

PART A: News pertaining to Planning Commission



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(महापुरुषों के प्रेरणात्मक विचार)

(जो सपने देखते हैं और उन्हें पूरा करने की कीमत चुकाने को तैयार रहते हैं, वो खुश रहते हैं.)

Leon J. Suenes लेओन जे. स्युंस

1. DECCAN Chronicle

Published on *Deccan Chronicle* (<http://www.deccanchronicle.com>)

PM Narendra Modi to address meet at Parade Grounds in February

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DC CORRESPONDENT | November 30, 2014, 03.11 am IST



PM Narendra Modi

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a mega public meeting at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds in February 2015. This will be his maiden visit to Telangana after taking charge as PM.

Telangana BJP sources said Mr Modi will take part in a training programme for party activists. Mr Modi's first public meeting is planned to boost the morale of party cadres, strengthen the party in Telangana and position itself as an alternative to the TRS by the 2019 general elections.

The BJP has recently launched an ambitious membership drive to enrol 10 crore members across the country. Telangana BJP has set a target to enrol 20 lakh members by January.

"We want BJP workers in every polling booth in Telangana. We are confident of enrolling 20 lakh workers," said Mr G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana BJP president.

Mr Reddy said the TRS government has been facing an "anti-incumbency wave" due to its failure on all fronts. "Telangana has already witnessed the governance of Congress, TD and TRS. Since all these parties have failed they have started looking at the BJP," Mr Reddy added.

Sources said the BJP has decided to admit leaders from other parties. Former minister A. Chandrasekhar who worked with the Telugu Desam and TRS earlier is likely to join the BJP soon.

PM calls CMs' meeting:

Prime Minister Modi has conveyed a meeting on December 7 of Chief Ministers at New Delhi to take their opinion about the new body replacing the Planning Commission. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Naidu will go to New Delhi on December 6 to attend the meeting. Some states like West Bengal are opposing the decision to abolish the Planning Commission.

PM Modi in the past announced that the centre government has decided to abolish the planning commission and constitute a new body. AP CM Naidu also supported the PM's decision on abolition of planning commission. PM said that age old planning commission system is not suitable to cater to the aspirations of 21st century.

But some states like West Bengal are opposing the decision of abolition of planning commission. In fact PM Modi has invited the general public to give their ideas to shape the new institution that will replace the planning commission.

PM Modi in his Independence day speech said that the soviet style planning commission will be scrapped and it will be replaced with a new institution to address the current economic challenges and strengthen the federal structure.

2.

PM, chief ministers to meet on Dec 7 on Plan panel structure

PTI November 29, 2014

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet chief ministers on December 7 to discuss the structure of new body which will **replace the Planning Commission**.

"The Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers to seek their view point on the structure of the institution which would replace the Planning Commission," an official source said.

Modi, in his Independence Day speech, had announced that the Commission, set up in 1950 at a time when government gave public sector the **commanding heights of economy**, would be abolished and replaced with a more relevant institution.

"We will very soon set up a new institution in place of Planning Commission...the internal situation of the country has changed, global environment has changed...We need an institution of creative thinking and for optimum utilisation of youth capability," Modi had said in his Independence Day address.

After the announcement, **the Commission also held meetings** with the experts to discuss the new structure of the new institution which would ultimately replace it.

India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economic destiny.

Set up by a Cabinet Resolution, the Commission had enjoyed immense power and prestige as it had always been headed by the Prime Minister. Its most important function was to fix targets for sectoral growth and allocate resources to achieve them.

The Deputy Chairman of the Commission has often been a political stalwart holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister. Those who held the post in the past included Gulzarilal Nanda, VT Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, PN Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee,

KC Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and RK Hegde. The last deputy chairman was Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

3. Niti Commission to be new plan panel, Modi calls meeting

Hindustan Times:28.11.2014

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting of all chief ministers and chief secretaries on December 7 to discuss the framework of the proposed Policy Commission (Niti Aayog) — a new body that could replace the scrapped planning commission.

Besides the policy panel, new mechanisms to improve Centre-state coordination for effective utilisation of central funds — worth Rs. 3,00,000 crore in 2014-15 — will also be discussed. This is Modi's first meeting with all the CM's.

At the core of these talks will be the use of unique identification number or Aadhaar, which will be handled by the new body, for “outcome”-based programme implementation, senior government sources told HT.

This is said to be the logic behind the proposal to put both the Unique Identification Authority of India, an attached office of the plan panel, and the Direct Benefit Transfer programme, presently anchored in the finance ministry, under the new body.

The Centre plans to enroll all eligible into Aadhaar by March 2015.

The Niti Aayog will also be the secretariat for the inter-state council -- a body to discuss Centre-state issues. The council, under the home ministry, rarely met under UPA rule but was a regular feature under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-government.

Official sources said the key function of the plan panel -- preparation of new plans and its evaluation -- will be retained in the new body. But, it will lose its fund disbursement powers, which has already been given to the finance ministry.

The new body will have four wings for better policy implementation. Instead of one planning secretary, sources said, the new body will have four secretaries -- each handling one of the four divisions: Inter-state council, plan evaluation, UIDAI and DBT. Each division will have experts from both inside and outside Centre or state governments, sources added.

While the Prime Minister will head the policy commission, a vice-chairman will be the real executive head to firm up long and short term perspective plans. The panel is likely to have some members to assist the vice-chairman.

Source: www.hindustantimes.com

4. Planning Commission replacement likely in December The Times of India: 30.11.2014



'Planning commission to be replaced with a new institution soon'

NEW DELHI: Work has moved into top gear for finalizing the name and structure for the new institution that will replace the 64-year old Planning Commission and the same may be unveiled this December.

"The Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the chief ministers on December 7 to seek their view points on the structure of the institution which would ultimately replace the Planning Commission," an official source said.

The commission has received many suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some of the suggested names are Sustainable Development Commission, National Development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission or Bharat Pragati Lakshya. Besides, there have been reports about the new body being named as Niti Aayog or Policy Commission.

The new institution, which is likely to be headed by the Prime Minister as was the case in Planning Commission, may have four divisions — Inter-state council, plan evaluation office, UIDAI and DBT. All the divisions would have experts from the Centre and state governments as also experts from the industry.

The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission earlier was part the Planning Commission but was moved to the finance ministry later.

According to sources, the new body could also be the secretariat for the inter-state council which is at present under the home ministry and met rarely during the UPA term. This council used to meet regularly during the previous NDA regime.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech had announced that the commission would be abolished and replaced with a more relevant institution.

Since then the commission has held several meetings with experts to discuss the new structure of the proposed institution.



PM Modi and Montek Singh Ahluwalia at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention. Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman of plan panel.

Country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economic destiny at that time.

Set up by a Cabinet Resolution, the commission has enjoyed power and prestige with Prime Minister as its chairman. Its most important functions have been fixing targets for sectoral growth and allocate resources.

The deputy chairman of the commission has often been a political stalwart holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Gulzarilal Nanda, V T Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, P N Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, K C Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and R K Hegde had been deputy chairman at different points of time.

Montek Singh Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman.

5. PM CALLS CMS' MEET TO GIVE SHAPE TO NEW PANEL

The Pioneer: 01 December 2014 | PNS | New Delhi

The Centre has moved into top gear to institute an alternative body to the Planning Commission. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers on December 7 to seek their views on the name and structure of the institution which would ultimately replace the 64-year old Plan panel.

Modi, who in his Independence Day speech had announced that the Planning Commission would be replaced with a more relevant institution, may announce the establishment of a new institution with a completely new name and boss to head the plan panel in its new avatar.

Sources said that the Government has already received several suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some names suggested include Niti Aayog, Sustainable Development Commission, National Development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission and Bharat Pragati Lakshya.

“It may have four divisions viz Inter-State council, plan evaluation office, UIDAI and DBT. All the divisions would have experts from the Centre and State Governments as also experts from the industry. The complete new entity could also be the secretariat for the inter-state council which is at present under the Home Ministry,” said the sources.

The first PM Jawaharlal Nehru through a Cabinet resolution had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economy. While the PM held the post of Chairman of the Commission, that of Deputy Chairman has been held by some of the great stalwarts like Gulzarilal Nanda, VT Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, PN Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, KC Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and RK Hegde, Montek Singh Ahluwalia being the last.

6. New Plan body likely soon

The Statesman: 01 Dec 2014

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PART B

NEWS AND VIEWS

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