COMMISSION	NITI AAYOG
<p>STRUCTURE</p> <p>Headed by PM, with a politician or economist as deputy chairman and Union minister in charge of planning.</p>	<p>Multi-tiered body chaired by PM, with a governing council of chief ministers, regional council on specific issues, experts as special invitees.</p>
<p>Full-time members were experts in various areas and attached offices such as UIDAI, National Institute of Labour Economics and Development.</p>	<p>Full-time office to include PM as chairperson, a vice chairperson, CEO, full-time members, 2 part-time members, 4 union ministers as ex-officio members.</p>
<p>FUNCTIONS</p> <p>Formulate and review five-year plan target and goals, advise on specific issues.</p>	<p>Develop a “national agenda” and foster cooperative federalism between Centre and states.</p>
<p>Decide state allocations and Plan expenditure.</p>	<p>Provide strategic and technical advice on key issues.</p>

Tweet from PM

Narendra Modi ✓ @narendramodi

[Follow](#)

Delighted to introduce NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog. It will provide key inputs on various policy matters.

[Narendra Modi](#) ✓ [@narendramodi](#)

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Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity & plurality

[5:00 PM - 1 Jan 2015](#)

[Narendra Modi](#) ✓ [@narendramodi](#)

[Follow](#)

A pro-people, pro-active & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog.

[5:01 PM - 1 Jan 2015](#)

13. Planning Commission gets a new name in 2015: Neeti Ayog

IndiaToday.in New Delhi, January 1, 2015 | UPDATED 12:27 IST

The Central government will name the restructured version of the Planning Commission as Neeti Ayog. The decision will be announced on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in December last year, held a meeting with the chief ministers of states on replacing the Planning Commission with a think tank that gives states a greater role in developing the country.

The PM had announced in his Independence Day speech that the government would disband the Commission, set up by first Prime Minister of the country, Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1950.

While addressing the Chief Ministers on December 7, he had invoked former Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#) who had said on April 30 last year that the current structure has "no futuristic vision in the post-reform period".

He had pushed for an effective structure which strengthens "cooperative federalism" and the concept of "Team India".

There were indications that the new structure will have the Prime Minister, some Cabinet ministers and some chief ministers along with technocrats and experts in various fields.

14. Planning Commission gives way to Niti Aayog

2 Jan 2015 Hindustan Times (Delhi) HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com



A view of the Yojana Bhawan in which the Planning Commission was located, in New Delhi on Thursday. The restructured body will now be known as the NITI Aayog. (PTI Photo)

NEW DELHI: In its first major decision of the year, the government said on Thursday the Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog will replace the 65-year-old Planning Commission, marking the end of the Nehruvian institution that pioneered India's five-year planned development approach.

The move comes nearly four months after PM Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, where he had announced the plan panel would give way to a new body in sync with contemporary challenges, shunning the "one size fits all" approach.

As first reported by HT, the PM will head the body and its governing council will include all chief ministers and lieutenant governors, in line with Modi's thrust on cooperative federalism that advocates involving states in the Centre's decision making.

"Having served as a CM (chief minister) in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. Niti Aayog does precisely that," tweeted Modi.

“Through the Niti Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life (inclusive growth),” the PM wrote on the microblogging site.

The primary job of the new body -- described as a think tank -- will be to advise the government on social and economic issues. Unlike the Nehruvian plan panel, the new body will not have the power to disburse funds to central ministries and state governments.

The new panel will have a vicechairperson and a chief executive officer, in addition to four cabinet ministers as ex-officio members, five full-time members and two part-time members from universities and research organisations on a rotational basis.

The position of the vice-chairman, for which Arvind Panagariya is among the front runners, and several other posts will be filled up in the next few days.

The governing council will replace the National Development Council that is presided over by the PM. Regional councils chaired either by Modi or his nominee will also be set up to address regionspecific issues.

A cabinet resolution passed last week said the Aayog will evolve a “framework national agenda” for the PM and chief ministers, adding that it will create knowledge support through a community of national and international experts. For that, it will have domain experts as special invitees.

The resolution said the Planning Commission was no longer relevant as it was set up when India was an underdeveloped economy and is now emerging as one of the largest in the world.

“From being preoccupied with survival, our aspirations have soared and today we seek elimination rather than alleviation of poverty,” it said.

However, the resolution did not specify the new panel’s roles or if the present Five Year Plan approach would continue. Officials said these issues will be resolved before the members to the commission are nominated.

News of the Aayog’s set up was received with criticism from the Opposition, who called it “fluff” and “gimmickry”. CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury described the new panel as the government’s “aniti and durniti (no policy and bad policy)”.

The Congress’ Manish Tewari said merely changing the nomenclature from Planning Commission to Niti Aayog will achieve nothing.

“It aims, it appears, to give more powers to the north block of the finance ministry so that it can be a final arbiter between the states and the Centre...it is against federal structure of the country,” Tewari said.

15. NEW YEAR, NEW AVATAR

2 Jan 2015 *Hindustan Times (Delhi)*

Workers replace the Planning Commission's signboard with one that reads 'Niti Aayog' after PM Modi announced that the 65-yr-old institution would be replaced by the new NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.

NEW YEAR, NEW AVATAR



■ Workers replace the Planning Commission's signboard with one that reads 'Niti Aayog' after PM Modi announced that the 65-yr-old institution would be replaced by the new NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.

ARUN SHARMA/ HT PHOTO

ARUN SHARMA/ HT PHOTO

16. NITI Aayog replaces Planning Commission; PM Narendra Modi to head new body

The Financial Express:02.01.2015

Summary

NITI Aayog will serve as a 'Think Tank' of the government as 'a directional and policy dynamo' and would provide Centre, state govts advice on key policy matters.



Socialist-era Planning Commission was today replaced by a new think-tank, NITI Aayog, that will be headed by the Prime Minister. (PTI)

Socialist-era Planning Commission was today replaced by a new think-tank, NITI Aayog, that will be headed by the Prime Minister and will have all Chief Ministers as members in a broad-based Governing Council to involve states in evolving national development priorities.

The inclusion of Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors in the Governing Council is a break with the past in the structuring of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, described as a landmark change that will foster spirit of cooperative federalism.

The body will have a Vice Chairperson and a CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members, while four union ministers would serve as ex-officio members.

The erstwhile command economy era body set up nearly 65 years ago by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had a Deputy Chairman and full-time members with a member secretary, an official, as a convener.

A PMO statement said the Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy, that was the hallmark of the Planning Commission era, is now sought to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states. It will put an end to "slow and tardy implementation of policy", it said.

Noted economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be the first Vice-Chairman of Niti Aayog.

A Cabinet resolution setting up the new body said that Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region.

They will comprise the Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors in the region. These will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.

The NITI Aayog will also have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister.

The two part-time members of the new body would be from leading universities and research organisations.

The body will serve as a 'Think Tank' of the government as "a directional and policy dynamo" and would provide the governments at the Centre and in states with strategic and technical advice on key policy matters including economic issues of national and international importance.

Commenting on the new body, Modi tweeted, "Having served as a CM (Chief Minister) in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that."

"Through the NITI Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life (inclusive growth)," said Modi, who had in his Independence Day speech mooted the idea of replacing the Commission with a new and more relevant body.

The resolution invokes the words of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Swami Vivekanand and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya in the constitution of the new body.

As per the Resolution, the NITI Aayog will provide a 'national agenda' for the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers to foster cooperative federalism while recognising that "strong states make a strong nation".

It will also interact with other national and international Think Tanks, as also with educational and policy research institutions.

The NITI Aayog has been set up after extensive consultations across the spectrum of stakeholders including states, domain experts and relevant institutions.

The new body has been set up by a resolution of Union Cabinet as done in case of Planning Commission which was established on March 15, 1950.

The NITI Aayog will monitor and evaluate implementation of programmes and will seek to progress from "food security" to ensuring actual returns that farmers get from their produce.

Its objective would also include use of technology to reduce opacity and potential for misadventure in governance.

The PMO said that NITI Aayog aims to prepare the country to better deal with issues like poverty alleviation, safeguarding of environmental and ecological assets, redressal of gender,

cast and economic inequalities. It will also give policy support to more than 50 million small businesses to create jobs.

Modi in his tweet said, “A pro-people, pro-active & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog.

Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a ‘one size fits all’ approach towards development. The body celebrates India’s diversity & plurality.”

The NITI Aayog, he hoped, will emerge as an active and important institution that will play a pivotal role in India’s development journey in the years to come. It will provide key inputs on various policy matters

17. NITI Aayog to replace Plan Panel

Mukesh Ranjan , The Asian Age: 02.01.2015

•



NITI Aayog to replace Plan panel (Photo: PTI)

The government on Thursday adopted a resolution to constitute the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti) Aayog, replacing the 65-year-old Nehruvian Planning Commission, which will serve as a policy think-tank for the Central as well as the state governments and have Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairperson.

The move was met with strong criticism from the Opposition, which said the move is just “fluff” and mere “gimmickry”. It also expressed apprehension that the new body will pave the way for discrimination as “corporates will call the shots” in policy-making in the country.

The Aayog will be headed by a regular vice-chairperson with the Prime Minister being the ex-officio chairperson. There would also be a set of full-time members and also two part-time members and all of them are likely to be drawn from fields of different expertise. The Planning Commission, known as a socialist-era institution, instead had a deputy chairperson.

In place of a member secretary in its previous avatar, the new body will have a chief executive officer (CEO) and, in addition, four Union ministers would serve as ex-officio members. The Aayog will have a governing council, which will comprise of the chief ministers of all states and lieutenant-governors from Union Territories (UTs) and will work towards fostering a “cooperative federalism” to provide a “national agenda” to the Centre and states. This council will replace the National Development Council, which used to meet under the aegis of Planning Commission.

In place of NDC meetings, there will now be meetings of specific regional councils with chief ministers and lieutenant-governors of UTs of a particular region as its members and such meetings can only be convened by the Prime Minister.

The Aayog will serve as a “think-tank” of the government as “a directional and policy dynamo” and would provide governments at the Centre and in states with strategic and technical advice on key policy matters, including economic issues of national and international importance.

The Niti Aayog follows Mr Modi’s announcement in his Independence Day speech in August 2014 that there is a need to replace the Planning Commission with a new body keeping in view the changed economic scenario.

The government has set up the new body through a Cabinet resolution. As per the resolution, the Niti Aayog will provide a “national agenda” for the Prime Minister and chief ministers to foster cooperative federalism while recognising that “strong states make a strong nation”.

It will also interact with other national and international think-tanks, as also with educational and policy research institutions.

External affairs minister...
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on New Year's Day in Ahmedabad on Thursday

Modi ends Nehru-era Plan panel

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 1

With the Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiling Niti Aayog on Thursday, the curtain finally came down on the 65-year-old Planning Commission, which had brought out 12 five-year-plans during its existence. Set up by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Planning Commission in the beginning oversaw six annual plans, while it worked out fund outlays of over ₹200 lakh crore in its lifetime.

The Planning Commission was set up by a simple government resolution on March 15, 1950. Despite being criticised in various quarters for step-

● **The panel during its existence grew from a simple planning body to a powerful 'control commission' to a fiscal decentralisation instrument to an official think-tank**

ping in domains earmarked for state governments, the plan panel withstood many political and economic upheavals. Seen by many as a Soviet era relic, the plan panel has been replaced by Niti Aayog, which has been set up through a Cabinet decision, which invoked words of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Swami

Vivekanand and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Incidentally, Mr Modi during his first Independence Day speech had first informed the people of his intent to replace the Planning Commission with a new body consisting of representatives of the states. The address, however, will remain the same, as the sprawling Yojna Bhavan will house the Niti Aayog. The new body comes up with a CEO, while Prime Minister will be the chairperson. The Planning Commission during its existence grew from a simple planning body to a powerful "control commission" to a fiscal decentralisation instrument to an official think-tank.

However, the 2014 Lok Sabha elections results changed the fortune of the Planning Commission. The then deputy chairman, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and other members put in their papers immediately after the people's verdict came. And then followed a consultation process seeking suggestions on the structure and role of the new body.

Incidentally, Nehru himself is said to have faced resistance to the idea of setting up of the Planning Commission, but it went on to become a major platform for successive governments to formulate and push forward economic policies and other development plans.

■ Move labelled just a 'fluff', mere 'gimmick'

Opp. attacks govt over Plan panel new avatar

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 1

Hitting out at the government for its decision to restructure the Planning Commission and rechristen it as "Niti Aayog", the Opposition on Thursday said the move is just a "fluff" and mere "gimmickry". They also expressed their apprehension that the new body will pave the way for discrimination, as "corporates will call the shots" in policy making in the country.

CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of the Planning Commission as *aniti aur durniti* (no policy and bad policy).

"If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said... If the North Block or the finance ministry has a very short-term view of both fiscal and monetary objective, is going to be the final arbiter between the states and the Centre. It being the stakeholder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate

● **The United Opp. also expressed their apprehension that the new body will pave the way for discrimination, as 'corporates will call the shots' in policy making in the nation**

against the states," Congress leader Manish Tewari said.

"After all, what was the Planning Commission doing? It used to plan policy. So by changing the nomenclature from Planning Commission to Niti Aayog, what is the message this government is trying to send," Mr Tewari said, adding that Congress' opposition to restructuring of the Planning Commission was based on "principles".

"It's not a question of fighting a war, it's a matter of principle. The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party used to go extra lengths talking about federalism and how the sanctity and sacrosanct of federalism has to be maintained. And now they are going exactly the reverse,"

the Congress leader said.

Mr Yechury said, "just a change of nomenclature and gimmickry does not serve any purpose. Let us see what the government plans to do with it."

The Planning Commission, which was established in 1950, will be called "Niti Aayog" in its new avatar, months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that it will be replaced by a new body.

Veteran CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta said that dismantling of the Planning Commission and bringing in a new body in its place will lead to an unregulated economy. "It is not a change of name. The Planning Commission is being abolished because they (government) don't believe in planning," he said.

"The government would like to have a full-market economy (which is) totally unregulated," Mr Dasgupta said adding, "if this becomes the policy of the government to not help advance the country, control inflation and create job opportunities, it will not be good for the country".

20. Prime minister to chair NITI Aayog; CMs to be part of it

New body to have a chief executive officer and a vice-chairperson; Opposition parties slam move

Business Standard: January 2, 2015

The Planning Commission became history on Thursday, with the Narendra Modi government replacing the 64-year-old body with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

The NITI Aayog will have a governing council, comprising all chief ministers and lieutenant governors - the PM will chair it - and will work towards fostering co-operative federalism for providing a national agenda to the Centre and states, the government said on Thursday, in a statement.

"Having served as a chief minister in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting states. NITI Aayog does precisely that. Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one-size-fits-all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

He said the new body will foster a spirit of cooperative federalism with the sole principle of developing a pro-people, pro-active and participative development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality.

The Opposition was, however, not willing to buy this argument. Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said the new body would discriminate against states. "It being the stakeholder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate against the states," Tewari said.

The new body will have a chief executive officer and a vice-chairperson to be appointed by the prime minister, in addition to four to five full-time members and two part-time members. Four Union ministers will serve as ex-officio members.

"The names of the full-time members and the vice-chairman are expected to be announced in the next few days," said a senior government official, who has been part of the process.

THE COMMISSION - THEN AND NOW

While the central allocation to states will be done by the finance ministry, the new structure may also signal the end of the five-year or annual plans.
A comparison between NITI Aayog and the last Planning Commission of India:

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
Chairperson: Prime minister	Chairperson: Prime minister
Vice-chairperson: To be appointed by the PM	Deputy Chairman: Nominated by PM; to have Cabinet rank
Governing Council: Chief ministers (CMs) and lieutenant governors (L-Gs)	National Development Council (NDC): Created by an order of Planning Commission, which calls the council; has CMs and L-G and is responsible for framing five-year Plans
Regional councils: To be set up to address specific issues for specified tenures; to comprise CMs and L-Gs	Eight full-time members: Usually subject expert; appointed as minister of state; also people from outside government
Part-time members: Experts from relevant institutions in ex-officio capacity (maximum two, on a rotational basis)	10 Cabinet ministers, including Planning Minister
Ex-officio members: Union ministers to be nominated by the PM (maximum 4)	Member secretary/ Secretary
CEO: To be appointed by the PM in the rank of secretary for a fixed tenure	Planning Commission of India
Secretariat: As deemed necessary	
Special invitees: Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge; nominated by PM	

Sources: Planning Commission & P

The tribune. 2/1/15

NITI Aayog replaces plan panel; PM to be chairman

Will have all Chief Ministers, Lt Governors on its governing council

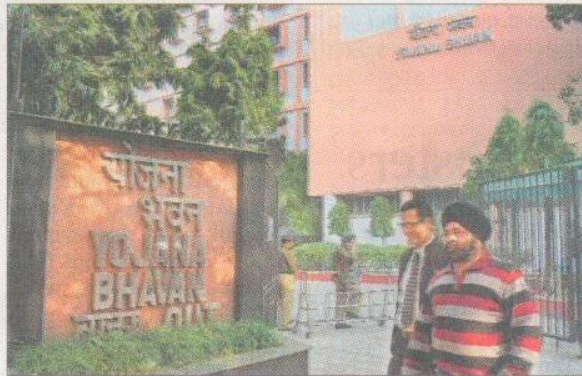
SANJEEV SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

The Narendra Modi government today decided to replace the 65-year-old Planning Commission with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), which will serve as a think tank of the government.

One of the objectives of the new body will be to ensure that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

The Prime Minister will be the chairman of the new body and it will have a governing council comprising all Chief Ministers and Lt Governors. Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics at Columbia University, is tipped to be the first vice-chairman of the Aayog. The vice-chairman will be nominated by the Prime Minister. The new body will also have a CEO. It will have full-time and part-time members.



Yojana Bhavan in New Delhi housed the Planning Commission, which has now been replaced by NITI Ayog. MANAS RANJAN BHUI

Having served as a CM (Chief Minister) in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that

PM Narendra Modi on Twitter



Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These will be formed for a specified tenure. The Regional Councils will be convened by the

Prime Minister and will comprise the Chief Ministers of states and Lt Governors of Union Territories in the region. These will be chaired by the chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.

CONTINUED ON P11

The govt think tank

What will it do

The body will provide the government relevant strategic and technical advice on key policy matters. It includes matters of national and international importance on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.

The constituents

- The Prime Minister will be the chairman of the new body
- The body will have a Vice-Chairman and a CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members
- The Aayog will also have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister



23.. Curtain Rises on Modi NITI

Mail Today 02-01-2015

CURTAIN RISES ON MODI NITI

Socialist-era Planning Commission replaced by new think tank NITI Aayog

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

P RIME Minister Narendra Modi started the New Year on Thursday with a big bang announcement by replacing the 65-year-old Planning Commission with NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog. The new body will be headed by the PM while all chief ministers (CMs) will be on its governing council to evolve national development priorities with the involvement of states.

"Unlike its predecessor, NITI Aayog will have all chief ministers and Lt. governors on its governing council in the spirit of cooperative federalism," Modi said.

The Opposition was quick to slam the government voicing apprehension that the Aayog will discriminate against the states and help corporates call the shots in policymaking. CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of Commission as "aniti and durniti" (no policy and bad policy).

Congress leader Manish Tewari said, "After all, what was the Planning Commission doing? It used to plan policy. So, by changing the nomenclature from Planning Commission to Neeti Aayog, what is the message this government is trying to send?"

In his Independence Day speech, Modi had mooted the idea of replacing the Commission with a new and more relevant body. "Through the NITI Aayog, we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life (inclusive growth). A pro-people, pro-active & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog. Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity & plurality," Modi tweeted.

According to an official statement, the Aayog will form regional councils to

PRIME MINISTER TO HEAD NEW BODY

- PM to head NITI Aayog and all CMs will be on its governing council to evolve national development priorities with the involvement of states
- It will have a vice-chairperson and CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members, and four Union ministers would serve as ex-officio members
- Noted economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be first vice-chairman
- The Aayog will form regional Councils to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region
- The Aayog will also have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant

Having served as a CM in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that. Through the NITI Aayog, we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life

— NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the PM

- NITI Aayog will provide a critical directional and strategic input into the governance process by engaging citizens, providing egalitarian access to opportunity, and increasing the use of technology

NEHRUVIAN LEGACY ENDS

- The Planning Commission (Yoyana Aayog) was set up by first PM Jawaharlal Nehru
- Nehru himself is said to have faced resistance to the idea of setting up of the Commission
- The Commission brought 12 Five-Year Plans and six Annual Plans involving fund outlays of over ₹200 lakh crore
- The first Five-Year Plan was launched in 1951 with total outlay of little over ₹2,000 crore and two subsequent Plans were formulated till 1965
- Two successive years of drought, devaluation of currency, rise in prices and erosion of resources disrupted planning
- After three Annual Plans between 1966 and 1969, the fourth Five-Year Plan was started in 1969
- The Eighth Plan could not take off in 1990 due to the fast-changing political situation at the Centre and the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 were treated as Annual Plans
- The Eighth Plan was finally launched in 1992. The Eight Plans stressed public sector growth
- Since the launch of the 9th Plan in 1997, the emphasis on the public sector became less pronounced

address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. The body will serve as a think tank of the government as a directional and policy dynamo and would provide the governments at the Centre and in states with strategic and technical advice on key policy matters, including economic issues of national and international importance, the statement added.

The government has set up the new body through a Cabinet Resolution.



States get bigger say in policy formulation Niti Aayog replaces Nehru era plan panel

KA BADARINATH

New Delhi

FAREWELL Planning Commission, welcome Niti Aayog. The Narendra Modi government has set up 'Niti Aayog' or National Institution for Transforming India (Niti) that replaces the 65-year-old Nehruvian centerpiece, Planning Commission.

The government notified on Wednesday the setting up of the new body to provide 'direction and policy inputs' for both central and state governments on 'strategic, economic and development issues' across the spectrum.

Prime minister Narendra Modi-led Niti Aayog will function as a think tank and advisory body to evolve a 'national development agenda' in tune with 'changing global scenario and economic dynamics' within the country and outside.

Modi said on Thursday that Niti Aayog will "emerge as an active and important institution. It will play an important role in development journey of India in years to come".

"A pro-people, pro-active & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind Niti Aayog," Modi tweeted.

While all state chief ministers and Lt governors of union territories will be



part of Niti's governing council, the prime minister will appoint a vice-chairman who will essentially be in charge of the day-to-day running of the new body.

Officials familiar with the drafting the 'Niti

Aayog' cabinet note, said the vice chairman would be chief minister of a major state though it was not specified in the cabinet resolution.

PM-appointed CEO to take care of operations at Niti Aayog

from PI

Day-to-day functioning of Niti Aayog will be done through a chief executive officer (CEO) appointed by prime minister. There was no provision for CEO in the Planning Commission.

A resolution released by the cabinet secretariat provides for appointing full time members, two part-time members with expertise in specific domains and four cabinet ministers to be co-opted by the prime minister. The cabinet resolution on Niti Aayog has given broad hints about disbanding the five-year plans that were formulated by the Planning Commission and implemented by states. It was first announced by Modi on the August 15 Red Fort speech.

The new body also does not have the mandate to disburse funds to states as was done by the Planning Commission. Instead, states would directly interact with finance ministry and decide on sharing tax proceeds as per set formulas. Niti Aayog also proposes a strategic shift in the government's role restricting it to 'enabling legislation, policy making and regulation'. There are significant point of differences between the Niti Aayog or commission and the earlier body. The Niti Commission will have four Union cabinet ministers as ex-officio members while Planning Commission had a deputy minister/minister of state.

It will have two part-time members while the Planning Commission had no provision for

part-time members. While the Niti Aayog will act as a think tank, the Planning Commission was more hands-on formulating economic plans and overseeing their implementation. In the Niti Commission, chief ministers of states will have a greater role in steering economic policy as they will be part of the governing council. Though Planning Commission worked under the National Development Council where all states chief ministers were members, its role was advisory and could be overruled by the commission.

An official also said that the National Development Council (NDC) may also be disbanded to be replaced by the governing council of Niti. The prime minister has been empowered to set up

In the new panel, chief ministers of states will have a vital role in steering economic policies

regional councils of Niti to resolve specific inter-state issues like the Cauvery water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka or border-related problems between newly created Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. These regional bodies would be task-specific and after resolution

of the issue, would stand dissolved. The government has invoked Babasaheb Ambedkar to provide more powers to states. The cabinet resolution quoted Ambedkar as saying, it is 'unreasonable to centralise powers where central control and uniformity is not clearly essential or is impracticable'.

A 13-point agenda outlined by the Union cabinet will guide Niti Aayog in aggressively pushing for 'cooperative federalism', a pet plank of the Narendra Modi government. As per the agenda outlined, the Niti Aayog will not only advise the centre but guide states to pursue their development agendas. The new body will propose policy formulations that will reflect the BJP government's thinking that 'strong states would

make a strong nation'. The new body, as per the resolution, for the first time will evolve mechanisms to empower village-level development planning and 'aggregate these at higher levels of government'.

Niti Aayog will also vet all economic policy and strategy from the national security point of view, apart from ensuring 'inclusive growth'. The new body, the resolution said '...will pay special attention to the sections that may be at the risk of not benefiting adequately' from the economic growth story."

The new organisation has also been assigned the task of designing strategic and long-term policy and monitor their progress and recommend mid-course corrective measures. The body will also

be one-stop link for think tanks, educational and policy research institutions globally and back home. Niti has been assigned the task of creating 'a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system' through collaborations with community and global experts as well as partners.

The new organisation will also function as a platform for resolving inter-sector and inter-department issues to hasten the pace of development, the resolution added.

Apart from setting up a state-of-the-art resource centre and becoming a repository of research on good governance and best practices, Niti Aayog will help centre and states put these practices into operation.

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PLAN PANEL'S NEW AVATAR

'NITI AAYOG' REPLACES PLANNING COMMISSION

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 1 January

The Narendra Modi government today replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission with a new body called NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog (Commission) that is mandated to provide the Central and state governments "with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy".

The proposed policy spectrum will include "matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support", said a statement issued by the Cabinet Secretariat here this evening.

The Prime Minister will be the chairperson of the NITI Aayog whose Governing Council will comprise all chief ministers and Lt Governors (of UTs) in an exercise envisaged by the Centre to involve states in working out and pushing the national development agenda and priorities in a spirit of "cooperative federalism". "The institution will serve as 'think tank' of the Government-a directional and policy dynamo," said the Cabinet Secretariat's statement.

LEGACY BODY

The Planning Commission was set up by Nehru nearly 65 years ago



1 The panel framed 12 five-year Plans and six annual Plans during the period

2 The new body would have a CEO, with the PM as chairperson

3 Arvind Panagariya likely to be appointed as vice-chairperson

WHAT'S NEXT

A PMO statement said the Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy is to be replaced by a 'genuine and continuing partnership of states'.

The establishment of NITI Aayog was in accordance with the announcement made by Mr Modi during his Independence Day speech that his government will scrap the Socialist-era Planning Commission and replace it with a national body in light of the contemporary situation.

"The Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy, that was the hallmark of the Planning Commis-

sion era, is now sought to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states," said a separate statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) today.

The Modi government maintains that this move came after extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders, including state governments,

TURN TO PAGE - 5

Plan panel...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Modi government maintained that this move came after extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders including state governments, domain experts and relevant institutions.

The Opposition parties ~ including the Congress, Left and Trinamul ~ were however not impressed, criticising the government's decision to abolish the Plan Panel which, they held, had properly served the interests of the states and the Centre so far.

The new policy body will have a Vice Chairperson and a CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members, while four Union ministers would serve as its ex-officio members.

It will have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the PM. It is supposed to

put an end to "slow and tardy implementation of policy", the government claimed.

The noted economist Arvind Panagariya is likely to be appointed by the PM as the NITI Aayog's first Vice-Chairman.

A Cabinet Resolution constituting the new body said that Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. They will comprise of the CMs and Lt. Governors in the region. These will be chaired by the NITI Aayog Chairman or his nominee.

PM Modi hailed the setting up of this body in a series of tweets, maintaining that NITI Aayog will "provide key inputs on various policy matters" and

"will emerge as an active and important institution that will play a pivotal role in India's development journey in the years to come".

Mr Modi also said, "Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality," and that a "pro-people, pro-active and participative development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality" is the body's guiding principle.

"Through the NITI Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development and aspire to lead a better life," the PM said. "A landmark change is the inclusion of all State CMs & LGs of UTs in the NITI Aayog. This will foster a spirit of cooperative federalism."

The Cabinet Resolution invokes Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Swami Vivekananda and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya while citing their various quotes to reinforce the rationale behind the constitution of the new policy body.

It stated that the new body would seek to evolve a "shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states" and would thus provide a "national agenda" for the PM and the CMs to work on collectively.

The NITI Aayog would also monitor and evaluate implementation of various programmes and would promote a transparent regime based on technology besides ensuring an equitable and inclusive scheme of things.

The Opposition, however, criticised the Modi dispensation's move, calling it mere "fluff and gimmickry".

Wondering whether the move was merely a "change of nomenclature", the Opposition leaders also alleged that this might just set the stage for corporates and big private players to "call the shots" in framing and execution of major policies.

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Left parties slam Centre for renaming Plan panel

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, 1 January

The CPI and CPI-M today expressed serious doubt about the NITI Aayog, which replaces Planning Commission that functioned as a vital tool for the nation's policy thinktanks for 65 years, at the instance of the Prime Minister.

“What is the necessity of renaming Planning Commission?” asked senior CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta.

Mr Dasgupta alleged that the BJP government was out to dissolve the Planning Commission “as it is more interested in giving importance to market economy, but that will create hurdles in the national economic development”. Doubting if just renaming the Planning Com-

mission would at all make the policy thinktank more effective, CPI leader felt that such a move would be detrimental to the country's overall development.

CPI-M politburo member Sitaram Yechury, MP (Rajya Sabha), said: “What does NITI mean? It does not mean policy, of course. Does it mean ethics. No idea”.

CPI-M central committee member Md Selim, MP, said no meaningful purpose would be served by just renaming planning commission. Alleging that the BJP government had decided to dissolve the planning commission “to dilute the planning process”, he said the government should have given more teeth to the National Development Council instead.

65 साल पुराना योजना आयोग इतिहास बना

नेहरू 'योजना' से मोदी 'नीति'

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

सरकार में नए साल की शुरुआत 65 साल पुरानी नेहरू की 'योजना' को खत्म कर मोदी की 'नीति' शुरू करने से हुई। गवर्नर्स को पटरी पर लाने की मुहिम के तहत मोदी सरकार ने योजना आयोग की जगह नीति आयोग नाम से नए ढांचे की औपचारिक घोषणा कर दी। नीति का मतलब नेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट फॉर ट्रान्सफॉर्मिंग इंडिया है। आयोग का काम अब सिर्फ नीति बनाने तक सीमित रहेगा। पहली बार मुख्यमंत्रियों को भी इससे जोड़ा गया है। केंद्र और राज्य मिलकर ऐसी नीतियां बनाएंगे, जिन्हें सबसे निचले स्तर तक लागू किया जा सकेगा।

मोदी जब गुजरात के सीएम थे, तब से योजना आयोग के स्वरूप में बदलाव की बात करते रहे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री बनने पर मोदी ने स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर लाल किले से अपने पहले भाषण में योजना आयोग को खत्म करने की घोषणा की थी। 1950 से देश और राज्यों की योजनाओं को रूप देने वाला योजना आयोग अब इतिहास के पन्नों में दर्ज होने जा रहा है। ▶▶ पेज 9

अब सिर्फ नीति बनाएगा आयोग

नीति आयोग का काम अब केंद्र और राज्यों के विकास की नीति बनाने, इनोवेशन लाने और मॉनिटरिंग तक ही सीमित रहेगा। योजना आयोग का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण काम पंचवर्षीय योजना बनाना या हर साल की योजना के लिए रकम आवंटित करने का काम नीति आयोग के जिम्मे नहीं रहेगा।

सीएम भी देंगे अहम राय

मोदी ने कहा कि नीति आयोग केंद्र राज्यों के बीच पुल का काम करेगा। पहली बार सभी राज्यों के सीएम ऐसे सिस्टम में होंगे, जो राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर नीति बनाएगा। वे हालांकि राष्ट्रीय विकास परिषद के सदस्य भी होते हैं।



'नेहरूवाद के विरोध का नतीजा'

सरकार के फैसले पर सियासत भी शुरू हो गई। कांग्रेस प्रवक्ता अभिषेक सिंघवी ने ट्विटर पर कहा कि नेहरूवाद और कांग्रेसवाद के विरोध के कारण ही योजना आयोग में बुनियादी बदलाव किए गए हैं और नाम बदला गया है। सीपीएम नेता सीताराम येचुरी ने कहा कि यह नीति नहीं 'दुर्नीति आयोग' है।

नीति आयोग बना, लेकिन सवाल बाकी

■ नरेन्द्र नाथ, नई दिल्ली

नए साल के पहले दिन प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने लाल किले से योजना आयोग को समाप्त कर उसकी जगह नए ढांचे को खड़ा करने के वादे को पूरा जरूर किया लेकिन अभी भी इसके स्वरूप के बारे में पूरी बात स्पष्ट नहीं है। प्रस्तावित नीति आयोग में योजना आयोग की तरह की पीएम चेयरमैन होंगे और एक वायस चेयरमैन। इसमें 5 परमानेंट मेंबर होंगे। आयोग के अंदर इसमें एक गवर्निंग काउंसिल होगा, जिसके सभी सीएम भी मेंबर होंगे। इसके अलावा अलग-अलग सेक्टरों के दो एक्सपर्ट विशेष आमंत्रित मेंबर होंगे। यह रोटेशन पर रहेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री 4 एक्स-ऑफिशियो मेंबर की नियुक्ति करेंगे। ये एक्स-ऑफिशियो मेंबर कैबिनेट मंत्री



होंगे। ये रोटेशन के आधार पर बनेंगे। सभी नियुक्ति पीएम करेंगे। आयोग में एक सेक्रेटरी रैंक का सीईओ भी होगा जिसके जिम्मे प्रशासनिक संचालन की जिम्मेदारी होगी। साथ ही आयोग में एक सेक्रेटरी भी होगा।

कौन बनेगा वाइस चेयरमैन

नए आयोग के गठन के बाद अब सारी नजर इसमें नियुक्त होने वाले मेंबरों पर टिक गई है। नरेंद्र मोदी इसके वाइस चेयरमैन के रूप में मशहूर अर्थशास्त्री अरविंद पानगढ़िया को नियुक्त कर सकते हैं। हालांकि नीति आयोग काम को किस तरह अंजाम देगा? मौजूदा योजना आयोग के ढांचे और यहां काम कर रहे कर्मचारियों का भविष्य क्या होगा? कब से इसका काम शुरू होगा? इन मुद्दों पर अभी भी संशय बरकरार है।

दैनिक भास्कर, 02.01.2015

योजना आयोग की जगह अब नीति आयोग ने ली

राज्यों की भागीदारी बढ़ेगी, गवर्निंग काउंसिल में होंगे सभी मुख्यमंत्री और उपराज्यपाल

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

65 साल पुराने योजना आयोग की जगह गुरुवार को नीति आयोग ने ले ली। नीति यानी नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूशन फॉर ट्रांसफॉर्मिंग इंडिया। यह केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के लिए थिंक टैंक के रूप में काम करेगा। संघीय ढांचे को मजबूती देने के लिए गवर्निंग काउंसिल होगी। मुख्यमंत्री और उपराज्यपाल इसके सदस्य होंगे। काउंसिल केंद्र, राज्यों के लिए राष्ट्रीय एजेंडा तय करेगी। नीति आयोग एक कैबिनेट प्रस्ताव से बना। कांग्रेस के अभिषेक सिंघवी ने इसे नेहरू विरोधी बताया। वहीं, माकपा के सीताराम येचुरी ने कहा, 'इसमें कॉर्पोरेट की चलेगी। यह दुर्नीति आयोग है।'

अब तक यह होता था	अब यह होगा	असर क्या
ढांचा : गठन 15 मार्च 1950 को। प्रधानमंत्री चेयरमैन। डिप्टी चेयरमैन पद था। सदस्यों में अर्थशास्त्री और कई विशेषज्ञ होते थे।	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> पीएम अध्यक्ष। वही सीईओ-चाइस चेयरमैन नियुक्त करेंगे। सदस्यों में 5 पूर्णकालिक, दो पार्ट टाइम, 4 केंद्रीय मंत्री। कुछ नामित भी। 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> निवेशकों में अच्छा संदेश। माहौल बनेगा कि सरकार नया कर रही है।
राज्यों की भूमिका : खास नहीं। केंद्र योजनाएं बनाता था, राज्य लागू करते थे। फंड के लिए राज्य की जरूरतों का खयाल नहीं रखने का आरोप लगता था।	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> दो राज्यों के बीच या क्षेत्रीय विवाद निपटाने के लिए क्षेत्रीय काउंसिलें बनेंगी। ऐसा सिस्टम बनेगा, जिससे गांव स्तर पर योजनाएं बनें और उन्हें केंद्र में सीधे स्तर तक पहुंचाया जाए। 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> योजनाओं के अमल का तरीका बदलेगा। राज्यों के साथ भेदभाव जैसे आरोप नहीं लगेंगे।
मकसद : लोगों का जीवन स्तर सुधारना। संसाधनों का बेहतर इस्तेमाल। उत्पादन में वृद्धि और रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ाना।	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> नया आर्थिक परिदृश्य, खाद्य सुरक्षा पर जोर, ग्लोबलाइजेशन, नई टेक्नोलॉजी, पारदर्शिता और टैलेंट पूल बनाना। 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> यह तो कुछ समय बाद ही पता चलेगा।

मैं मुख्यमंत्री रह चुका हूँ। जानता हूँ कि राज्यों से विमर्श कितना जरूरी है। अब हम सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि हर व्यक्ति को विकास का फल मिल सके।
-नीति आयोग पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का ट्वीट

अरविंद पनगड़िया हो सकते हैं उपाध्यक्ष
एडीबी के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री रह चुके। कोलंबिया यूनिवर्सिटी में प्रोफेसर हैं। विश्व बैंक का अनुभव।

जनसत्ता ! 02.01.2015

योजना आयोग का नया नाम अब नीति आयोग

साल के पहले दिन योजना आयोग के पुराने स्वरूप को मिला नया नाम

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली, 1 जनवरी। योजना आयोग के नए स्वरूप का नाम बदलकर 'नीति आयोग' कर दिया गया है। गौरतलब है कि इस संस्था की स्थापना 1950 के दशक में हुई थी। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के योजना आयोग की जगह नई संस्था की स्थापना की घोषणा के कुछ महीनों बाद यह पहल हुई है। मोदी की मुख्यमंत्रियों के साथ हुई बैठक के करीब तीन हफ्ते के बाद यह फैसला आया। इसमें ज्यादातर समाजवादी दौर की इस संस्था के पुनर्गठन के पक्ष में थे, लेकिन कुछ कांग्रेसी मुख्यमंत्रियों ने मौजूदा ढांचे को खत्म करने का विरोध किया था।

मोदी ने स्वतंत्रता दिवस के भाषण में घोषणा की थी कि योजना आयोग की जगह पर एक नई संस्था बनाई जाएगी। जो समकालीन आर्थिक दुनिया के अनुरूप हो। मुख्यमंत्रियों को सात दिसंबर को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह का हवाला दिया था। जिन्होंने पिछले साल 30 अप्रैल को कहा था कि सुधार प्रक्रिया शुरू होने के बाद के दौर में मौजूदा ढांचे का कोई अत्याधुनिक नजरिया नहीं है। उन्होंने ऐसे प्रभावी ढांचे की बात की थी जिससे 'सहयोगी संघ' और 'टीम इंडिया' की अवधारणा मजबूत होती हो।

योजना आयोग के स्थान पर नीति आयोग यानी 'नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर ट्रांसफार्मिंग इंडिया' बनेगा। जिसके अध्यक्ष प्रधानमंत्री

सरकार पर बरसा विपक्ष

भेदभाव की दुर्नीति

यह दुर्नीति है। अगर सरकार साल के पहले दिन जनता का सतही और दिखावटी बातों से अभिनंदन करना चाहती है तो कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता है। प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय और वित्त मंत्रालय की राजकोषीय और मौद्रिक उद्देश्यों के लिए दृष्टि बहुत छोटी है। आशंका है कि नीति आयोग राज्यों और केंद्र के बीच विवाद की स्थिति में अंतिम फैसला करेगा और इससे राज्यों के साथ भेदभाव होगा।

-सीताराम येचुरी, माकपा नेता

सिद्धांत से पलटी भाजपा

आखिर योजना आयोग क्या कर रहा था? वह योजनाएं बनाता था। ऐसे में योजना आयोग का नाम बदल कर नीति आयोग करके यह सरकार क्या संदेश देने का प्रयास कर रही है। योजना आयोग के पुनर्गठन का



होंगे। नीति आयोग में एक संचालन परिषद होगी जिसमें सभी मुख्यमंत्री और उप-राज्यपाल शामिल होंगे। योजना आयोग का पुनर्गठन

विरोध कांग्रेस ने सैद्धांतिक आधार पर किया था। यह लड़ाई लड़ने का सवाल नहीं था, बल्कि सिद्धांतों की बात थी। विपक्ष में रहते भाजपा संघवाद की बढ़-चढ़ कर बात करती थी और अब सत्ता में आने पर वह इसके एकदम उलट कर रही है।

-मनीष तिवारी, कांग्रेस नेता

कारपोरेट की चलेगी

सरकार ने योजना आयोग को खत्म कर दिया क्योंकि वे योजना में यकीन ही नहीं रखते हैं। अचानक योजना आयोग को खत्म किए जाने से अर्थव्यवस्था आयोजित हो जाएगी और इससे कारपोरेट की चलेगी। मैं योजना आयोग को खत्म किए जाने के खिलाफ हूँ, जो इतने सालों से काम कर रहा था। हम योजनाबद्ध अर्थव्यवस्था में विश्वास रखते हैं। सरकार के इस कदम से देश की अर्थव्यवस्था अनियोजित हो जाएगी।

-सौगत रॉय, तृणमूल कांग्रेस नेता

करके इसे नीति आयोग का नया नाम दिए जाने को सतही और दिखावटी बताते हुए विपक्ष ने गुरुवार को इसकी पेज 1 का बाकी



योजना आयोग का नया नाम अब नीति आयोग

पेज 1 का बाकी

आलोचना की और आशंका जताई कि इससे राज्यों के साथ भेद-भाव होगा व नीति बनाने में कारपोरेट की चलेगी। भाकपा नेता सीताराम येचुरी ने योजना आयोग का नाम बदले जाने को दुर्नीति बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर सरकार 2015 के पहले दिन जनता का सतही और दिखावटी बातों से अभिनंदन करना चाहती है तो कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार के इस कदम से पता चलता है कि प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय और वित्त मंत्रालय की राजकोषीय और मौद्रिक उद्देश्यों के लिए दृष्टि बहुत छोटी है। येचुरी ने कहा कि ऐसी आशंका है कि नीति आयोग राज्यों और केंद्र के बीच विवाद की स्थिति में अंतिम फैसला करेगा और इससे राज्यों के साथ भेदभाव होगा। कांग्रेस के प्रवक्ता मनीष तिवारी ने भी कहा कि अंततः नीति आयोग की ही चलेगी और इससे राज्यों के साथ भेदभाव हो सकता है।

तिवारी ने कहा कि आखिर योजना आयोग क्या कर रहा था? वह योजनाएं बनाता था। ऐसे में योजना आयोग का नाम बदल कर नीति आयोग करके यह सरकार क्या संदेश देने का प्रयास कर रही है। योजना आयोग के पुनर्गठन का विरोध कांग्रेस ने सैद्धांतिक आधार पर किया था। कांग्रेस प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि यह लड़ाई लड़ने का सवाल नहीं था, बल्कि यह सिद्धांतों की बात थी। विपक्ष में रहते भाजपा संघवाद की बढ़-चढ़ कर बात करती थी और अब सत्ता में आने पर वह इसके एकदम उलट कर रही है।

1950 में बने योजना आयोग को अब नीति आयोग के तौर पर जाना जाएगा। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर राष्ट्र के नाम अपने संबोधन में यह संकेत दिया था। इस बारे में प्रधानमंत्री ने तीन महीने पहले राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों की बैठक बुलाकर उनसे चर्चा की थी। जिसमें कांग्रेस

शासित राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों ने इसके पुनर्गठन का विरोध किया था। भाकपा के वरिष्ठ नेता गुरुदास दासगुप्ता ने कहा कि योजना आयोग को समाप्त करके नीति आयोग नामक नई इकाई गठित करने से अनियमित अर्थव्यवस्था का मार्ग प्रशस्त होगा। दासगुप्ता के मुताबिक यह नाम बदलने का मामला नहीं है। उन्होंने (सरकार ने) योजना आयोग को समाप्त कर दिया क्योंकि वे योजना में यकीन ही नहीं रखते हैं। तृणमूल कांग्रेस के नेता सौगत राय ने कहा कि अचानक योजना आयोग को खत्म किए जाने से अर्थव्यवस्था आयोजित हो जाएगी और इससे कारपोरेट की चलेगी। उन्होंने कहा- मैं योजना आयोग को खत्म किए जाने के खिलाफ हूं, जो इतने सालों से काम कर रहा था। हम योजनाबद्ध अर्थव्यवस्था में विश्वास रखते हैं। सरकार के इस कदम से देश की अर्थव्यवस्था अनियोजित हो जाएगी।

राजस्थान पत्रिका : 02.01.2016

योजना आयोग को बनाया नीति आयोग

सरकार का नया फैसला, विपक्षी पार्टियों ने किया विरोध

26 जनवरी को नए आयोग की हो सकती है घोषणा



नई दिल्ली

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नए साल की शुरुआत केंद्र सरकार ने वर्ष 1950 से अस्तित्व में बने योजना आयोग का नाम और स्वरूप बदलने के साथ की है। इसे अब 'नीति (राष्ट्रीय भारत परिवर्तन संस्थान) आयोग' के नाम से जाना जाएगा। गौरतलब है कि पिछले वर्ष स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर ही प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने योजना आयोग का स्वरूप परिवर्तित करने की बात कही थी।

नीति आयोग सरकार के थिंक टैंक के रूप में काम करेगा, जो केंद्र तथा राज्य सरकार को नीति के प्रमुख कारकों के संबंध में प्रासंगिक, रणनीतिक और तकनीकी परामर्श देगा। 26 जनवरी को नए आयोग की औपचारिक घोषणा हो सकती है।

आखिर क्या संदेश देना चाहती है सरकार

मुझे डर है कि इस बदलाव के साथ ही राज्यों के बीच भेदभाव की भी शुरुआत हो सकती है। समझ से परे है कि योजना आयोग का नाम बदलकर आखिर सरकार क्या संदेश देना चाह रही है।

मनीष तिवारी, कांग्रेस प्रवक्ता

योजना आयोग खत्म करने का अर्थ है कि सरकार योजना में विश्वास ही नहीं रखती। केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किया गया ये बदलाव देश के हित में नहीं है।

गुरुदास दासगुप्ता, सीपीआई नेता

दिल्ली पुलिस ने 15 हजार महि

PART B

NEWS AND VIEWS

Friday 2nd January 2015

Polity

: Congress releases first list of candidates for Assembly polls

Economy

: RBI relaxes ECB norms

Planning

: NITI Aayog is new policy body

Editorial

: Hasty changes in land law

Communication, IT Information Division
Phone # 2525

Jan Dhan: enrollees over 60 short-changed on life cover

Rule framed after many had joined; death claims rejected

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, January 1

A RuPay card under the Jan Dhan scheme may not be enough for nominees to get the death benefit of ₹30,000 when an account holder passes away. Some nominees found this out recently, to their surprise.

Gowamma (name changed), from Karnataka, passed away recently. State Bank of Mysore, where she is a Jan Dhan account holder, rejected the nominee's claim for the death benefit of ₹30,000 as the deceased was above 60 years of age.

According to the Finance Ministry approved norms for life cover under the Jan Dhan scheme, the eligibility for risk cover ceases when a person turns 60.

These guidelines were framed long after the launch of the scheme and many elderly people had enrolled for the same when it was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in late Au-

gust. Under the current norms, the account holder will have to exit the life insurance scheme the day he or she turns 60.

State Bank of Mysore has till date received four cases each claiming death benefit of ₹30,000 under the scheme.

Of them, two claims were rejected straightaway as the deceased were aged above 60, sources in the bank said.

The claims for the other two cases are being processed though the bank is not clear as to which LIC office the claim papers have to be sent for final settlement.

Confusion over claims

Public sector banks are in a state of confusion on the issue of handling claims. Even accident insurance claims are reaching the doorsteps of these banks.

Although the banks have till date issued 8.4 crore RuPay cards for over 10 crore Jan Dhan accounts, they do not want to foot the death benefit bill for the life cover. They are only keen on having a foolproof mechanism to pass on the claims to Life Insur-

ance Corporation. Both LIC and the public sector banks are yet to firm up a seamless mechanism for claims settlement under the life cover promised under scheme.

Meeting held

On Wednesday, representatives of the Finance Ministry, Indian Banks' Association and public sector banks held a meeting to discuss the nitty-gritty of claims settlement for the ₹30,000 death benefit promised under the scheme.

There is a need to map LIC branches with those of the banks so that claims could be processed seamlessly, said the chief executive of a public sector bank.

Currently, banks are not fully aware about how to take the process forward in case nominees come up with claims.

Indications are that the nominees will now be asked to furnish an affidavit confirming that the deceased was the head of the family or that he/she was an earning member of the family, and in the age group of 18-59.

Bill on Consumer Protection Act may be passed in Budget session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, January 1

Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Thursday his ministry has almost finalised the amendments to the Consumer Protection Act and the Bill is likely to be passed during the upcoming Budget session.

"We are already working on the amendments to be brought in the Consumer Protection Act and taking suggestions from the stakeholders," Paswan told reporters after visiting the office of Central Warehousing Corporation at JNPT here.

"The draft Bill is almost ready. We hope to bring it in the Cabinet within this month and the Bill may be

To ensure speedy, inexpensive and simple dispensation of justice for consumers, the Centre has decided to set up a National Consumer Protection Authority.

passed during the Budget session," he said.

The minister said that mis-selling advertisement and e-commerce will come under the amended Act, which aims to give more power to the consumers.

To ensure speedy, inexpensive and simple dispensation of justice for consumers, the Centre has also decided to set

up a National Consumer Protection Authority (NCPA).

The NCPA will have executive and enforcement powers to redress consumer grievances and to take penal action against defaulting companies, he said.

Simpler forums

"We are also planning to make consumer forums more simple so that one does not need a lawyer for presenting the case. We are also looking at speedy disposal of cases," Paswan added.

The Minister said the Centre wants to create a Common National Market that will help contain prices in case monsoon wrecks havoc in some parts of the country.

Govt to focus on 10-12 states to kick-start Make In India

Best practices followed in states with strong industries to be replicated in others

NAYANIMA BASU
New Delhi, 1 January

In an effort to kick start its flagship campaign Make in India, the government has decided to focus on 10 to 12 states, initially, based on their industrial growth.

The best practices followed in these states will then be replicated in other states.

Although the idea is to focus on all states to turn India into a global manufacturing hub, the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP), the nodal agency to carry out the campaign, has selected a hand-

ful of states that have a sound industrial backbone such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and others.

The Centre has put on them the onus to improve all the parameters that are laid out in the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" report. To begin with, these states have been asked to improve their business environment in terms of ease of doing business and de-licensing and deregulation within specific timelines, according to DIPP officials.

DIPP has already handed a checklist to the chief minis-

ters of these states. These decisions were taken during the national workshop on the Make in India held earlier this week. During the one-day workshop 18 sessions were held in which 25 ministries and all states participated.

"India needs action than more and more policies. Every ministry, every single state has been asked to integrate and address the fundamental concerns instead of always seeking incentives from the Centre," DIPP secretary Amitabh Kant told *Business Standard*.

He said if jobs are to be created then they have to be created in the states. "We have identified 25 sectors in the Make in India, states have the freedom to choose which one they want to strengthen. They have to converge and get going now."

The list has been prepared by global consultancy firm KPMG with stipulated time limits based on which these states have to take action on issues such as starting a business, land practices, registration of business and electricity supply among others.

The Centre, once satisfied with the performance, will then direct other states that are not industrially sound to follow their model and adopt



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- These decisions were taken during the national workshop on the Make in India held earlier this week
- The Centre, once satisfied with the performance, will then direct other states that are not industrially sound to follow their model and adopt measures accordingly
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measures accordingly. Their performance will be analysed across all the 25 verticals that have been identified as part of the campaign.

Besides, measures taken by these states in each parameter will also be closely monitored by the Centre such as in land acquisition, construction permits, property registration, tax payment, single window, standardization of documents and water and sewerage connection.

The DIPP recently undertook a study on 10 state-level best practices, which will be documented for a nationwide

application. Some of these are construction permits granted in Odisha, filing of taxes done in Andhra Pradesh, land acquisition process of Haryana and standardisation of property documents in Rajasthan among others.

"It is a good step if the government is planning to start with a handful of states. India is not just Delhi. If states are to grow economically, employ its youth then they have to create an enabling environment for businesses to take place," said Ajay S Shriram, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president.

Petrol, diesel excise duty up, will fuel highway expansion

DRIVE ON No change in retail prices, oil companies to absorb ₹2/litre hike

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government Thursday raised excise duties on petrol and diesel by ₹2 a litre to fund its ambitious plan to build an additional 15,000 km of highways over the next three years.

The duty hike on the transport fuels — the third since November — would come into effect January 2, and yield an annual revenue of about ₹10,000 crore, sources said.

Pump prices, however, will remain unchanged with oil companies deciding to absorb the hike. With global crude prices at a five-year low, Indian oil companies are placed comfortably. The duty hike has been set off against the cut in rates that followed a drop in world oil prices.

*Retail price of petrol and

diesel will remain unchanged all over India despite additional excise duty of ₹2 per litre from midnight today," petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted Thursday.

The decision to open up a special fund tap came barely a week after highways minister Nitin Gadkari and finance minister Arun Jaitley discussed financing measures to fast-track road construction, vital to adding jobs and raising incomes, sources said.

The proposal to raise duty for funding the highways was also discussed during the ministers' December 24 meeting.

The Modi government aims to build 30km of highways every day — three times the previous UPA government's target that it had failed to achieve.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

» DEC CAR SALES UP, P13

ROAD TO HIGHWAYS

- ₹2 per litre hike in excise duty on petrol, diesel
- Pump prices unchanged as oil firms absorb hike
- The hike — third since November — will kick in today
- Will generate ₹10,000cr in revenue annually



₹1.76 lakh cr needed to meet govt's target of building 15,000 km of highways over next 3 years

to the road sector would also spur economic activity and employment generation, arising from the highway construction, an official said.

According to credit rating and research firm Crisil, the construction sector was the most labour-dependent among all non-agricultural sectors, requiring more than 12 people to produce ₹10 lakh of real output.

"Given the low skill level of the workforce currently engaged in agriculture, growth in construction can help accommodate labour migration," Crisil has said in a research report.

"Also, given the value chain and localised nature of economic activity in the sector, construction generally offers significant spin-off benefits in terms of job creation and impetus to the local economy," the report said.

Currently, funds collected through a cess of ₹2 per litre of fuel go for development of national highways.

The fuel cess was first introduced to fund highways during former NDA regime led by prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was then that the National Highways Development Project — one of the largest government initiatives to date to expand and upgrade the capacity of the country's shambolic road network — was launched.

At present, projects worth ₹1.28 lakh crore are languishing for either want of funds or failure to get various regulatory clearances.

Petrol, diesel...

Stung by muted response from private developers and looming questions over effectiveness of the much-touted public private partnership (PPP) model, plans are now afoot to move to a fully government-funded EPC (engineering procurement contract) model, a road ministry official told HT.

According to the road ministry, an additional ₹1.76 lakh crore — nearly six times the annual budget of rural job guarantee scheme MNRGA — will be required over the next three years to build 15,000 km of highways.

Allocation of these resources

LAND ORDINANCE

Clauses on land return, action against officials diluted

NITIN SETHI

New Delhi, 1 January

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's land ordinance, approved by the President on Wednesday, has made several amendments to the original law rather quietly.

Changes in the retrospective clause of the Bill are important but did not attract enough attention when the ordinance was approved by the Cabinet.

In the original 2013 law, if compensation had not been paid for over five years to landowners or the land had not been taken over by the government within five years, the owners had the right to claim the land back. The NDA government has amended this. Now, if the possession of land has been taken by the government agency within five years, this retrospective clause would not apply as long as the government agency acquiring the land had deposited the compensation account in courts or any account maintained for the purpose.

A recent Supreme Court order had clarified that this period of five years for triggering the retrospective clause included any period where the land acquisition got stuck in litigation. But the ordinance has blunted this.

It has now said if the acquisition proceedings were held up because of any stay or injunctions by any courts, then that period of litigation would not count towards calculating the five-year period.

The NDA government has also done away with the strict provisions that required action being taken against government officials for falling foul of the law. The 2013 law provided

IN SAFE ZONE

Infrastructure and social infrastructure which would be exempt from the need for consent and social impact assessment, including those done through PPP mode

Transport

- Roads and bridges



- Ports

- Inland waterways

- Airports

- Railway tracks, tunnels, viaducts and bridges

- Urban public transport

Energy

- Electricity generation, transmission and distribution



- Oil pipelines

- Oil/gas/LNG storage facilities

- Gas pipelines

Water and sanitation

- Solid waste management

- Water supply pipelines

- Water treatment plants

- Sewage collection, treatment and disposal system



- Irrigation (dams,

- channels, embankments, etc)

- Storm water drainage system

Communication

- Telecommunication fixed network and towers



Social and commercial infrastructure

- Education institutions

- Hospitals, medical colleges, diagnostic centres



- Three-star or higher hotels on periphery of 1 million-plus cities

- Common infrastructure for industrial parks, SEZs, tourism facilities, agricultural markets

- Fertilisers

- Post-harvest infrastructure

- Terminal markets

- Soil testing laboratories

- Cold chains

Source: Ministry of Finance notification dated March 27, 2012.

that where an offence had been committed by any department of the government, the head of the department would be deemed to be guilty. The official can escape if he can prove the offence was committed without his knowledge and he had exercised all

due diligence.

But this provision of the law has been replaced. The new one says no court can take cognisance of any crime committed by officials under the land acquisition Act, without the prior approval of the state concerned or the

central government. This is the stock provision in most other laws concerning actions of government officials.

The 2013 land Act had tried to hold government officers responsible for their actions, but this has now been done away with. And the government has reverted to providing the typical safety latch maintained under other laws while prosecuting government functionaries.

The government has also loosened the provision that required unused acquired lands be returned to the original owners.

The 2013 legislation had provided that the land be returned if it remained unused for the original purpose for five years. The ordinance now has amended the original law. If the government has fixed a time period for the setting up of a project and the land remained unused for this entire period, the land need not be returned to the original owner, even if such project periods are longer than five years.

On the day the Cabinet had cleared the amendments, the government had announced other big-ticket changes, including keeping infrastructure and social infrastructure projects out of the ambit of social impact assessment and the need for consent from land owners. These projects included those in the private-public-partnership mode. The list of the category of projects that fall within the government's definition of "infrastructure" and "social infrastructure" are listed in the table with this story. It is an exhaustive list that includes high-end hotels, hospitals, ports, special economic zones, tourism facilities, cold chains, fertilizer factories, ports, roads, airports and urban public transport.

Centre proposes 15,000-MW solar capacity by '19 in 3 phases

■ Scheme proposed to be executed by NTPC

Sumit Jha
New Delhi, Jan 1

In a bid to achieve the target of 22-gigawatt solar capacity by 2022 under the national solar mission, the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) has proposed to set up 15,000 MW of grid-connected solar capacity in three tranches, with the first tranche of 3,000 MW likely to entail total investment of over ₹18,000 crore from the developers.

The first tranche is expected to be completed by 2017. The second and third tranches of 5,000 MW and 7,000 MW, respectively, will be implemented by 2019. The proposed capacity addition is nearly five times the current solar power capacity in the country. Out of the 3,000 MW capacity in the first tranche, first 1,000 MW capacity will be set up in Andhra Pradesh on land already identified by the state government.

The scheme is proposed to be executed by NTPC that includes preparation of detailed e-bidding guidelines. As per the proposal, the de-



velopers will submit bids quoting a fixed levelised tariff for a period of 25 years. They will then commit to sell power from their plants to NTPC through its power trading arm NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) at the quoted tariff.

In the first tranche, the proposal is to bundle 1,500 MW of unallocated thermal power from NTPC with 3,000 MW of solar power to be purchased by (NVVN) from the bidders who agree to produce and supply solar power at the lowest rate (not exceeding current SERC rate for such power). NVVN will then sell the bundled power to the interested state utilities under long-term power purchase agreement.

"The rate charged to the buyers will be weighted average tariff of the solar and thermal components

(bundling ratio of 2:1), plus a trading margin of 7 paise per unit, which is expected to be attractive to utilities," a government official told *FE*.

The tariff for thermal power component will be as per rates fixed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Authority (CERC) for power from the respective thermal power plants from which power is to be allotted.

As for 12,000 MW of capacity envisioned under tranche 2 and 3, implementation mechanism will be decided based on the experienced gathered from the execution of tranche 1. The other two tranches could require government support in the form of low-cost long-tenure loans, the proposal said.

The proposal prepared by MNRE has also envisaged that a portion of capacity to be developed be based on the

domestically manufactured solar cells as well as modules and that such capacity be given certain incentives over others. The department of economic affairs has shot down the suggestion saying "the proposal of domestic content requirement in the bid process is certainly going to cause complications and lead to economic distortion. Hence, the DEA should not support this suggestion."

NVVN will act as the sponsoring authority in charge of evaluating bids and issuing letters of intent. Further, it will also be entrusted with monitoring and commissioning of plants, including reporting of performance during the tenure of PPAs. The land for the projects will be provided on lease or ownership basis allowing developers to raise loans if required.

Direct benefit transfer scheme launched, to cover 676 districts

Siddhartha P Saikia

New Delhi, Jan 1: On the New Year day, the government unveiled world's largest direct subsidy roll out scheme — Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG consumer (DBTL) — across all the 676 districts in the country covering 15.3 domestic cooking gas consumers. The scheme is aimed at an efficient subsidy delivery mechanism to the targeted consumer curbing leakages.

"A smart delivery mechanism will reach the people of India. The consumers will get hassle-free service and at the same time, government would save on subsidies," petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan told FE.

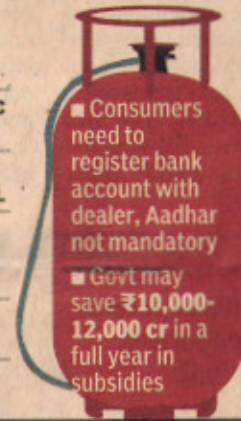
The Narendra Modi-led government has relaunched DBTL in 54 districts since November 15. The scheme has been extended to the entire country by January 1.

How will it work: a consumer's account would be credited with ₹568 as one-time advance, while he books his first refill starting January 1. Post the one-time advance, every time a refill is delivered the subsidy amount will be credited to the bank account linked with LPG connection. The mechanism would be similar to consumers of Indane, Bharat Gas or HP Gas.

For instance, in the national capital, after the one-time advance of ₹568, consumer's account would be credited with another ₹235.91 (which changes every month) for every domestic refill delivered. He will have to

Aiming for subsidy reduction

- DBTL unveiled in all **676 districts** in India, largest direct subsidy scheme globally
- Scheme to cover **17.3 crore domestic LPG users** across all states
- **30-35 mn** domestic LPG refills are delivered everyday by IOC, HPCL & BPCL
- In the pilot scheme in **54 districts**, **₹590 crore** has been credited to consumers' bank accounts
- Consumers to get **₹568** as one-time advance in their bank accounts
- Subsidy to be credited into bank account as soon as refill is delivered



shell out another ₹417/cylinder from his pocket and pay ₹652.91 to the cylinder delivery person. This will be valid for 12 subsidised refill quota for every consumer. The consumers need to register bank account with dealer, Aadhar is not mandatory.

In the pilot scheme rolled out in 54 districts since November 15, oil marketing companies — IOC, HPCL and BPCL — have credited ₹590 crore to consumers' accounts till December 29, 2014. Every day, nearly 30-35 million domestic refills are being delivered across the country. This takes the total count of domestic cylinders delivered in a year to about 100 crore. Nearly 99.67% of total domestic consumers are within the subsidised limit of 12 refills every financial year.

Pradhan said that the pilot scheme has covered nearly 37-

of domestic LPG consumers. The minister, however, refused to divulge on how much subsidy government targets to save with DBTL. "This (savings in subsidy) will come out once DBTL rolls out across the country," he told FE in an interview.

The industry watchers are of the view that the government aims at annual savings of ₹10,000-12,000 crore in the subsidy on cooking fuel when the DBTL scheme is rolled out across India. The subsidy on domestic cooking gas was ₹46,458 crore (shared between government and upstream companies) out of total losses on subsidised petroleum products (under-recovery) at ₹139,869 crore in FY14. This is likely to be reduced to the tune of ₹28,000 crore for domestic LPG in FY15, while total under-recovery is expected to be around ₹86,000 crore.

Making Things Simpler A committee of secretaries had proposed to the Cabinet that oil ministry see if the newly-approved pricing mechanism should apply to exploration contracts that predated Nelp

OilMin Plans Extending Gas Price Formula to Exempted Blocks Too

Rajeev.Jayaswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Cabinet has asked the oil ministry to examine if the recently approved gas pricing formula, from which a per-unit rate of \$5.61 was derived, can be extended to several exempted blocks including the Cairn India-operated Rajasthan fields, government officials said. Cairn charges \$8.4 per unit for its Rajasthan gas, ET reported in August.

The formula has applied since November 1 to several nomination blocks held by ONGC and Oil India and 254 blocks auctioned under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (Nelp). But it's not applicable to at least 17 blocks that predate Nelp, including Rajasthan and Hazira fields. Their production sharing contracts (PSCs) allow explorers to sell gas at market-discovered rates without prior approval of government, oil ministry and industry officials said.

Approved by the Cabinet on Octo-

Block by Block

Govt had constituted a CoS in Aug to review gas price formula

New Gas Price Policy

The CCEA approved the policy on October 18, 2014

Price is \$5.61/unit during November 1-May 31

Prices fluctuate with global benchmarks every six months

Rate applicable to ONGC and OIL-nominated fields, Nelp and CBM blocks

Exceptions to the New Pricing Policy

Small and isolated fields

Fields where prices are fixed contractually for a period

Where PSCs provide a specific pricing formula

Pre-Nelp blocks where govt approval is contractually not required



ber 18, the formula based on the recommendations of a committee of secretaries (CoS) aligned prevailing domestic rates with global benchmarks, including gas from Reliance Industries-operated KG-D6 fields.

At the time, the Cabinet had said: "As suggested by the committee (of secretaries), the possibility of applying modified approach to all PSCs, which

provide for arm's length pricing, but do not provide for approval of the formula/basis by the government, would be examined separately."

The committee had proposed to the Cabinet that the oil ministry could see whether the pricing mechanism should apply to exploration contracts that predated Nelp, a suggestion that's now being taken up.

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. pays Cairn \$8.40 per unit for gas from its Rajasthan block, ET reported on August 24. Cairn has found significant quantities of gas in the block and is currently developing some of these discoveries.

According to industry estimates, Cairn's gas fields are expected to produce at least about 7 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of gas, which is more than half the current output from KG-D6 block. A Cairn spokesman did not offer any comment on the proposal because the matter is not in public domain.

The government had constituted the CoS in August to review the gas price formula proposed by the Rangarajan committee in 2012 and approved by the UPA administration. The previous government, which had notified the new pricing mechanism in January 2014, could not announce the rate after the Election Commission vetoed its move because polls were imminent.

ISRO's MOM completes 100 days today

CHENNAI, JANUARY 1

India's first interplanetary mission MOM will complete 100 days around Mars tomorrow after it entered the Red Planet's orbit in September.

The Mars Orbiter launched on November 5, 2013 onboard ISRO's PSLV C25 from Sriharikota entered the Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 after a nine-month odyssey, making India the first country in the world to succeed in such inter-planetary mission in the maiden attempt itself.

Since then, the spacecraft has been sending data, including pictures of the terrain of the Red planet to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which are being received at Bangalore and being sent to the Space Application Centre and Physical Research Laboratory, both located at Ahmedabad for analysis.

"Though the design of Mangalyaan is for a year i.e. next September, it will continue to orbit around Mars depending on the fuel left," a senior ISRO official said.

The orbiter captured the coma of comet 'Siding Spring' with a colour camera on board for over 40 minutes as it made an appearance near the Red planet on October 19.

The 1,350-kg craft has also taken pictures of one of the two Martian moons — Phobos, while it was travelling west to east over Mars in its typical orbit. — PTI

RBI relaxes ECB norms

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday introduced changes in external commercial borrowings (ECB) norms under which authorised money changing banks had been allowed to create a charge on securities.

At present, the choice of security to be provided to the overseas lender or the supplier for securing ECB is left to

the borrower.

The decision was taken "with a view to liberalising, expanding the options of securities and consolidating various provisions related to creation of charge over securities for ECB at one place," the RBI said in a notification.

Immediate effect

The relaxations are with immediate effect. "It has been decided that AD Category-I banks may allow creation of charge on immovable assets, movable assets, financial securities and issue of corporate and/or personal guarantees in favour of overseas lender/security trustee, to secure the ECB to be raised/raised by the borrower," it added.

However, the new rules are subject to certain conditions.

The underlying ECB must be in compliance with extant ECB guidelines, there should be a security clause in the loan agreement, requiring the ECB borrower to create charge, and a no objection certificate will have to be obtained from an existing domestic lender.

Additionally, AD Category-I bank may permit creation of charge on immovable assets, movable assets, financial securities and issue of corporate and/or personal guarantees. — PTI

Beware of MLM firms, investors told

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India, on Thursday, cautioned investors against multi-level marketing firms that promised high returns and run on hefty member subscription fees, warning such offers could result in direct financial losses.

The central bank also said accepting money under such structures was a cognizable offence under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act of 1978. — Reuters

SUCCESSOR TO PLANNING COMMISSION

NITI Aayog is new policy body

PM Modi to head panel that will give strategic advice

Puja Mehra

NEW DELHI: On New Year's Day, the Modi government set up NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in place of the Planning Commission. The Prime Minister will head the new institution tasked with the role of formulating policies and direction for the government. Its governing council will comprise the Chief Ministers and the Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.

The Prime Minister will appoint the Aayog's Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer. Asian Development Bank's former Chief Economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be the first Vice-Chairperson.

The government plans to adopt a "Bharatiya" approach to development, says the resolution of the Union Cabinet for setting up the Aayog. India needs an administration paradigm in which the government is an enabler rather than a provider of first and last resort, it says.

The Aayog will recommend a national agenda, including strategic and technical advice on elements of policy and economic matters. It will also develop mechanisms for village-level plans and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.

THINK TANK 2.0

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA WILL FOSTER CENTRE-STATE COOPERATION

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
Chairperson PM	Chairperson PM
Governing Council Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors of UTs	National Development Council (PM, Cabinet, CMs, State FMs)
Regional Councils (PM, CMs)	Not applicable
Vice-Chairman , appointed by PM	Deputy Chairman , appointed by PM
Ex officio members Central Ministers	Ex officio member Minister of Planning
PM-appointed CEO	Secretary Planning



Source: PIB, Planning Commission website

Asian Development Bank's former Chief Economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be the first Vice-Chairperson

The institutions of governance and policy have to adapt to new challenges and must be built on the founding principles of the Constitution, the resolution says. On the planning process, it says that there is a need to separate the process from the strategy of governance.

Transforming India, it further says, will involve changes of two types — consequences of market forces and those that would be planned. "The maturing of our institutions and polity also entails a diminished role for centralised planning, which itself needs to be redefined."

A state-of-the-art resource centre for good governance practices is also proposed.

The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 through a Cabinet Resolution, which the Modi government scrapped in August 2014.

'BHARATIYA MODEL' UNVEILED | PAGE 10

It's *aniti, durniti*, says Opposition

NEW DELHI: The Opposition on Thursday criticised as mere "fluff" and "gimmickry" the government's decision to restructure the Planning Commission and rename it NITI Aayog, and voiced apprehension that it would discriminate against the States and help "corporates call the shots" in policymaking.

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of the Planning Commission as "*aniti and durniti*" [no policy and bad policy]. "If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said," he said. "It being the stakeholder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate against the States," Congress leader Manish Tewari said.

Veteran CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta said dismantling of the Planning Commission would lead to an unregulated economy. "It is not a change of name. The Planning Commission is being abolished because they [government] don't believe in planning," he said. — PTI

'Bharatiya' governance model unveiled

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Modi Government on Thursday unveiled its 'Bharatiya' governance model in the resolution for setting up the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.

The resolution, approved by the Cabinet, reaffirms that India is a diverse country with distinct languages, faiths and cultural ecosystems. "This diversity has enriched the totality of the Indian experience," the resolution says.

Politically too, India has embraced a greater measure of pluralism which has reshaped the federal consensus, it says. "States do not want to be mere appendages of the Centre... They seek a decisive say in determining the architecture of economic growth and development."

India no longer seeks the alleviation of poverty, states the resolution, but rather its elimination. "Poverty elimination remains one of the



A view of the Planning Commission building in New Delhi. - PHOTO: SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

most important metrics by which alone we should measure our success as a nation."

The essence of effective governance is defined to include pro-people agenda, citizens' participation, all-round women empowerment, equality of opportunity to the youth and transparency. Inclusiveness with special attention to the socially and economically disadvantaged sections and minorities is also included in the scheme of

effective governance.

Enabling legislation

The role of Government as a player in the industrial and service sectors is proposed to be reduced. "Instead, Government has to focus on enabling legislation, policy making and regulation."

India's middle class, including the neo-middle class, is unique in terms of its size and purchasing power, says the resolution. "Our contin-

uing challenge is to ensure that this economically vibrant group remains engaged and its potential is fully realised."

The resolution also says that the Non-Resident Indian community spread across more than 200 countries is a significant geo-economic and geo-political strength. "Future national policies must incorporate this strength in order to broaden their participation in the new India beyond just their financial support."

Urbanisation has to be viewed as an opportunity to use modern technology to create a wholesome and secure habitat while reaping the economic benefits that it offers, states the resolution.

Policy-making must focus on providing necessary support to the more than 50 million small businesses, which are a major source of employment creation, in terms of skill and knowledge upgrades and access to financial capital and relevant technology.

Modi ends Nehru-era Plan panel

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 1

With the Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiling Niti Aayog on Thursday, the curtain finally came down on the 65-year-old Planning Commission, which had brought out 12 five-year-plans during its existence. Set up by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Planning Commission in the beginning oversaw six annual plans, while it worked out fund outlays of over ₹200 lakh crore in its lifetime.

The Planning Commission was set up by a simple government resolution on March 15, 1950. Despite being criticised in various quarters for step-

ping in domains earmarked for state governments, the plan panel withstood many political and economic upheavals. Seen by many as a Soviet era relic, the plan panel has been replaced by Niti Aayog, which has been set up through a Cabinet decision, which invoked words of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Swami

● **The panel during its existence grew from a simple planning body to a powerful 'control commission' to a fiscal decentralisation instrument to an official think-tank**

Vivekanand and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Incidentally, Mr Modi during his first Independence Day speech had first informed the people of his intent to replace the Planning Commission with a new body consisting of representatives of the states. The address, however, will remain the same, as the sprawling Yojna Bhavan will house the Niti Aayog. The new body comes up with a CEO, while Prime Minister will be the chairperson. The Planning Commission during its existence grew from a simple planning body to a powerful "control commission" to a fiscal decentralisation instrument to an official think-tank.

However, the 2014 Lok Sabha elections results changed the fortune of the Planning Commission. The then deputy chairman, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and other members put in their papers immediately after the people's verdict came. And then followed a consultation process seeking suggestions on the structure and role of the new body.

Incidentally, Nehru himself is said to have faced resistance to the idea of setting up of the Planning Commission, but it went on to become a major platform for successive governments to formulate and push forward economic policies and other development plans.

NITI Aayog replaces Plan panel, PM to head body

■ Noted economist Arvind Panagariya tipped to be its first vice-chairman

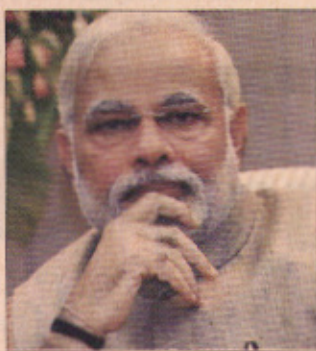
New Delhi, Jan 1

THE 65-year-old Planning Commission was on Thursday replaced by a new body, NITI Aayog, that will be headed by the Prime Minister, while all chief ministers will be on its governing council to evolve national development priorities with the involvement of states.

Unlike its predecessor, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), will have all chief ministers and Lt. governors on its Governing Council in the spirit of cooperative federalism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on the new body.

"Having served as a CM (chief minister) in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that," tweeted Modi, who had in his Independence Day speech mooted the idea of replacing the Commission with a new and more relevant body.

"Through the NITI Aayog we wish to ensure that every individ-



Having served as a CM in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that.

NARENDRA MODI,
Prime Minister

ual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life (inclusive growth)," he said.

The body will have a vice-chairperson and CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members, while four union ministers would serve as ex-officio members.

Noted economist Arvind Panagariya is tipped to be first vice-chairman of the Niti Aayog.

Modi in his tweet said, "A pro-people, pro-active & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind

NITI Aayog. Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity & plurality."

The NITI Aayog, he hoped, will emerge as an active and important institution that will play a pivotal role in India's development journey in the years to come. It will provide key inputs on various policy matters.

According to a statement, the new body will form regional councils to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region.

The regional councils will comprise the CMs and Lt. governors in the region. These will be chaired by the chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.

The NITI Aayog will also have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister.

The two part-time members of the new body would be from leading universities and research organisations.

The body will serve as a 'Think Tank' of the government as "a directional and policy dynamo" and would provide the governments at the Centre and in states with strategic and technical advice on key policy matters including economic issues of national and international importance, the official statement said.

The government has set up the new body through a Cabinet Resolution, wherein it has invoked words of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Swami Vivekanand and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

PTI



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TWEETS

- NITI Aayog will emerge as an active & important institution that will play a pivotal role in India's development journey in the years to come
- NITI Aayog has been formed after a wide range of consultation with the various stakeholders including the Chief Ministers
- A landmark change is the inclusion of all State CMs & L-Gs of UTs in the NITI Aayog. This will foster a spirit of cooperative federalism
- Having served as a CM in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that
- Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one-size-fits-all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity & plurality
- A pro-people, pro-active and participative development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog
- Through the NITI Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life
- Through the NITI Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life

Prime minister to chair NITI Aayog; CMs to be part of it

New body to have a chief executive officer and a vice-chairperson; Opposition parties slam move

BS REPORTER
New Delhi, 1 January

The Planning Commission became history on Thursday, with the Narendra Modi government replacing the 64-year-old body with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

The NITI Aayog will have a governing council, comprising all chief ministers and lieutenant governors — the PM will chair it — and will work towards fostering co-operative federalism for providing a national agenda to the Centre and states, the government said on Thursday, in a statement.

"Having served as a chief minister in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting states. NITI Aayog does precisely that. Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one-size-fits-all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

He said the new body will foster a spirit of cooperative federalism with the sole principle of developing a pro-people, pro-active and participative development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality.

The Opposition was, however, not willing to buy this argument. Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said the new body would discriminate against states. "It being the stakeholder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate against the states," Tewari said.

The new body will have a chief executive officer and a vice-chairperson to be appointed by the prime minister, in

THE COMMISSION - THEN AND NOW

While the central allocation to states will be done by the finance ministry, the new structure may also signal the end of the five-year or annual plans. A comparison between NITI Aayog and the last Planning Commission of India:

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
Chairperson: Prime minister	Chairperson: Prime minister
Vice-chairperson: To be appointed by the PM	Deputy Chairman: Nominated by PM; to have Cabinet rank
Governing Council: Chief ministers (CMs) and lieutenant governors (L-Gs)	National Development Council (NDC): Created by an order of Planning Commission, which calls the council; has CMs and L-G and is responsible for framing five-year Plans
Regional councils: To be set up to address specific issues for specified tenures; to comprise CMs and L-Gs	Eight full-time members: Usually subject expert; appointed as minister of state; also people from outside government
Part-time members: Experts from relevant institutions in ex-officio capacity (maximum two, on a rotational basis)	10 Cabinet ministers, including Planning Minister
Ex-officio members: Union ministers to be nominated by the PM (maximum 4)	Member secretary/ Secretary
CEO: To be appointed by the PM in the rank of secretary for a fixed tenure	Planning Commission of India
Secretariat: As deemed necessary	
Special invitees: Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge; nominated by PM	

Sources: Planning Commission & PIB

addition to four to five full-time members and two part-time members. Four Union ministers will serve as ex-officio members.

"The names of the full-time members and the vice-chairman are expected to be announced in the next few days," said a senior government official, who has been part of the process.

The Planning Commission had a deputy chairperson instead. Besides, there will be

specific regional councils, while experts and specialists from various fields will be specially invited by the prime minister.

The Aayog will serve as a think-tank for the government and will provide suggestions for the economy, including the private sector. The institution will create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international

experts, practitioners and other partners.

It will also offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues to accelerate the implementation of the country's development agenda.

The new body will also focus on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.

The Aayog follows Modi's announcement in his

Independence Day speech that there was a need for replacing the Planning Commission with a new body in the changed economic scenario.

The government has set up the Aayog through a Cabinet resolution. The Planning Commission was also set up through a government resolution, in 1950.

Providing the rationale for setting up the Aayog, the Cabinet resolution said the people had great expectations for progress and improvement in governance through their participation. This required institutional reforms in governance and dynamic policy shifts that could seed and nurture large-scale change, it said. "The destiny of our country, from the time we achieved Independence, is now on a higher trajectory," it said.

The two part-time members will be from leading universities and research organisations but the number of full-time members has not yet been specified.

According to the resolution, the Aayog will provide a national agenda for the prime minister and chief ministers to foster cooperative federalism while recognising that "strong states make a strong nation".

The Aayog has been set up after intensive consultations with stakeholders, including states, domain experts and institutions. It will provide critical directional and strategic inputs into the governance process by engaging citizens, providing "egalitarian access to opportunity", and by increasing the use of technology, the statement said.

Being the incubator of ideas for effective governance would be the core mission of NITI Aayog, it added.

FROM THE HISTORY BOOK

Quotes from eminent persons were interspersed in the Cabinet note that replaced the Planning Commission

MAHATMA GANDHI "Constant development is the law of life, and a man who always tries to maintain his dogmas in order to appear consistent drives himself into a false position."

B R AMBEDKAR "It is unreasonable

to centralise powers where central control and uniformity is not clearly essential or is impracticable."

TIRUVALLUVAR, THE POET-SAGE "Nothing is more dreadfully painful than poverty", and

"gripping poverty robs a man of the lofty nobility of his descent."

SANKAR DEV "To see every being as equivalent to one's own soul is the supreme means (of attaining deliverance)."

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA "Take up one

idea. Make that one idea your life — think it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success."

With Niti Aayog, states get a seat at Modi's roundtable

Centre Embraces Consultative Policy-Making

Mahendra Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government on Thursday replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission — a relic of the Socialist era — with a Niti Aayog or National Institution for Transforming India, marking a major shift in policy making by involving states.

To be headed by PM Narendra Modi, the new body will have a governing council comprising CMs of all states and

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NOW DEFUNCT

- ▶ PM to head Niti Aayog, appoint vice-chairman, CEO
- ▶ 7-8 full time members likely besides 2 part-time members from leading universities and research bodies. 4 Union ministers will be members
- ▶ Will have governing council of CMs, heads of UTs. Regional council to tackle issues related to more than one state/region

WHAT IS NEW?

- ▶ Focus will be on cooperative federalism. In the Planning Commission states did not have representation but there was a National Development Council
- ▶ Shift from top-down planning to consultative policy making



- ▶ Panel will serve as govt think tank on key policy issues
- ▶ Will maintain resource centre on good governance and best practices
- ▶ Experts have been debating the future of the Planning Commission and feel it has long outlived its utility and its policies do not reflect the changing times

Lt Governors of Union Territories and will work towards fostering "co-operative federalism" for providing a "national agenda" to the Centre and states. The membership of states has rendered the Na-

tional Development Council, a body of CMs that approves five-year Plans, defunct.

The new body, which would remain at its predecessor's address in Lutyens' Delhi, will have a vice-chairperson and

CEO to be appointed by the PM. Columbia University professor Arvind Panagariya was under consideration for vice-chairperson, sources said.

▶ No one size fits all, P 8

PM: End of one-size-fits-all approach

▶ Continued from P1

The Niti Aayog, which will serve as a policy think tank for the central and state governments, will have 7-8 full-time members and two part-time members, while four Union ministers would serve as ex-officio members. The two part-time members would be from leading universities and research organizations; the number of full-time members has not been specified as yet.

Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge would also be part of Niti Aayog as "special invitees nominated by the PM". Modi, who announced the dismantling of Planning Commission in his maiden Independence Day speech last year, hailed the replacement in a series of tweets, saying the inclusion of CMs and LGs will "foster a spirit of cooperative federalism". "Through Niti Aayog,



For Alive steps, see page 2

we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality," Modi tweeted.

The scrapping of the Planning Commission addresses the long-held view that the body, which was conceived at a time when the Centre was supposed to occupy "commanding heights of economy", had outlived its relevance because of diminished role of the state and the emergence of the private sector and also due to the

HOW IT HAPPENED

Aug 13 | Cabinet approves scrapping of Planning Commission

Aug 15 | PM announces Planning Commission will be abolished

Dec 7 | CMs interact with PM Narendra Modi to work out contours of the new entity

foci of economic activities shifting to states.

Beginning with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's dismissing the body as a "bunch of jokers", the Commission's utility had been increasingly called into question, with state governments protesting against their limited role in the planning process despite Congress's protests against what it has called the assault on Nehruvian policies.

The Modi government focused on the lament of the

states and an important evolutionary change from the past will replace a centre-to-state one-way flow of policy by a genuine and continuing partnership with the states. The declared intent to empower states has played well as non-NDA chief ministers have also supported the dissolution of Planning Commission.

Significantly, Modi and the official statement also stressed that the Niti Aayog will pay special attention to the poor who have not benefited from development process. "A pro-people, pro-active and participatory development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality is the guiding principle behind Niti Aayog", Modi said in one of his tweets. It also said that the new institution "has to provide at the Centre and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice" on key policy issues.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

NITI Aayog replaces Planning Commission

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 1

Narendra Modi's 'NITI Aayog', the body which replaces the 'Yojana Aayog' (Planning Commission), will have a three-tiered structure headed by the Prime Minister. NITI stands for National Institutions for Transforming India.

The Centre on Thursday issued a resolution highlighting 13 objectives for the new body, with the focus on providing a 'national agenda'.

The body will have a Governing Council comprising State Chief Ministers and Lt Governors of Union Territories. Regional Councils will address

specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one State or a region. There will also be a full-time organisational framework headed by the PM. The three layers will be formed for a specified tenure.

However, Opposition parties criticised the decision to establish NITI Aayog, calling it gimmickry. They said the new body cannot fulfil the Centre's promise of "cooperative federalism" and feared that States would be discriminated against in the new set-up. Regional parties urged the Centre to ensure that the new panel had members specifically for States.

Full story on p4

Modi's NITI Aayog will have a three-layer structure

Regional councils get a role, States will have representation

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 1

Narendra Modi's 'NITI Aayog', the body which replaces 'Yojana Aayog' (Planning Commission), will have a three-tier structure headed by the Prime Minister.

The Centre on Thursday issued a resolution highlighting 13-point objectives for the new body with focus on providing 'national agenda'. NITI stands for National Institutions for Transforming India.

The body will have a Governing Council comprising State Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors of Union Territories, Regional Councils to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one State or a region, and full-time organisational framework headed by the Prime Minister. The three layers will be formed for a specified tenure.

However, the Opposition criticised the decision to establish NITI Aayog calling it a gimmickry. They said the new body cannot fulfil Centre's promise of "cooperative federalism" and they feared that States will be discriminated by the new set-up. Regional parties urged the Centre to ensure that the new panel will have members specifically for States,

Old vs New

Planning Commission	NITI Aayog
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top down approach for planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate National Development Strategy in a integrated market economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting growth targets, goals and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolve National Development Strategy in consultation with the States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentally a Central Government institution without State representations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with the State Governments to promote co-operative federalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with states on annual plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States will continue to receive support for removing bottlenecks and impediments. They will also be able to approach the new institution for consultancy and capacity building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of Central Assistance to State Plans in Budget Estimate for 2014-15. Approximately 59% (44% under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 15% under block grants) flows to States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States will tailor their plans to suit their needs under more than 40 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Greater flexibility for States-specific needs in each scheme.

According to an official release, the Prime Minister, in the new body, will be assisted by a Vice-Chairperson and full-time members. There will be two part-time members who will be selected from leading universities, research organisations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part-time members will be appointed on a rotational basis. Four Union Ministers will be ex-officio members. There will also be a Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) with a fixed tenure and in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

The Regional Councils will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog, the Prime Minister, or his nominee. Both General and Regional councils will have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister.

NITI Aayog aims to foster cooperative federalism through struc-

tured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognising that strong States make a strong nation.

In a crucial departure from its earlier avatar, the new body will adopt a 'Bottom Up' approach, where decisions will be taken at the local level and then endorsed at the Central level. This is also reflected in one of the approach which says, "To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of Government."

"The institution will serve as 'Think Tank' of the Government - a directional and policy dynamo," the resolution said. It will provide the Centre and States with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy. This includes matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.

The Cabinet in its meeting on August 13 approved the repeal of the Cabinet Resolution dated March 15, 1950 through which the Planning Commission was set up.

The Cabinet also authorised the Prime Minister to finalise the contours of the New Institution to replace the Planning Commission.

NITI Aayog replaces plan panel; PM to be chairman

Will have all Chief Ministers, Lt Governors on its governing council

SANJEEV SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1
The Narendra Modi government today decided to replace the 65-year-old Planning Commission with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), which will serve as a think tank of the government.

One of the objectives of the new body will be to ensure that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

The Prime Minister will be the chairman of the new body and it will have a governing council comprising all Chief Ministers and Lt Governors. Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics at Columbia University, is tipped to be the first vice-chairman of the Aayog. The vice-chairman will be nominated by the Prime Minister. The new body will also have a CEO. It will have full-time and part-time members.



Yojana Bhavan in New Delhi housed the Planning Commission, which has now been replaced by NITI Aayog. **MANAS RANJAN BHUI**

“Having served as a CM (Chief Minister) in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that”

PM Narendra Modi on Twitter



Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These will be formed for a specified tenure. The Regional Councils will be convened by the

Prime Minister and will comprise the Chief Ministers of states and Lt Governors of Union Territories in the region. These will be chaired by the chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.

CONTINUED ON P11

The govt think tank

What will it do

The body will provide the government relevant strategic and technical advice on key policy matters. It includes matters of national and international importance on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.

The constituents

- The Prime Minister will be the chairman of the new body
- The body will have a Vice-Chairman and a CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members
- The Aayog will also have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister

NITI Aayog replaces plan panel

FROM PAGE 1

According to a Cabinet resolution, under which the NITI Aayog has been set up, the body will provide the government relevant strategic and technical advice on key policy matters.

This includes matters of national and international importance on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.

The decision comes months after Prime Minister

Narendra Modi announced that it will be replaced by a new body. According to the resolution, an important evolutionary change from the past will be replacing a centre-to-state one-way flow of policy by a genuine and continuing partnership with the states.

“Perhaps most importantly, the institution must adhere to the tenet that while incorporating positive influences from the world, no single model can be transplanted from outside into the Indian scenario. We need to find our own strategy for

growth. The new institution has to zero in on what will work in and for India. It will be a ‘Bharatiya’ approach to development”, it said. The new body is being proposed after extensive consultation across the spectrum of stakeholders, including inter alia state governments, domain experts and relevant institutions.

The Aayog will work towards evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states in the light of national objectives.

PLAN PANEL'S NEW AVATAR

'NITI AAYOG' REPLACES PLANNING COMMISSION

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 1 January

The Narendra Modi government today replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission with a new body called NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog (Commission) that is mandated to provide "governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy".

The proposed policy spectrum will include "matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support", said a statement issued by the Cabinet Secretariat here this evening. The Prime Minister will be the chairperson of the NITI Aayog whose Governing Council will comprise of all chief ministers and Lt Governors (of UTs) in an exercise envisaged by the Centre to involve states in working out and pushing national development agenda and priorities in a spirit of "cooperative federalism".

"The institution (NITI Aayog) will serve as 'think tank' of the Government - a directional and policy dynamo," said the Cabinet Secretariat's statement.

"In the context of governance structures, the changed requirements of

LEGACY BODY

The Planning Commission was set up by Nehru nearly 65 years ago



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1 The panel framed 12 five-year Plans and six annual Plans during the period</p> | <p>2 The new body would have a CEO, with the PM as chairperson</p> | <p>3 All state CMs would be members of the governing body</p> |
|--|---|--|

WHAT'S NEXT

A PMO statement said the Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy is to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states.

our country, point to the need for setting up an institution that serves as a think tank of the government... The institution has to be able to respond to the changing and more integrated world that India is part of," the official statement said.

The establishment of NITI Aayog was in accordance with the announcement made by the PM Modi during his Independence Day speech that his government will scrap the Socialist-era Planning Commission and replace it with a

national body in light of the contemporary situation.

"The Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy, that was the hallmark of the Planning Commission era, is now sought to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states," said a separate statement issued by the PMO today. "NITI Aayog will seek to provide a critical directional and strategic input into the development process."

TURN TO PAGE 5

Plan panel...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Modi government maintained that this move came after extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders including state governments, domain experts and relevant institutions.

The Opposition parties - including the Congress, Left and Trinamul - were however not impressed, criticising the government's decision to abolish the Plan Panel which, they held, had properly served the interests of the states and the Centre so far.

The new policy body will have a Vice Chairperson and a CEO in addition to five full-time members and two part-time members, while four Union ministers would serve as its ex-officio members.

It will have experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the PM. It is supposed to put an end to "slow and tardy implementation of policy", the government claimed.

The noted economist Arvind Panagariya is likely to be appointed by the PM as the NITI Aayog's first Vice-Chairman.

A Cabinet Resolution constituting the new body said that Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. They will comprise of the CMs and Lt. Governors in the region. These will be chaired by the NITI Aayog Chairman or his nominee.

PM Modi hailed the setting up of this body in a series of tweets, maintaining that NITI Aayog will "provide key inputs on various policy matters" and

"will emerge as an active and important institution that will play a pivotal role in India's development journey in the years to come".

Mr Modi also said, "Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality," and that a "pro-people, pro-active and participative development agenda stressing on empowerment and equality" is the body's guiding principle.

"Through the NITI Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development and aspire to lead a better life," the PM said. "A landmark change is the inclusion of all State CMs & LGs of UTs in the NITI Aayog. This will foster a spirit of cooperative federalism."

The Cabinet Resolution invokes Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Swami Vivekananda and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya while citing their various quotes to reinforce the rationale behind the constitution of the new policy body.

It stated that the new body would seek to evolve a "shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states" and would thus provide a "national agenda" for the PM and the CMs to work on collectively.

The NITI Aayog would also monitor and evaluate implementation of various programmes and would promote a transparent regime based on technology besides ensuring an equitable and inclusive scheme of things.

The Opposition, however, criticised the Modi dispensation's move, calling it mere "fluff and gimmickry".

Wondering whether the move was merely a "change of nomenclature", the Opposition leaders also alleged that this might just set the stage for corporates and big private players to "call the shots" in framing and execution of major policies.

Planning Commission gives way to Niti Aayog

HT Correspondent

• writers@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In its first major decision of the year, the government said on Thursday the Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog will replace the 65-year-old Planning Commission, marking the end of the Nehruvian institution that pioneered India's five-year planned development approach.

The move comes nearly four months after PM Narendra Modi's

Independence Day speech, where he had announced the plan panel would give way to a new body in sync with contemporary challenges, shunning the "one size fits all" approach.

As first reported by HT, the PM will head the body and its governing council will include all chief ministers and lieutenant governors, in line with Modi's thrust on cooperative federalism that advocates involving states in the Centre's decision making.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Planning Commission gives way to Niti Aayog

"Having served as a CM (chief minister) in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. Niti Aayog does precisely that," tweeted Modi.

"Through the Niti Aayog we wish to ensure that every individual can enjoy the fruits of development & aspire to lead a better life (inclusive growth)," the PM wrote on the microblogging site.

The primary job of the new body - described as a think tank - will be to advise the government on social and economic issues. Unlike the Nehruvian plan panel, the new body will not have the power to disburse funds to central ministries and state governments.

The new panel will have a vice-chairperson and a chief executive

officer; in addition to four cabinet ministers as ex-officio members, five full-time members and two part-time members from universities and research organisations on a rotational basis.

The position of the vice-chairman, for which Arvind Panagariya is among the front runners, and several other posts will be filled up in the next few days.

The governing council will replace the National Development Council that is presided over by the PM. Regional councils chaired either by Modi or his nominee will also be set up to address region-specific issues.

A cabinet resolution passed last week said the Aayog will evolve a "framework national agenda" for the PM and chief ministers, add-

ing that it will create knowledge support through a community of national and international experts. For that, it will have domain experts as special invitees.

The resolution said the Planning Commission was no longer relevant as it was set up when India was an under-developed economy and is now emerging as one of the largest in the world.

"From being preoccupied with survival, our aspirations have soared and today we seek elimination rather than alleviation of poverty," it said.

However, the resolution did not specify the new panel's roles or if the present Five Year Plan approach would continue. Officials said these issues will be

resolved before the members to the commission are nominated.

News of the Aayog's set up was received with criticism from the Opposition, who called it "fluff" and "gimmickry". CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury described the new panel as the government's "anti and durniti (no policy and bad policy)".

The Congress' Manish Tewari said merely changing the nomenclature from Planning Commission to Niti Aayog will achieve nothing.

"It aims, it appears, to give more powers to the north block of the finance ministry so that it can be a final arbiter between the states and the Centre... it is against federal structure of the country," Tewari said.

We bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development: Modi NITI Aayog to replace Plan Panel

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

THE government on Thursday announced that the Planning Commission had been revamped and rechristened as the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, with a multi-tiered structure including a governing council that comprises the chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors of union territories.

To be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the revamped institution will serve as a government "think tank" with the mandate to provide strategic and technical advice on issues of "national and international importance" to the Centre and states.

"Having served as a CM in the past, I am very much aware of the importance of actively consulting the states. NITI Aayog does precisely that," tweeted Modi, who had in his Independence Day speech mooted the idea of replacing the Planning Commission, which was set up in 1950 and seen as a vestige of the socialist

PLANNING COMMISSION

STRUCTURE

Headed by PM, with a politician or economist as deputy chairman and Union minister in charge of planning.

Full-time members were experts in various areas and attached offices such as UIDAI, National Institute of Labour Economics and Development.

FUNCTIONS

Formulate and review five-year plan target and goals, advise on specific issues.

Decide state allocations and Plan expenditure.

NITI AAYOG

Multi-tiered body chaired by PM, with a governing council of chief ministers, regional council on specific issues, experts as special invitees.

Full-time office to include PM as chairperson, a vice chairperson, CEO, full-time members, 2 part-time members, 4 union ministers as ex-officio members.

Develop a "national agenda" and foster cooperative federalism between Centre and states.

Provide strategic and technical advice on key issues.

era. He also held consultations with state governments on December 7 on this issue.

"A pro-people, proactive & participative development agenda stressing on empowerment & equality is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog... Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity & plurality," he tweeted.

The Prime Minister's Office said that the centre-to-

state one-way flow of policy, that was the hallmark of the Planning Commission era, is now sought to be replaced by a genuine and continuing partnership of states.

The NITI Aayog, set up by a resolution of the Union Cabinet, will have a multi-tiered structure, with the PM as the chairperson, a governing council comprising the chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors of union territories, regional councils to be set up on region and state specific is-

ssues, and experts and specialists as the PM's special invitees.

"The regional councils will be convened by the Prime Minister and will comprise the chief ministers of all the states and lieutenant governors of union territories in the region. These will be chaired by the chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee," said an official statement.

In addition, the full-time organisation framework of the NITI Aayog will comprise the PM as its chairperson, who will appoint a CEO and vice-chairperson. It will also have some full-time members and two part-time members, while four union ministers will serve as ex-officio members.

While the two part-time members will be from leading universities and research organisations, the number of full-time members has not been specified as yet. Sources said the names of the members are likely to be announced over the next few days.

While the Planning Commission was primarily responsible for deciding on plan spending of the Centre and allocation to state governments,

the NITI Aayog will provide a "national agenda framework for the Prime Minister and the chief ministers" after evolving "a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states".

Invoking the words of national and spiritual leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda and BR Ambedkar, the government said the new agency will also "foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with states" as well as develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level.

The revamp however, did not go well with Opposition parties who said it was mere "fluff" and "gimmickry". "If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said..." said Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari.

CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of the Planning Commission as "aniti and durniti" (no policy and bad policy).

■ Move labelled just a 'fluff', mere 'gimmick'

Opp. attacks govt over Plan panel new avatar

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 1

Hitting out at the government for its decision to restructure the Planning Commission and rechristen it as "Niti Aayog", the Opposition on Thursday said the move is just a "fluff" and mere "gimmickry". They also expressed their apprehension that the new body will pave the way for discrimination, as "corporates will call the shots" in policy making in the country.

CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury termed the renaming of the Planning Commission as *aniti aur durniti* (no policy and bad policy).

"If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said... If the North Block or the finance ministry has a very short-term view of both fiscal and monetary objective, is going to be the final arbiter between the states and the Centre. It being the stakeholder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate

● **The United Opp. also expressed their apprehension that the new body will pave the way for discrimination, as 'corporates will call the shots' in policy making in the nation**

against the states," Congress leader Manish Tewari said.

"After all, what was the Planning Commission doing? It used to plan policy. So by changing the nomenclature from Planning Commission to Niti Aayog, what is the message this government is trying to send," Mr Tewari said, adding that Congress' opposition to restructuring of the Planning Commission was based on "principles".

"It's not a question of fighting a war, it's a matter of principle. The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party used to go extra lengths talking about federalism and how the sanctity and sacrosanct of federalism has to be maintained. And now they are going exactly the reverse,"

the Congress leader said.

Mr Yechury said, "just a change of nomenclature and gimmickry does not serve any purpose. Let us see what the government plans to do with it."

The Planning Commission, which was established in 1950, will be called "Niti Aayog" in its new avatar, months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that it will be replaced by a new body.

Veteran CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta said that dismantling of the Planning Commission and bringing in a new body in its place will lead to an unregulated economy. "It is not a change of name. The Planning Commission is being abolished because they (government) don't believe in planning," he said.

"The government would like to have a full-market economy (which is) totally unregulated," Mr Dasgupta said adding, "if this becomes the policy of the government to not help advance the country, control inflation and create job opportunities, it will not be good for the country".

Renaming of Plan panel due to 'anti-Nehruvianism': Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

THE rechristening of the Planning Commission by the NDA government on Thursday met with the expected opposition from the Congress.

The party said "anti-Nehruvianism" and "anti-Congressism" were behind the government's decision to rename the Planning Commission as "NITI Aayog".

The party's chief ministers have already objected to replacing the Planning Commission at a meeting chaired by



ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month.

"Mere change of name from Yojana Aayog to NITI is not objectionable if it is coupled with real reform. Otherwise, it will be purely cosmetic like earlier naming ceremonies," Congress spokesperson

Abhishek Manu Singhvi said. He said the Congress would have supported constructive reform of the Planning Commission.

But the "alteration of identity and basic structure", he said, is being done because of anti-Nehruvianism and anti-Congressism."

Former union minister Manish Tewari too hit out at the government. "It is not a question of fighting a war. It is a matter of principle. The opposition BJP used to go to extra lengths talking about federalism and how the sanctity of fed-

eralism has to be maintained. And now they are going exactly the reverse way," he said.

"If the government wants to greet people with fluff and not substance on the first day of 2015, then there is nothing more that can be said. If the North Block or the Finance Ministry have a very short-term view of both fiscal and monetary objective (and) is going to be the final arbiter between the states and the Centre... It being the stake holder in the process, I am afraid, is going to discriminate against the states," he said.

Govt to introduce all bills in Lok Sabha

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

WITH Rajya Sabha proceedings facing a standstill in the last few days of the Winter Session, the government is considering a plan to introduce all bills in Lok Sabha, where it enjoys absolute majority, to ensure their timely passage by Parliament.

"Once the bill is passed by the Lok Sabha, it can not remain pending in the Rajya Sabha for more than six months," said a person famil-

JOINT SITTING

■ In case the bill is left pending in the Rajya Sabha for more than six months, the government has the option of calling a joint session

iar with the development, adding that in such a case there is a provision in the Constitution to call a joint session of Parliament to get the bill passed, if any bill has been approved by one House but either defeated or held back for six months by the other.

The government could also use the same strategy for

the recently promulgated Ordinances, by introducing all bills to convert the Ordinances into Acts first in the Lok Sabha. "This is one option. A joint session can be called at least once a year where key legislations can be passed," said the person.

Since adjournment of the Parliament last month, the government has also promulgated ordinances on easing land acquisition norms, coal mine auction, e-rickshaw, modification of arbitration laws and regularisation of colonies in Delhi.

Congress releases first list of candidates for Assembly polls

Jatin Anand

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Congress rang in the New Year on Thursday by declaring a list of 24 candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections.

Apart from nine former MLAs, including latest entrant to the party's Delhi unit Shoaib Iqbal, the list includes the names of leaders who contested the previous Assembly elections, but came in second and two former presidents of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC).

Three-time former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, who lost to Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal, does not figure in the list. However, according to a senior leader, she will play a major part in the party's campaign behind the scenes.

"The pattern on which the list of candidates was decided is based on considerations of popularity, development work initiated by them, as well as the candidates' experience in the Capital's political life," added a party leader.

The first list included Devendra Yadav from Badli, Jai Kishan from Sultanpur Majra, Prahlad Singh Sawhney from Chandni Chowk, Haroon Yusuf from Ballimaran,

FIRST LIST OF 24

AFTER A DRUBBING IN THE 2013 ASSEMBLY POLLS, THE CONGRESS PARTY ON THURSDAY ANNOUNCED THEIR FIRST LIST OF CANDIDATES.

THE PARTY DEPARTED FROM TRADITION BY RELEASING ITS FIRST LIST BEFORE THE NOMINATION PROCESS



PARTY REPEATS ALL ITS EIGHT MLAS

12 others who were runner-ups in the 2013 polls find a spot

Party yet to declare its candidate for the New Delhi seat



Five-time MLA **Shoaib Iqbal** (Matlamahal). He had contested the last elections on a JD(U) ticket

NEW FACES

Ex-Mayor **Satbir Singh** (Mehrauli)
Sachin Bidhuri (Tughlakabad)

SEASONED CAMPAIGNERS



Arvinder Singh (Gandhinagar)



Harun Yusuf (Ballimaran)



A.K. Wafia (Laxmi Nagar)



Raj Kumar Chauhan (Mangolpuri)

▶ Devendra Yadav

▶ **Jaikishan** (Sultanpur Majra, will seek his fifth term)

▶ **Prahlad Singh Sawhney** (Chandni Chowk)

▶ Asif Mohammed Khan (Okhla)

▶ **Mateen Ahmed** (Seelampur, will seek sixth term)

▶ **Hasan Ahmed** (Mustafabad)

Asif Mohammad Khan from Okhla, Chaudhary Mateen Ahmed from Seelampur, Delhi unit chief Arvinder Singh from Gandhi Nagar and Hasan Ahmed from Mustafabad.

Former Delhi unit chiefs Surender Kumar will contest from reserved seat Bawana, while Subhash Chopra has been fielded from his tradi-

tional Kalkaji seat. All others, barring Mr. Iqbal who recently joined Congress from the Janata Dal (United), are runners up.

Meanwhile, the party is learnt to have formally written to leaders across the country, asking them to make their way to and camp upwards of a month in the Capital to assist the latter in

mobilising support for the polls.

As has already been reported, prominent party leaders from across northern India will be assigned one of the Capital's 70 Assembly Constituencies each and be required to "assist party's local candidate there", beginning the day of the notification of the polls.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2015

Hasty changes in land law

When a law is enacted after considerable debate and consultation, it will be wise to study the experience of its implementation for some time before it is amended, in order to address perceived difficulties. Any such amendment within the first year of its entry into force, especially one pushed through as an ordinance, will be inevitably perceived as hasty, even if on the positive side it is meant to eliminate delays in land acquisition. In this backdrop, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014, is bound to face criticism that the changes constitute a significant dilution of a progressive law. The Congress and the Left parties are likely to oppose the changes when the law comes to Parliament in the form of a bill to replace the ordinance. In substance, the ordinance makes a significant change by omitting in respect of a wide range of projects the requirements of a social impact assessment study, the informed consent of a large section of the families affected by the acquisition of land. These projects include those that are vital to national security and defence, rural infrastructure, affordable housing and housing for the poor, besides industrial corridors and infrastructure and social infrastructure projects. The vital element of making acquisition a consultative and participative process may thus be subject to bureaucratic discretion.

The principle of 'eminent domain', which justifies the compulsory acquisition of land by the state for a public purpose, normally ought to be accompanied by a duty to give fair compensation. However, the colonial Land Acquisition Act of 1894 had in effect reduced compensation to a mere token in relation to the market value, and for decades it was used to deprive many, mostly farmers, of their land for a pittance. Last year's law radically altered this relationship between citizen and state and created a fair compensation right, as well as a new structure for rehabilitation and resettlement. It also cast a duty on the government to create specified amenities in every resettlement area. Thankfully, the ordinance does not dilute these provisions, but additionally extends them to a list of Acts that were previously exempted. However, this is not its own contribution, as the original Act itself said such a provision shall be enacted within a year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has projected the amendments as those that strengthen protection for the affected families and also removes difficulties in implementation. Perhaps the regime's intentions could have been better understood had the changes been introduced as a bill in Parliament and referred to a committee for appraisal.