

## Analysis of the President’s Address to Parliament in 2015

The President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, addressed Parliament on February 23, 2015.<sup>1</sup> In his address, he outlined the major policy priorities of the government across different sectors. The table below highlights some items outlined in the President’s address and the current status of the initiatives undertaken with respect to these items. This note has been made as per data available on February 21, 2016. The data sources have been indicated in the end notes.

Policy Priority	Current Status
<b>Economy and Finance</b>	
As a result of sustained efforts and series of policy initiatives, our economy is again on high growth trajectory Inflation and food inflation are at a record low Current Account Deficit is at a moderate level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>GDP:</b> The annual GDP projection for 2015-16 is 7.6% at constant prices (2011-12).<sup>2</sup> In 2014-15, the GDP growth was 7.2%.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Inflation:</b> Retail Inflation increased marginally from 5.2% in January 2015, to 5.7 % in January 2016.<sup>4</sup> Food inflation increased marginally from 6.1% in January 2015 to 6.9% in January 2016.<sup>4</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Fiscal Deficit:</b> In December 2015, fiscal deficit was 87.9% of its total target for the financial year 2015-16. At the same time in 2014, fiscal deficit was 100.2% of its total target for 2014-15.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Current Account Deficit:</b> Decreased from USD 18.4 billion (1.8% of GDP) in April-September of 2014-15 to USD 14.3 billion (1.4 % of GDP) in April-September of 2015-16.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>▪ The Reserve Bank of India and Ministry of Finance entered into a Monetary Policy Framework Agreement in February, 2015.<sup>7</sup> The targets for RBI are to maintain inflation in the range of 2% to 6%. It is required to maintain inflation (i) below 6% for 2015-16, and (ii) for 2016-17 and all subsequent years, between 2% and 6%.</li> </ul>
A Constitutional (Amendment) Bill has been introduced to bring in a Goods and Services Tax that will simplify the indirect tax regime, broaden the tax base and result in better tax compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 19, 2014. It was passed by Lok Sabha on May 6, 2015 and is currently pending in Rajya Sabha.</li> <li>▪ The Select Committee constituted to examine the Bill submitted its report in Rajya Sabha. <i>(For more details on the recommendations, see <a href="#">here</a>.)</i></li> <li>▪ The Arvind Subramanian Committee submitted its report on the tax rate (including a structure of rates), under the proposed Goods and Services Tax regime in December 2015.<sup>8</sup> Recommendations include that the range of the revenue neutral rate should be fixed between 15%-15.5% (to be levied by the centre and states combined). However, the preferable rate is at 15%. <i>(For more details on the recommendations, please see <a href="#">here</a>.)</i></li> </ul>
Financial inclusion is critical to poverty elimination, launched an ambitious <i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i> to provide universal access to banking facilities- a bank account, having in-built accidental insurance with a Rupay debit card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As of February 10, 2016, the number of accounts opened were 20.72 crore.<sup>9</sup> The zero balance accounts (accounts containing zero balance) declined from 76% in September 2014 to 36.5% in November 2015.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>
Taking all possible measures to stop generation of black money, both domestically and internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under the Black Money and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, a one-time compliance opportunity for reporting unreported foreign assets and income was provided till September 30, 2015. The total black money declared under this compliance window was Rs 4,164 crore.<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>

Policy Priority	Current Status
Intensified efforts to bring greater efficiency and equity into the tax system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Committee set up to simplify the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 submitted draft first round of recommendations in January 2016.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>▪ Recommendations include provision of clarification on tax applicability on income raised from sale of securities and simplification of provisions related to tax deducted at source, among others.<sup>13</sup> (For details on the recommendations, please see <a href="#">here</a>.)</li> </ul>
Small Banks and Payments Banks are being permitted to expand the reach of the banking system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Reserve Bank of India granted in principle approvals to 11 applicants to set up Payments Banks (in August 2015) and 10 applicants to set up Small Finance Banks (in September 2015).<sup>14,15</sup></li> </ul>
Expedite implementation of the recommendations of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Draft Indian Financial Code, 2015 was released on July 2015.<sup>16</sup> It proposes to set up a Financial Agency which will subsume the roles of existing regulators in the financial sector.</li> </ul>
Prudence in expenditure management is high on the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Expenditure Management Commission was constituted in September, 2014.<sup>17</sup> The Commission is required to submit its final report before the Budget of 2016-17.</li> </ul>
Working for the welfare of the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable sections of the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ According to the National Poverty Estimates 2011-12, 25.7% of the rural population, 13.7% of the urban population and 21.9% of the total population falls below the poverty line.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>▪ Socio Economic and Caste Census data was released in July 2015.<sup>19</sup> This data has been collected from 640 districts in the country and is intended to be used for targeted implementation of rural development programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Industry and Manufacturing</b>	
Major initiatives for improving 'Ease of Doing Business' through simplification and rationalization of existing rules and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ According to the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business data 2016, India's rank rose from 134 in 2015 to 130 in 2016.<sup>20</sup></li> <li>▪ An Expert Committee was set up in April 2015 to examine the possibility of replacing multiple prior permissions for business investors.<sup>21</sup> The report of the Committee is awaited.</li> <li>▪ The action plan for the Start-up India initiative was released in January, 2016. Key features of the action plan include: (i) allowing self-certification and compliance under existing labour laws (such as the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972), and (ii) launch of a mobile application for registering start-ups.<sup>22</sup></li> <li>▪ The central government shared a 98 point action plan for improving the regulatory environment with states.<sup>23</sup> Among other measures, an online single window service was launched for simplification of business regulation. 14 services of the central government and 24 state services across 10 states have been made online.</li> </ul>
Launched the 'Make in India' programme which aims to create a wholesome economy to transform India into a manufacturing hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The program components include (i) simplification of regulatory environment for manufacturing, and (ii) development of industrial corridors.<sup>24</sup></li> </ul>
Selective opening of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in railways and increase of FDI in defence and construction and development sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Railway Infrastructure:</b> 100% FDI permitted in certain construction, operations and maintenance activities including (i) suburban corridor through Public Private Partnership, and (ii) high speed train projects.<sup>25</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Defence:</b> 49% FDI cap in defence industry. If the investment is greater than 49% of the equity of the company, permission of the government will be required.<sup>26</sup></li> </ul>

Policy Priority	Current Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Construction and Development:</b> FDI cap is 100%. This includes development of townships, development of commercial/residential premises etc.<sup>26</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Labour</b>	
Employee Provident Fund (EPF) subscriptions have been made portable benefiting casual workers in the unorganized sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Draft amendments to the Employees' Provident Funds &amp; Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 were released in May, 2015.<sup>27</sup> The draft amendments enable the government to notify a scheme called the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Scheme to provide PF, pension and insurance benefits to the unorganised sector.</li> <li>▪ Registration with Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been automated.<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>
Committed to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour-related regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Draft Labour code on Industrial Relations was released in April 2015.<sup>28</sup> It consolidates laws regarding registration of trade unions, conditions of employment and dispute settlements.</li> <li>▪ The Draft Labour Code on Wages Bill, 2015 (released in April 2015) provides for minimum wages, payment of wages and bonuses, and prohibits gender-based discrimination in wage-matters.<sup>29</sup> It repeals four central laws: (i) Minimum Wages Act, 1948; (ii) Payment of Wages Act, 1936; (iii) Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and (iv) Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.</li> </ul>
<b>Defence and Home Affairs</b>	
Expand the domestic defence industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notification of a Defence Exports Strategy for faster clearance of defence export items.<sup>30,31</sup> The Policy sets up institutions to advise the government, and explains the procedure for engaging in defence exports.</li> <li>▪ List of defence products that need industrial licensing was shortened.<sup>32</sup></li> <li>▪ The procedure for discharging offset obligations was relaxed in August 2015.<sup>32</sup> Offset obligations require vendors of defence equipment to invest at least 30% of the contract value in the Indian defence manufacturing sector.<sup>33</sup></li> </ul>
Modernisation of Armed Forces, with a strong emphasis on "Make in India" in defence acquisition plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently, 60% of India's defence requirements are met through imports.<sup>34</sup></li> <li>▪ India is the largest international importer of arms.<sup>35</sup> India's share of international arm imports increased from 7% in 2005-09 to 15% in 2010-14.<sup>35</sup></li> <li>▪ In 2015-16, (i) the Defence Acquisition Council cleared Army's proposal to buy 145 ultra-light howitzers for Rs 2,900 crore from BAE Systems (a British company), and (ii) India and France entered into an agreement for supply of 36 multirole combat aircrafts (Rafale jets).<sup>36</sup></li> </ul>
Meet the operational needs of the police personnel including women police personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2014-15, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the National Scheme for Modernisation of Police and Other Forces was launched. In Budget 2015-16, the scheme was de-linked from central support (in light of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission recommendations).<sup>37</sup></li> <li>▪ In March 2015, government approved 33% reservation for women in direct recruitment in non-gazetted posts in police forces of all Union Territories.<sup>38</sup></li> </ul>

Policy Priority	Current Status
<b>Energy</b>	
To deepen reforms in the electricity sector, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Bill is presently pending in Parliament. It seeks to segregate the distribution network business and the electricity supply business, and introduces multiple supply licensees in the market. (For more details, please see <a href="#">here</a> and for an overview of the power sector, see <a href="#">here</a>.)</li> </ul>
Process for auction of coal blocks has been started in a manner which will reduce the power costs in the country, provide adequate fuel to increase power generation, enhance production of steel, cement, aluminium and other essential materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As of December 2015, under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, 31 coal mines were auctioned and 42 coal mines were allocated to central/state government companies.<sup>39</sup></li> </ul>
Diesel prices have been deregulated and are now market driven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global crude oil prices (Indian basket) decreased from \$ 46.5 per barrel in January 2015 to \$ 28 per barrel in January 2016.<sup>40</sup></li> <li>▪ The retail selling price of Diesel in Delhi decreased from Rs. 48.5 per litre in April 2015 to Rs. 44.7 per litre in February 2016.<sup>41</sup></li> </ul>
Efforts to expand exploration capacity and to increase domestic coal production to 1000 million tonnes per annum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coal supplies of Coal India Limited increased from 354.66 million tonnes in April-December 2014 to 389.27 million tonnes in April-December 2015.<sup>42</sup></li> </ul>
In order to provide 24x7 quality power in rural and urban areas, the <i>Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana</i> (DDUGJY) with an outlay of more than Rs 43,000 crore and the <i>Integrated Power Development Scheme</i> (IPDS) with an outlay of more than Rs 32,600 crore, have been launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As on April 2015, under the DDUGJY, there were 18,452 un-electrified villages. Of these 5,537 villages (30%) have been electrified as of February 22, 2016.<sup>43</sup> The allocation for the DDUGJY scheme decreased from Rs. 5,644 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 4,500 crore in 2015-16.<sup>44</sup></li> <li>▪ The allocation for the IPDS scheme decreased from Rs.1,361 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 600 crore in 2015-16.<sup>44</sup></li> </ul>
The ambitious <i>National Smart Grid Mission</i> has been started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Smart Grid Mission was launched in March 2015.<sup>45</sup> Interventions include using smart meters etc. The estimated cost of the Mission is Rs 980 crore, of which the budgetary support provided is Rs 338 crore.<sup>45</sup></li> </ul>
Direct Benefit Transfer for the transfer of LPG subsidy has been extended across the nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As on December 2015, there are 16.35 crore LPG consumers in the country. Among these, 14.78 crore (90.4% of direct transfers) consumers receive direct subsidies under the <i>PAHAL</i> scheme.<sup>46</sup></li> <li>▪ From December 2015, LPG subsidies have not been made available for consumers if the consumer or their spouse had an annual taxable income of more than Rs 10 lakh during the previous financial year.<sup>47</sup></li> </ul>
Optimum utilization and transparency in allocation of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 (CM (SP)) and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, (MMDR) 2015 were notified in March 2015.<sup>48</sup></li> <li>▪ The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 allocates the coal mines cancelled by the Supreme Court.</li> <li>▪ The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 provides that on expiry of the mining leases, they will be put up for auction. Also, for all minerals other than coal, lignite and atomic minerals, mining leases shall be granted for a period of 50 years.</li> <li>▪ Draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was released in January 2016.<sup>49</sup> The draft Bill allows mining leases (i) granted through procedures other than auction, and (ii) where the minerals are used for captive purpose, to be transferred.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved that non regulated industries such as cement, aluminium, steel etc. except urea will receive coal linkages (coal supplies) through an auction process.<sup>50</sup></li> </ul>
Expand India's nuclear power capacity with the highest global standards of safety and technological standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act, 2015 was amended and notified in December 2015.<sup>51</sup> It permits licenses to be granted to joint ventures between government companies.</li> </ul>
The share of renewable energy in electricity generation is being significantly enhanced from 6% to 15% of the energy mix in the next 7 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amendments were made to the Tariff Policy, 2016 in January 2016.<sup>52</sup> The amendments state that by March, 2022, 8% of total consumption of electricity (excluding hydro power) will be sourced from solar energy sources.<sup>53</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Urban and Rural Development</b>	
While taking care to protect the interest of farmers, including their compensation entitlements, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Act to minimise procedural difficulties in acquisition of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in LARR (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated thrice between December 2014 and May 2015.<sup>54,55,56</sup> The Ordinance exempted five types of projects, (i) defence, (ii) rural infrastructure, (iii) affordable housing, (iv) industrial corridors (set up by the government), and (v) infrastructure projects, from certain provisions of the 2013 Act.</li> <li>▪ The LARR (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 replacing the ordinance was introduced in Lok Sabha in May 2015 and referred to a Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee.<sup>57</sup></li> <li>▪ The report is yet to be submitted.</li> </ul>
<i>Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)</i> launched to achieve a clean and open defecation free India by October, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SBM- Urban:</b><sup>58</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Individual Household Latrines- Sanctioned: 22,93,626; Constructed: 8,82,905</li> <li>(ii) Community Toilets- Work commenced: 95,014; Constructed: 22,575</li> <li>(iii) Public Toilets- Work commenced: 38,808; Constructed: 9,439</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>SBM- Gramin:</b><sup>59</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Individual Household Latrines- Target: 2,31,28,563; Constructed: 88,99,635</li> <li>(ii) Sanitary Complexes- Target: 10,556; Constructed: 1,129</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Launch of <i>Swachh Vidyalaya Programme</i> under <i>Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)</i> for construction of a toilet in every school before August 15, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As of January 2016, 29 states and four UTs have achieved their target of construction of toilets.<sup>60</sup></li> <li>▪ 4,17,769 toilet blocks were constructed or made functional in 2,61,400 schools.<sup>60</sup></li> </ul>
Priority implementation of Mission "Housing for all" by 2022 in order for every citizen to have a dwelling unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Housing for All 2022 has been renamed as <i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana</i>. The Mission was launched in June 2015 and will be implemented during 2015-2022.<sup>61</sup></li> <li>▪ The scheme plans to cover 4041 statutory towns.<sup>61</sup> As on February 1, 2016, construction of 4,01,933 houses for economically weaker sections have been sanctioned.<sup>62</sup></li> <li>▪ A central assistance of Rs 5,941 crore has been allocated and Rs 649.05 crore released.<sup>62</sup></li> </ul>
Finalisation of Smart City programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 98 cities were selected in the first round.<sup>63</sup> From these, 20 winners have been announced.<sup>64</sup> From 2016-17, these 20 cities will receive central assistance of Rs 200 crore in first year followed by Rs 100 crore each year for the next three years.<sup>64</sup></li> <li>▪ The total outlay for the Mission is Rs 48,000 crore for five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20.<sup>65</sup></li> </ul>
Finalisation of National Urban Development Mission, with a focus on water and solid waste management which will replace Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), replacing JNNURM was launched in June 2015.<sup>66</sup> The Mission will focus on areas of water supply, sewerage facilities, storm water, and creation of green spaces, etc.<sup>67</sup></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 500 cities will be taken up under AMRUT.<sup>68</sup> The total outlay for the Mission is Rs 50,000 crore for five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20.<sup>69</sup></li> <li>▪ For the year 2015-16, the State Annual Action Plan of 10 states covering 183 Mission cities has been approved.<sup>70,71</sup></li> </ul>																				
Launch of <i>Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana</i> for development of villages with involvement of MPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the first year of the implementation (by October 2015) of the scheme, all MPs had to adopt a village, prepare Village Development Plan and apply for funds.<sup>72</sup></li> <li>▪ Village Development Plans for four gram panchayats have been prepared.<sup>73</sup></li> </ul>																				
Launch of <i>Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana</i> (DDU-GKY) and <i>Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana</i> (DDU-AY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DDU-GKY is part of the <i>National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)</i>. The placement linked skills scheme, '<i>Aajeevika</i>', under NRLM was revamped as DDU-GKY on September 25, 2014.</li> <li>▪ Progress in skilling and placement activities from 2012-13 to 2015-16 (till October 2015) is given below:<sup>74,75,76</sup></li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Physical target (no. of candidates)</th> <th>No. of candidates trained</th> <th>No. of candidates placed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>2,12,000</td> <td>2,17,997</td> <td>1,62,552</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td>2,50,000</td> <td>2,01,019</td> <td>1,37,417</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>2,10,000</td> <td>86,120</td> <td>58,236</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>1,78,000</td> <td>1,25,000</td> <td>37,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Physical target (no. of candidates)	No. of candidates trained	No. of candidates placed	2012-13	2,12,000	2,17,997	1,62,552	2013-14	2,50,000	2,01,019	1,37,417	2014-15	2,10,000	86,120	58,236	2015-16	1,78,000	1,25,000	37,000
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Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) to revitalise 12 cities in ten states that are home to the rich cultural heritage of our country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The scheme was launched in January 2015 and will run till December 2018.<sup>77</sup> A total allocation of Rs 453.91 crore has been made.<sup>78</sup></li> </ul>																				
<b>Transport</b>																					
Reform and infuse new vitality into Railways through better services, improved passenger-safety and increased movement of freight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A concept paper on Rail Development Authority of India was released in January 2016.<sup>79</sup> Previously, the Committee for Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board, 2015 and National Transport Development Policy Committee, 2014 have suggested setting up an independent railway regulatory authority, which will also fix the rail tariff.<sup>80,81</sup></li> <li>▪ Railways has introduced services such as E-catering, mid-segment tourist trains, lower berths to senior citizens, etc.<sup>82</sup></li> </ul>																				
Commissioning of two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), Eastern and Western, by 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The present status of both Western and Eastern Corridors is, (i) land acquisition compensation award, for 86% of land has been completed, (ii) 65% of civil construction contract and 48% of systems contracts have been awarded, and (iii) the physical progress of the awarded civil construction work is 21.5%.<sup>83</sup></li> <li>▪ The Sasaram-Durgawati section (56 Km) of Eastern DFC (Ludhiana, Punjab to Sonnagar, Bihar) is targeted for completion in 2015-16.<sup>83</sup></li> </ul>																				
Sanctioning of metro rail project for Ahmedabad and Nagpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ahmedabad: The Detailed Project Report for Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project (Phase 1) was submitted in March 2015 by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.<sup>84</sup> The interim report of the Social Impact Assessment Study of North-South corridor of Ahmedabad Metro was submitted in January 2016.<sup>85</sup></li> </ul>																				

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Setting up of National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nagpur: 77% of the total land required for the project has been taken under possession.<sup>86</sup> For 2015-16, an allocation of Rs. 491.75 crore has been made.<sup>86</sup></li> </ul>
<i>Sagar Mala</i> Project to promote port-led development of the coastal regions and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Corporation has initiated projects in the seven north-eastern states and the border states of Sikkim, Jammu &amp; Kashmir and West Bengal.<sup>87</sup></li> </ul>
<i>Jal Marg Vikas</i> project for comprehensive development of National Waterways for transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project was approved in March 2015.<sup>88</sup> Initial funding requirement is estimated at Rs 692 crore for 2015-16.<sup>88</sup></li> <li>▪ A National Perspective Plan to identify potential geographic Coastal Economic Zones was to be prepared in the first six months but is not yet available in the public domain.</li> </ul>
<i>Jal Marg Vikas</i> project for comprehensive development of National Waterways for transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As on August 2015, three consultancy firms are carrying out relevant studies on the <i>Jal Marg Vikas</i> (National Waterways-1) project.<sup>89</sup></li> <li>▪ The National Waterways Bill, 2015 was passed by Lok Sabha in December 2015.<sup>90</sup> It identifies 106 waterways as national waterways, in addition to the five existing national waterways.<sup>91</sup> It is currently pending in Rajya Sabha.</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	
Providing affordable and accessible health care to all sections, particularly for the vulnerable sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <i>National Health Mission</i> aims to achieve universal access to equitable, affordable &amp; quality health care services.<sup>92</sup></li> <li>▪ The budgetary allocation for the <i>National Health Mission</i> decreased from Rs. 22,731 in 2014-15 to Rs. 18,875 crore in 2015-16 (the decrease is in line with the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission).<sup>93</sup></li> <li>▪ An Expert Committee set up under the Ministry will recommend ways to improve the health of the tribal population in India.<sup>94</sup></li> </ul>
Initiated <i>India New Born Action Plan</i> (INAP) to reduce preventable deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As on 2013, neonatal deaths (in children under 28 days of age) contributed to 57% of all deaths in children (up to age 5 years).<sup>95</sup></li> </ul>
Launch of Mission <i>Inradhanush</i> to achieve universal immunization with a special focus on 184 priority districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Its objectives include fully immunizing children against diseases including diphtheria, whooping cough, etc.<sup>96,97</sup> The scheme aims to fully immunize more than 89 lakh children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.</li> <li>▪ The first phase was started (in April 2015) in 201 high focus districts. The second phase was launched (in October 2015) in 352 districts which included all children under two years of age.<sup>96</sup></li> <li>▪ During the first and the second phase, a total of about 28 lakh children were fully immunized (31% of full immunization was achieved).<sup>96</sup></li> </ul>
<i>National AYUSH Mission</i> launched to promote cost effective ayurvedic, unani etc. services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As per the 71<sup>st</sup> round of National Sample Survey (January-June 2014), 5% to 7% received treatment in Ayurveda, Yoga or Naturopathy Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, etc. in urban and rural areas.<sup>98</sup> During 2014-15, financial assistance of Rs 9.9 crore was provided to states under the Mission.<sup>99</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Education and Skill Development</b>	
Launch of <i>Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat</i> (PBBB) to improve foundational learning outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The two tracks of PBBB are: (i) early reading, writing and comprehension, and (ii) early mathematics. A provision of Rs 525 crore has been made for the scheme during 2015-16.<sup>100</sup></li> </ul>

Policy Priority	Current Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As a follow up, in 2015-16, a program called the National Reading Initiative was launched, to develop and promote the habit of reading among students in elementary schools.</li> <li>▪ The Economic Survey 2015-16 quoted the Annual Status of Education Report data and highlighted the following:<sup>101</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arithmetic levels: the percentage of Class 3 children able to solve simple two-digit subtraction problems fell from 26% in 2013 to 25% in 2014, and the percentage of Class 2 children who cannot recognize numbers up to 9 increased from 11.3% in 2009 to 19.5% in 2014.</li> <li>○ Basic reading levels: the percentage of Class 5 children able to read a Class 2 level text increased from 47% in 2013 to 48% in 2014.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teacher Training</i> launched to empower and increase the capacity of teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The scheme commenced in 2014-15 for a period of three years with an outlay of Rs 900 crore.<sup>102</sup> Guidelines were released in May 2015.<sup>103</sup></li> </ul>
Announcement of <i>Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan</i> to imbibe scientific temper among students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan</i> was launched in July 2015.<sup>104</sup></li> <li>▪ List of institutions of higher education that will mentor government schools has been finalized.<sup>105</sup> These include IITs, NITs, etc.</li> </ul>
Launch of <i>Ishan Vikas and Ishan Uday schemes</i> in North-eastern regions to ensure access to education in the remotest areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Approved release of Rs 605.5 lakh from All India Council for Technical Education to IIT Guwahati under the <i>Ishan Vikas</i> scheme.<sup>106</sup></li> <li>▪ Under <i>Ishan Uday</i> scheme, Rs 3,500 for general degree and Rs 5,000 for technical degree will be given through direct benefit transfer to the beneficiary student.</li> </ul>
National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to align skilling initiatives with global standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy was launched in July 2015.<sup>107</sup> It aims to provide an umbrella framework to all skilling activities being carried out in the country.<sup>108</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture, Food and Water Security</b>	
<i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana</i> to address the irrigation requirements of every village in an effective and sustainable manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheme was launched in May 2015 with an outlay of Rs 50,000 crore for a period of 5 years.<sup>109</sup> For the present year, an allocation of Rs 5,300 crore has been made.<sup>112</sup> As on January 12, 2016, Rs 2,930 crore has been released to states.<sup>110</sup></li> </ul>
Launch of <i>Rashtriya Gokul Mission</i> with the objective of conserving and developing indigenous cattle breeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The total allocation for the scheme is Rs 494.8 crore till 2017.<sup>111</sup></li> </ul>
Launch of Soil Health Card Scheme in view of the critical role of soil for productivity and farm output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The scheme is being implemented in 29 states. Till December 2015, Rs 109 crore has been released against the sanctioned Rs 568 crore for the scheme.<sup>112</sup></li> <li>▪ As on February 2016, 79% samples have been collected and 49% of these have been tested.<sup>113</sup></li> </ul>
Food Processing has potential for generating employment in rural areas besides guaranteeing remunerative price for farm-produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Till December 2015, nine mega food parks in seven states have been accorded final approval.<sup>114</sup></li> </ul>
Setting up of <i>Namami Gange</i> , an integrated ganga conservation mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project launched in May 2015.<sup>115</sup> It aims to consolidate the ongoing efforts for rejuvenation of river Ganga. It has a budget outlay of Rs 20,000 crore for the next five years.</li> </ul>



Policy Priority	Current Status
<b>Environment and Tourism</b>	
Strengthening of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and release adequate funds to States/UTs for aggressive afforestation and wildlife protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha in May 2015. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Science &amp; Technology, Environment &amp; Forests in May 2015. The report of the Committee is awaited.</li> <li>▪ As on May 2015, the National CAMPA had accumulated Rs 38,000 crore as unspent funds.</li> </ul>
Measures for protecting wildlife and promoting cleaner environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Draft Environment Laws (Amendment) Bill was released in October 2015.<sup>116</sup> It seeks to amend the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. It prescribes imprisonment and monetary policies for causing damage to the environment.</li> <li>▪ A draft <i>National Wildlife Action Plan</i> (2017-31) has been released.<sup>117</sup> <i>Nagar Vana-Udyan Yojana</i> was launched in June 2015 to create at least 200 city forests in the country.<sup>118</sup> An amount of Rs 50 crore was approved for year 2015-16.</li> </ul>
Formulation of a new tourism policy for growth and sustainability of tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As on July 2015, a National Tourism Policy 2015 is in the process of being formulated.<sup>119</sup></li> </ul>
New scheme Swadesh Darshan launched for development of tourist circuits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rs 600 crore have been allocated in 2015-16. The scheme guidelines have been formulated.<sup>120</sup></li> </ul>
Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) for rejuvenation of 12 pilgrim centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A budget provision of Rs 100 crore was revised to Rs 15.6 crore at the revised estimate stage in 2014-15.<sup>121</sup> In 2015-16, Rs 100 crore has been allocated.</li> </ul>
<b>Women, Child Development and Tribal Affairs</b>	
Introduction of a Bill to amend Juvenile Justice Act in order to reform the law relating to juvenile offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was notified in January 2016.<sup>122</sup> It replaced the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.</li> </ul>
Setting up of <i>One Stop Crisis Centres</i> in each state for provision of integrated services <i>Himmat</i> , a mobile based application to ensure women's safety in Delhi was launched in January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheme was launched in April 2015 on a pilot basis.<sup>123</sup> These centres are intended to support women affected by violence in any manner.</li> <li>▪ The sanction orders to set up the centres have so far been given to 11 states and three union territories.<sup>124</sup> 20 One Stop Centres have been set up, out of which 10 are operational, as on February, 2016.<sup>125</sup></li> </ul>
Launch of <i>Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyan</i> to ensure survival, protection and education of the girl child Notification of <i>Sukanya Samridhi</i> Account in January 2015 for enabling education of the girl child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The child sex ratio (number of females per thousand males in the age group 0-6 years) has reduced from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011.<sup>126</sup></li> <li>▪ The program seeks to address the issue of decline in child sex ratio in 100 selected districts.<sup>127</sup> The scheme lays emphasis on mass communication campaign and outlines targets that it seeks to achieve. To increase awareness about the program in rural areas, an awareness campaign was launched in February-March 2015 covering 75 districts.<sup>127</sup></li> </ul>
Setting up of a new Venture Capital fund for SC entrepreneurs to promote entrepreneurship among the SC population in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheme was launched in January 2015 with an initial capital of Rs 200 crore.<sup>128</sup> In one year of implementation of the scheme, financial assistance of Rs 129.3 crore has been sanctioned and Rs 42.1 crore has been disbursed.<sup>129</sup></li> </ul>
Launch of ' <i>Upgrading the Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Craft for Development</i> ' to upgrade skill and training in traditional arts/crafts of minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheme launched in May 2015. Guidelines were released in September 2015.<sup>130</sup> Funds will be released in three instalments of 40:40:20. The scheme will be reviewed in 2017.</li> </ul>
Adoption of outcome based integrated approach for tribal development under the <i>Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guidelines were released in April 2015.<sup>131</sup> Outcomes have been outlined in respect of core sectors of education, health, livelihood and culture.</li> </ul>

Policy Priority	Current Status
Launch of <i>Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme</i> for construction of hostels for de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For 2015-16, total allocation under the scheme is Rs 200 crore.<sup>132</sup></li> <li>▪ The scheme aims to improve educational empowerment of tribes who are not covered under SC/ST/OBC categories.<sup>133</sup></li> <li>▪ Allocation of funds to state governments will be in proportion to the de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribal population. Funding pattern will be 25:75 between the state and centre.<sup>133</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Science, Information Technology and Telecom</b>	
Measures are being taken to accomplish digital inclusion in rural areas, small towns, north-east and other remote areas, opening up immense job opportunities in these areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project aims at providing broadband connectivity to all gram panchayats (approximately 2.5 Lakh) in the country.<sup>134</sup> As on August 2015, 2,900 panchayats have been digitally connected.<sup>134</sup></li> </ul>
Envisioned of an ambitious umbrella programme, Digital India, to prepare India for technology based transformation and citizen centric transparent governance with service orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Launched in July 2015.<sup>135</sup> Under the programme, certain areas such as broadband highways and universal access to mobile connectivity are to be developed.<sup>134</sup></li> </ul>
Auctions will be conducted for 135 vacant channels in 69 existing cities of FM Phase-II as part of first batch of FM Phase-III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ E-auction of the first batch of private FM radio channels, comprising 135 channels in 69 existing cities of Phase II, ended in September 2015. Frequency allocation was also completed.<sup>136</sup></li> </ul>
Steps to channelize more resources for research and development in India; build world class research centres; nurture young talent, and promote international collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The budgetary allocation to the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research increased by 8.23% and 8.73% respectively between 2014-15 and 2015-16.<sup>137</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Governance and Legal Reform</b>	
Reform in the process of appointment of Judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court and the legislation to set up National Judicial Appointments Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Constitution (99<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2014 and National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 were notified in April 2015.<sup>138</sup> The Supreme Court held both the Acts to be unconstitutional, in October 2015.<sup>139</sup></li> </ul>
Committed to repeal obsolete and redundant laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In May 2015 and August 2015, a total of three Repeal and Amending Bills were passed by Parliament.<sup>140,141,142</sup> These Bills repealed a total of 419 laws.</li> <li>▪ In November 2014, a committee constituted by the Prime Minister's Office identified 1,741 central acts for repeal out of 2,781 central Acts existing in the statute books. (For more details, see <a href="#">here</a>.)</li> </ul>
Special emphasis is attached to make <i>Aadhaar</i> enrolment coverage universal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As of January 2016, 75.8 % of the Indian population was assigned <i>Aadhaar</i>.<sup>143</sup></li> <li>▪ The Supreme Court passed orders regarding the ongoing petition which challenges the <i>Aadhaar</i> card scheme in August and October 2015.<sup>144</sup> It allowed <i>Aadhaar</i> to be used for six schemes including (i) the Public Distribution System, and (ii) Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Further, until the matter is finally decided by the Court, the <i>Aadhaar</i> scheme will be voluntary.</li> </ul>
While introducing stricter and sterner measures to deal with corruption, effort is being made to ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect bona fide decisions taken in public interest and to inspire confidence in the civil service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in August 2013. Certain amendments were circulated to the 2013 Bill in Rajya Sabha in November, 2015.<sup>145</sup> It was referred to the Select Committee in Rajya Sabha in December, 2015. (For details, see <a href="#">here</a>.)</li> <li>▪ The Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was introduced in May 2015. It amends the Whistle Bowers Protection Act, 2014. It is presently pending in Parliament. The Bill prohibits</li> </ul>

Policy Priority	Current Status
	the reporting of a corruption related disclosure if it falls under any 10 categories of information, including economic, scientific interests and the security of India and Cabinet proceedings. <sup>146</sup>
<b>External Affairs</b>	
Decisions on PIO and OCI card-holders have been widely welcomed by the Indian community abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015 was notified on March, 2015.<sup>147</sup> The Amendment Act adds certain grounds for registering for an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card.</li> </ul>
Revive relationship with neighbouring countries and promote cooperation and integration in South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Bangladesh:</b> President Mohammad Abdul Hamid visited India in December 2014. Prime Minister Modi visited Bangladesh in June 2015.<sup>148</sup> 23 agreements, MoUs, etc. were concluded including for operationalising the Land Border Agreement 1974 (allowing for exchange of territories), line of credit for USD 2 billion to Bangladesh, etc. A Constitution Amendment Bill for exchange of territories between both countries was passed by Parliament in May 2015.<sup>149</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Nepal:</b> Prime Minister Modi visited Nepal in August and November 2014.<sup>150</sup> 11 agreements and MoUs were signed regarding electric power trade, a hydroelectric project (Arun III) in Nepal, etc.<sup>151</sup> In light of the promulgation of the new Constitution in Nepal (in September 2015), protests were undertaken by certain ethnic groups.<sup>151</sup> In November 2015 at the United Nations Human Rights Council, India recommended that, the government of Nepal should accommodate all sections of the country in the Constitution building process.<sup>152</sup></li> <li>▪ <b>Pakistan:</b> Prime Minister Modi visited Pakistan and Foreign Ministers and National Security Advisors of both countries met in December 2015.<sup>153</sup> India and Pakistan agreed to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue including peace and security, Jammu and Kashmir, counter-terrorism, etc.<sup>154</sup> In January 2016, there was a terrorist attack on a Pathankot airbase, and information regarding organisations responsible for the attack was shared with Pakistan.<sup>155</sup></li> </ul>
Expanded our relations with China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India in September 2014. Prime Minister Modi visited China in May 2015.</li> <li>▪ 40 agreements and MoUs were signed regarding trade and economic development, policy cooperation between NITI Aayog and China's Development Research Centre, cooperation in railways, provincial (eg. Gujarat- Guangdong, Karnataka-Sichuan) and city-to city (eg. Mumbai-Shanghai, Hyderabad-Qingdao) partnerships, opening of new route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, etc.<sup>156,157,158</sup></li> </ul>
Restored confidence in strategic partnership with Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin visited India in December 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Russia in July 2015.<sup>159</sup></li> <li>▪ 21 agreements, MoUs, etc. were signed between the two countries on cooperation in nuclear energy, defence training, joint production and exploration of hydrocarbons, health research, etc.<sup>160,161</sup></li> </ul>
Elevated relations with the United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi visited United States in September 2014 and September 2015.<sup>162,163</sup> President of the United States Mr. Barack Obama visited India in January 2015.<sup>164</sup></li> <li>▪ Five key agreements were signed regarding the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, diplomatic cooperation and smart city projects (Ajmer, Allahabad, and Vishakhapatnam).<sup>164</sup></li> </ul>

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