

Respected Prime Minister, Members of the Union Council of Ministers, my counterpart Chief Ministers of States, Lieutenant Governors, other Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ever since its first meeting held on 8th November 1952, which was chaired by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Rashtriya Vikas Parishad or the National Development Council (NDC) has come a long way in mobilizing effort and resources of the nation in its Plans, in endeavouring to promote common economic policies in all vital spheres and to ensure balanced and rapid development of all parts of the country. NDC epitomizes the continuous growth of democratization and systematization of planning process in the country. Standing at the threshold of the 12th Five Year Plan, India has good reasons to be proud at her achievements and also causes to be concerned at the new challenges. I am sure that the present meeting of the NDC, too, will provide the country with the insights and guidance required to steer our people to higher levels of well being and prosperity even when confronted with economic recession enveloping the entire globe. I am happy and proud to be part of the 57th meeting of the NDC.

2. Respected Prime Minister and my beloved colleagues, the dark clouds of global economic recession and general slow-down do not vex me overly. During the next one and a half decade, while an average growth rate of 3.5 percent is prognosticated for industrialized nations, the corresponding figures expected of emerging economies like India is more than double – a whopping 9 percent. By the year 2025, it is projected that the contribution of emerging economies to the global GDP will become almost equal to that of the developed nations i.e. in the ratio 50:50 whereas the ratio, as of now is 35:65. The diehard optimist that I am, would prefer to perceive an opportunity for India in the challenge proffered by the global recessionary trends. I look forward to the deliberations of this NDC meeting with great expectations, to get our act together and face the challenge boldly and squarely.

3. My complements are due to the Planning Commission for preparing the 12th Five Year Plan of the country under difficult circumstances - when confronted with the challenges that emanate from India's transition to a higher and more inclusive growth path and the accompanying structural changes as also the external challenges of an unfavourable world economic environment. However these difficulties and constraints have not deterred the Commission from making the 12th Plan truly participative and democratic. Even while ensuring the high technical standards based on findings and recommendations of High Expert Groups as well as ground realities, the document has been prepared after eliciting opinions from a large number of stakeholder groups.

4. I am happy to state that the Government of Delhi formulated its 12th Five Year Plan based on the very same principles and methods. Firstly, all the major issues and challenges for 12th Five Year Plan of Delhi were clearly identified with the help of extended discussions and debates and incorporated into a document. This document was not only circulated among all Members of the Legislative Assembly as well as Members of Parliament from Delhi but with a view to ensure more participation, also uploaded on the website of the Government. Appeals were made to the citizens, NGOs, voluntary organisations, civil society organisations, academicians, research institutions, subject matter experts and all stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in the development process of Delhi to forward their valuable suggestions for framing a comprehensive Approach for 12th Five Year Plan of Delhi. It is a matter of pride and pleasure that we got very supportive and enthusiastic responses from all quarters and from a number of subject matter experts, academicians, and planners. These

suggestions were discussed, deliberated and debated in a series of workshops which enjoyed wide participation. The Approach for 12th Five Year Plan was formulated after undertaking this massive participatory exercise which took about a period of about one year for completion and finalization.

5. For development to be sustainable anywhere in the world, equity is no less important than ecology and economy. As the well said adage goes “poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere”. It also requires no argument that poverty is one of the biggest polluters of the environment. Economic growth *per se* will not guarantee eradication of poverty and hence inclusive growth has to be a guiding philosophy in all our development paradigms. This is the *raison detre* for massive investment in social sectors like setting up of six state universities, adding about 12,000 hospital beds, providing civic facilities in unplanned habitats, direct financial assistance to more than 4 lakh senior citizens, women in distress, persons with disabilities etc during the last one and half decade. These measures are to be pursued with greater zeal and commitment during the 12th Plan.

6. Delhi is slated to consolidate the gains made in infrastructure development and institutional reforms undertaken during the 10th and the 11th Plan while making its foray in the 12th Plan. Reformative measures, new development policies and massive upgradation in civic facilities taken up by the GNCTD in the last one and half decade have made Delhi one of the greenest cities of the world and also provided with the critical mass to make the next quantum jump. It is quite evident that reforms in the power sector, addition of more than 200 MGD of water supply capacity, completion of two phases the Delhi Metro, modernization of the road transport system, construction of scores of flyovers and grade separators, renovation of Delhi Airport, upgradation of a number of railway stations etc have made Delhi much more livable and comfortable than ever before. We fully endorse the strategy suggested for 12th Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission that progress can be achieved through a combination of Government action and efforts of the private sector. It is a matter of record that 70% of the total investment comes from the private sector.

7. Being the capital city of India, making Delhi, an “Environmentally Sustainable Habitat and a Global Heritage City” as envisaged in the 12th Plan is a national desideratum and calls for huge resources and massive effort. The challenges confronting Delhi are formidable, unparalleled and unprecedented. Let me cite some of them. Delhi’s burgeoning population trend is further exacerbated by the continuous and unbridled influx of people from all over the country. Higher wages, better educational and health facilities, more employment opportunities are some of the factors responsible for the continuous influx. While the contribution made by these in building and maintaining the infrastructure and evolution of an eclectic culture of Delhi are significant, the pressure it puts on the environment of the territory is enormous – in terms of housing, sanitation, power, water, sewerage, solid waste, public health etc. The proliferation of private vehicles and the consequent clogging of roads is another problem that shows for no trends of abatement. The benefits of Delhi Metro, though bringing much needed relief and succor to a host of commuters have failed to decongest the roads. An innovative multimodal transport system has to be introduced in Delhi at the earliest. It is an irony of sorts that Delhi has acute shortage of skilled hands on the one hand and chronic unemployment on the other hand existing side by side. The situation calls for a massive skill upgradation task, which the GNCTD has initiated, but needs to be upscaled. The city of Delhi, adorned with so many historical monuments and archeological structures is

struggling hard to conserve the pristine art forms and cultural legacies. There is no denying the fact that affluence and squalor co exist in Delhi. There are about 20 lakh people inhabiting slums and JJ colonies with minimal civic facilities. They need to be rehabilitated or relocated. It is required to construct about 4.5 lakh EWS houses to make Delhi slum free. Thanks to better health facilities, the average life expectancy of Delhi has gone up. There is a sizeable population of senior citizens, differently-abled, widows and other underprivileged groups who need to be supported and nurtured by the government. Even while the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is grappling these multiple issues in the best ways possible, a number of constraining factors persist. The GNCTD is yet to be given the status of full statehood. Land, which is the scarcest and the most precious endowment of any state is outside the control of the state government as far as Delhi is concerned. Law and order and hence the police also is directly administered by the centre. In the case of All India Service also, all aspects of management of the AGMUT cadre, including the posting of officers belonging to these services fall in the purview of the central government.

8. Let me come to some of the sector specific targets we set for ourselves during the 12th Five Year Plan. Despite the tremendous pressure on land, the GNCTD has been successful at not only maintaining its forest cover but increasing from its figure of 26 sq.km in 1999, to 300 sq.km in 2009, which is about 20 percent of its geographical area. We propose to increase it further during the 12th Plan period to make its position as the greenest city of the world. I consider Delhi city as a “gift of the Yamuna”. A clean and copious Yamuna will reinvigorate Delhi and its inhabitants. This will be a priority of the 12th Plan. The projects to be taken up under this campaign will be laying of sewerage network in unsewered habitats of unauthorized colonies and rural villages covering about 30-40% population; rehabilitation and renovation of existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) along with their trunk and peripheral sewer lines; construction of new STPs for covering new urban extension area as well as existing areas with increase in discharge of waste water; laying of interceptor sewer along with major drains contributing 70% of the pollutant discharged; construction of mini STPs in the area not covered by sewerage system; preparation of sewage master plan for Delhi for a period of 20 years (2011-2031); construction of CETPs to treat the total industrial waste water in all approved industrial estates; shifting of industrial units functioning in non-conforming areas to new industrial estates etc.

9. In human resource development, two sectors namely Education and Health are most important. Healthcare services of Delhi are impeded by shortage of qualified and trained manpower. Government of Delhi has decided to set up three new Medical Colleges and some Institutions for Para-medical Training Courses during 12th Five Year Plan. Due focus and attention is also planned to Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy System with expansion of their teaching institutions as well as hospitals and dispensaries. Delhi State Cancer Institute, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, Choudhry Brahm Prakash Ayurvedic Hospital & Medical College, Guru Nanak Eye Centre and G.B. Pant Hospital are providing super specialty services not only to the citizens of Delhi but also to those of other States and UTs. More new hospitals are planned in areas not covered so far with the services of Government Hospitals.

10. In the field of primary education, all expedient steps have been taken for full implementation of Right to Education Act, 2009 by opening sufficient new schools each year taking into account the school age population and the number of existing schools in

different parts of Delhi, making both regular and short-term appointments of teachers so as to ensure the requisite teacher-pupil ratio in all Government schools, providing opportunities to EWS students for admission in public schools, additional and special classes for drop outs and street children. Higher education, including university education and research also will receive special focus during the 12th Plan. Taking into account the need of larger enrolment of girls students in professional and technical courses, a separate Technical University for Women on the lines of prestigious institutes like Delhi Technological University (DTU), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Netaji Subhash Institute of Technology (NSIT), Ambedkar Institute of Advance Communication Technologies (AICT)- all fully funded by Government of Delhi is being established.

11. In order to address the twin problems of Delhi – of skill deficiency on one side and unemployment on the other side, skill development is being accorded a predominant priority during 12th Five Year Plan. Government of Delhi is planning to set up a world class skill development center in collaboration with ITE, Singapore. This institute will make available sufficient number of skilled and trained manpower required by high-tech and knowledge based industries going to be set up in the Knowledge Based Industrial Park being developed by the Government at Bakkarwala in Delhi.

12. Inadequate housing of Delhi is a problem that warrants urgent attention and result oriented intervention. The condition of Slums and JJ colonies need to be improved and urban areas have to be equitable and inclusive to be sustainable. Two major programmes leading to make Delhi a slum free city are: (i) Construction of EWS Houses for all J.J. Squatters and (ii) Development of unauthorized colonies by providing all civic services and regularization of these colonies. Delhi Government also supports the proposed concept of social/rental housing as a component of Rajiv Awas Yojana in the 12th Five Year Plan. We have identified sites for construction of five bedded and 10 bedded dormitory at certain locations in Delhi to make available rental housing to the migrants labourer and seasonal construction workers arriving Delhi for limited period. About 8000 dormitory are proposed to be constructed under this programme which will make available rental accommodation to about 50,000 migrant labourers and seasonal construction workers. The hands of the state government need to be strengthened in this sector by liberal and generous assistance from the central government to implement the housing sector projects in a time bound manner.

13. Since the benefits of “trickle-down” was not upto the desired extent, targeted projects for the underprivileged sections of the society will continue as in the past, as components of the inclusive growth. There is a host of state policies, projects and programmes of Delhi aimed at ensuring dignified and peaceful lives to these people. It is proposed to bring synergy and convergence among the various disparate programmes and projects being implemented by different departments. Some of the important programmes are monthly pension of R 1000/- to R 2000/- per month to Senior Citizens of General Category and socially backward categories like SC/ST/OBC and Minorities; monthly pension of R 1500/- to differently abled persons as well as women in distress. Government has also decided to pay the beneficiary contribution to the SC allottees of EWS Houses constructed under JNNURM making the allotment entirely free. To cover up the literacy gap between SC and other Category persons and also to check the dropout rate among the students of SC/ST and Minorities we have started a new plan scheme for providing stipend of R 1000/- per annum to all these categories of students

from Class-1 to Class-8. Its impact has started to be visible with the increasing enrollment of these categories of students since last two years.

14. Let me devote a special paragraph on a major programme which is close to my heart. "Empowerment of Women" initiated by Delhi Government during 10th Five Year Plan and has been a resounding success will continue as a priority programme in 12th Five Year Plan. The programme endeavours to synergize and converge a host of programmes under the auspices of various departments – all of them aimed at uplifting women, belonging to socio-economical weaker and other vulnerable sections of the society during the various milestones in life - as an infant for nutrition and medicines, as a student for educational assistance, as a young adult for addressing adolescent problems, assistance for marriage, medical help and financial benefits for maternal care, assistance in widowhood or old age – from the cradle to the grave. Some of the programmes belonging to this genre are Janni Suraksha Yojana, Matr-Shishu Suraksha Yojana, 94 ICDS Projects, Stree Suraksha Yojana with a network of more than 140 Gender Resource Centres, Ladli Yojana, Kishori Yojana, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram under the NRHM, Kerosene Free City Yojana, Delhi Annshree Yojana etc. With a view to bring down Maternal Mortality Rates and Infant Mortality Rates (MMR and IMR), the GNCTD is soon bringing about an IT enabled "single window" system that will enable a pregnant woman to avail of all maternity benefits and child care benefits flowing from different departments automatically into a single bank account. Once registered for ante natal care services on becoming pregnant, the details of the woman along with her account number will follow automatically to different departments and it shall be incumbent upon the department to ensure that the benefits reach the woman in time without any individual application. Institutional arrangements also have been set up exclusively for the welfare of women like Delhi Health Mission, Delhi Women Commission etc.

15. Respected Prime Minister, it is a matter of great pride for the entire country that a number of historic legislations conferring enforceable and inalienable "rights" have been enacted during the last decade. Information, employment, education are now rights which the citizen can extract from the state as his legitimate right and actionable entitlement. These watershed legislations have completely proselytized governance paradigms. While sharing the national pride, I am happy to inform you that the Government of Delhi has gone a step further by enacting the Delhi (Right of Citizens to Time Bound Delivery of Services) Act 2011. The onus is now on the concerned government servant to ensure that the services to the citizen are rendered in a time bound manner failing which the citizen is entitled to receive a compensation for the delay and which is recoverable from the government servant. The GNCTD desires to bring more and more services under this Act by notifying them in the gazette. This will be a continuous endeavour of all departments throughout the 12th Plan. We propose to use Information Technology in a big in this very important governance reform.

16. It is only a week back that the Dilli Annshree Scheme was rolled out by the Hon. Chairperson of the National Advisory Council Smt Sonia Gandhi. The scheme targets lakhs of economically weak sections of the society who are not covered under the PDS. For the sake of brevity, I propose not to dwell upon the details of the scheme. But I would like to touch upon the way of administering the scheme for the sake of its innovativeness. With Adhar as the base, the project ensures expeditious, hassle-free and foolproof disbursement of benefits. Duplication, falsification and delay constitute the trio of traps, which beleaguer and asphyxiate many a schemes of the government. Annshree can

therefore be regarded as the fore runner of the Direct Cash Transfer Scheme which the central government propose to launch in respect of 34 Centrally Sponsored Schemes from 1st January 2013.

17. I am happy to inform that the Government of Delhi has already implemented a GIS based Delhi Spatial data Infrastructure and given it a statutory backing by enacting the Delhi Geographical Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, 2011. Basically, the legislation mandates all departments and agencies to access, use and share information of projects and update Delhi's spatial database on a continuous basis. The utilization of the spatial database will make individual surveys by different departments redundant. Every utility including those underground like water pipes, sewerage pipes, telephone lines, electric cables, gas lines etc are accurately mapped in these databases. This arrangement is saving a lot of effort and expenditure and is eliminating unnecessary delays in project works. The database, an interconnected 3D global information system, captures the demographics of the city and utilities like storm water drains, sewer lines, roads, infrastructure and urban planning projects through secured communication networks. The GNCTD will make use of the Spatial Data Infrastructure while sanctioning new projects during the 12th Plan period.

18. Sir, I seek your kind permission to raise some concerns of my government. The first one relates to assistance being given to urban local bodies to make them financially viable. Government of Delhi is making available 10.5% of its tax revenue each year to the local bodies as recommended by Delhi State Finance Commission. However, urban local bodies of Delhi are deprived of any financial support being given by Government of India to other urban local bodies in the country as per recommendations of the Central Finance Commission. This manifestly unjust situation needs to be corrected by providing special financial support in lieu of Central finance Commission's recommendations as applicable to other urban local bodies by the Government of India. The second issue is regarding the inadequate share of the state in Central Taxes and in the Non Plan Support. A paltry sum of R 325 crore is being given in lieu of share in Central Taxes since 2001-2002. The Budget of Delhi Government has increased in the meantime from R 8,793 crore in 2001-2002 to R 33,436 crore in 2012-13, about four fold but the amount of R325 crore has not changed since last 12 years. In view of the enormous and ambitious targets set by in infrastructure, civic services and social sectors, an increase of this amount upto R1,000 crore at least may be agreed upon as annual grant for the years in the 12th Plan.

19. Despite the constraints, the performance of the state's economy has been commendable. Delhi registered an average annual growth of 10.2 percent in the Eleventh Five Year Plan and we have planned for a growth rate of 10.5 percent in the Twelfth Plan (2012-2017). Our Debt/GDP ratio is well within manageable limits. In terms comparable with the most developed economies, the tertiary sector contributes 82 percent share to Delhi's economy, followed by the secondary sector with a share of 17 percent. Delhi's contribution to the national income is 3.8 percent, while our share in the total population of the country is 1.5 percent. These figures, though apparently rosy, pales in comparison to the actual requirements, when enormity of challenges enumerated above are taken into account.

20. Sir, it is my solemn assurance to this august body that the Government of Delhi will take every effort possible to transform Delhi to a modern, egalitarian and cosmopolitan city – a livable, caring and nurturing city. On behalf of the Government of

National Capital Territory of Delhi, I accept and adopt the targets set by the Planning Commission for the 12th Five Year Plan and will endeavour to accomplish all of them. In your capacity as Chairman of the Planning Commission, I will continuously seek guidance, assistance and blessings to make every Indian proud of his capital –Delhi.

I thank all of you for this opportunity and patiently hearing me.

Jai Hind!

Sheila Dikshit
Chief Minister, Delhi.