

Analysis of the President’s Address to Parliament in 2016

The President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, addressed Parliament on February 23, 2016.¹ In his address, he outlined the major policy priorities of the government across different sectors. The table below highlights some items outlined in the 2016 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 January 30, 2017. The data sources have been indicated in the end notes.

Policy Priority	Current Status
Economy and Finance	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GDP: The GDP is estimated to grow at 7.1 % in the year 2016-17.² It grew at 7.1% in the first quarter (April-June) and 7.3% in the second quarter (July-September) of 2016-17.³ The GDP growth rate was 7.6% in the year 2015-16.² ▪ Inflation: The average Consumer Price Index (CPI) in December 2016 was 3.4 %. CPI was 5.6% in December 2015.⁴ ▪ Food inflation was 1.4% in December 2016 as compared to 6.4% in December 2015.⁴ ▪ Inflation target of 4% was notified by RBI for the period 2016-2021. It also set an upper limit of 6% and lower limit of 2% for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation.⁵ ▪ Fiscal Deficit: It is targeted at 3.5% of GDP in 2016-17 (compared to 3.9% in 2015- 16).⁶ As of November 2016, the government had reached 85.8% of its fiscal deficit target, compared to 87% in November 2015.⁷ ▪ Current Account Deficit: It decreased from USD 14.7 billion in 2015-16 (April-September) to USD 3.7 billion in the corresponding period in 2016-17.⁸ ▪ Foreign Exchange Reserves: As on January 20, 2017, foreign exchange reserves stood at Rs 24,54,950 crore, as compared to Rs 23,52,820 crore in January 29, 2016.⁹
Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit decreased	
Foreign exchange reserves recorded high in 2015	
To revitalise public sector banks, <i>Indradhanush</i> programme has been launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The total amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) increased to 9.1% in September 2016 from 7.8% in March 2016.¹⁰ ▪ Under the <i>Indradhanush</i> scheme which intends to recapitalise Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Rs 70,000 crore is proposed to be allocated between 2015-16 and 2018-19. Out of this amount, Rs 25,000 crore was transferred to 19 PSBs in 2015-16. A budgetary provision of Rs 25,000 crore has been made for 2016-17, of which Rs 22,915 crore has been allocated to 13 PSBs, as of July 2016.¹¹

Policy Priority	Current Status
Efforts to tackle black money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by Parliament and received the President's assent in December, 2016.¹² The Bill proposes to introduce the <i>Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana</i>, 2016. Under the scheme, taxpayers may declare undisclosed income possessed in the form of cash deposited in banks, post offices or RBI before a notified date. (For more details on the Bill, see here) ▪ On November 8, 2016, existing currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 were demonetised to address storage of unaccounted wealth and circulation of counterfeit currency.¹³ No official estimation of black money is available.¹⁴ ▪ Specified Bank Notes Cessation of Liabilities Ordinance, 2016 was issued in December, 2016. It provides that specified bank notes (old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000) will cease to be liabilities of the Reserve Bank of India from December 31, 2016 onwards.¹⁵ (For more details on the Ordinance, see here)
To put in place a simplified, progressive and non-adversarial tax regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016 was enacted in September, 2016 to allow for the levy of a Goods and Services Tax (GST).¹⁶ (For more details on the Act, see here) ▪ Model Central and State Goods and Services Tax Bills, 2016 were introduced in November 2016. The Model Central/ State GST Bills provide for the levy of: (i) the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), (ii) State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), (iii) levy of integrated Goods and Services Tax and (iv) compensation to states.¹⁷ (For more details on CGST, SGST and IGST, see here.)
To ensure productive utilization of idle assets, Gold Monetization scheme and Sovereign Gold Bond scheme have been launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deposit certificates and interest income on deposit certificates issued under Gold Monetization scheme were exempt from capital gains tax and income-tax from April 1, 2016.¹⁸ ▪ As of November 2016, 5,730 kgs of gold was mobilised under Gold Monetization scheme while 14,071 kgs of gold was subscribed.¹⁹
<i>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana</i> has gone beyond opening of bank accounts, by offering basic financial services and security to the poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of January 2017, around 27 crore accounts have been opened under the scheme. Out of these, 61% of the accounts are in rural areas. ▪ Presently, 25% of the total accounts are zero balance accounts.²⁰
Three new insurance and pension schemes launched to universalise social security: (i) <i>Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana</i> : Accident insurance scheme which aims to provide risk coverage of 2 lakh to people in the age group 18 to 70 years; (ii) <i>Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i> : to provide risk coverage of Rs 2 lakh in case of death due to any reason, for people in the age group of 18 to 50 years; (iii) <i>Atal Pension Yojana</i> , a pension scheme, open to all bank account holders in the age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ten crore people were enrolled under the <i>Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana</i>. During the year, 10,084 claims had been registered of which 7,282 were disbursed as of December, 2016.²¹ ▪ Three crore people were enrolled under the <i>Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i>. During the year, 51,745 claims had been registered of which 48,023 were disbursed as of

Policy Priority	Current Status
group of 18 to 40 years	<p>December, 2016.²¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the <i>Atal Pension Yojana</i>, a total of 38.2 lakh subscribers were enrolled during the year as of December, 2016.²¹
<p>Proposed Postal Payment Bank of India to boost financial inclusion</p> <p>IT modernization project involving computerization and networking of 1,55,000 post offices in the country to be completed by 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Post Payments Bank received approval from the Union Cabinet in June 2016 and incorporated in August 2016. 650 branches are proposed to be opened by September 2017.^{22,23} IT modernisation project includes core banking and insurance solutions. It was implemented in 23,054 post offices while 967 ATMs were installed, as of December 2016. As of 2014-15, 1,54,939 post offices were functional in the country.²⁴
Industry and Manufacturing	
<p>Efforts are made to enhance Ease of Doing Business by encouraging state governments and fostering competitive cooperation among them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 340-point Business Reform Action Plan for states/UTs was released in October, 2016. The average implementation of business reforms undertaken by the states/UTs increased to 49% when compared to the average of 32% in the previous year.²⁵ An Expert Committee on Prior Permissions and Regulatory Mechanism submitted its report to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in February, 2016.²⁶ The Committee made a number of recommendations related to multiple clearances, standardisation of products, streamlining forest clearances, etc. (For more details on the report, see here) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by Lok Sabha in August, 2016. The Bill raises the overtime work hours limit to 100 hours from 50 hours per quarter. It also permits state and central governments to make rules on issues such as double employment and periods of rest. (For more details on the Bill, see here)
<p>Start-Up India campaign has been launched to deepen, expand and support the innovation eco system in the country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start-ups incorporated between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2019 are exempt from income tax for three years as per Finance Act, 2016.²⁷ Out of 1,368 applications to be recognised, 502 have been recognised as start-ups. Among these, eight start-ups have been approved for availing tax benefit, as on January 4, 2017.²⁷ Establishment of a fund of funds for start-ups has been approved in July, 2016. The corpus of the fund is Rs 10,000 crore over a period of four years.²⁸
<p>Udyog Aadhar Portal has been set up to facilitate online registration of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of November 2016, 19.6 lakh MSMEs out of 57.2 lakh MSMEs were registered on the portal.²⁹
<p>To boost entrepreneurship in agriculture and rural sector and strengthen the livelihoods of artisans and weavers, Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme was set up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme aims to support 1.82 lakh entrepreneurs between 2015 and 2019. 16 states have submitted their proposals for which Rs 13.3 crore has been released from the

Policy Priority	Current Status
	centre. ³⁰
To promote textile industry and generate employment, Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS) has been introduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A-TUFS replaces the previously existing Revised, Restructured-TUFS. It intends to provide 10% additional capital investment subsidy for textile units which are already availing a 15% subsidy benefit under the scheme.³¹ ▪ The Union Cabinet has approved a special package for employment generation and promotion of textile exports in June, 2016. This includes reforms in overtime work hours, Employee Provident Fund scheme among other incentives.³²
Developmental and welfare projects in mining affected areas to be implemented by <i>Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalayan Yojana</i> was announced in September, 2015 by the Ministry of Mines.³³ The scheme requires states to integrate welfare and development programs with District Mineral Foundations (DMFs). DMFs are set up under Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, to work in the interest of people affected by mining operations. ▪ Drinking water supply, environment preservation, pollution control, health, and education will be given high priority under the scheme.³⁴ ▪ 11 out of 12 mineral states have set up DMFs in 263 districts as of December, 2016.³⁵
<i>Governance and Legal Reform</i>	
Committed to improve quality of governance by reforming institutions, simplifying procedures and repealing obsolete laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has submitted a report on delays in appointing higher court judges. The recommendations include increased transparency, timely filling of vacancies and finalisation of Memorandum of Procedure in relation to appointments of judges.³⁶ ▪ The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2016, repealed 758 Appropriation Acts passed between 1950 and 2012.³⁷ ▪ The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 repealed 295 laws while amending two laws, which were passed between 1862 and 2014.³⁸
Amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act are on the anvil to address the gaps in anti-corruption law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 with the amendments introduced in November 2014 was referred to a Rajya Sabha Select Committee. The Committee submitted its report on August 12, 2016.³⁹
<i>Defence, External Affairs and Home Affairs</i>	
Defence procurement procedure has been streamlined with a focus on indigenously designed, developed and manufactured weapon systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 came into effect from April, 2016 for capital procurements replacing the DPP, 2013.⁴⁰

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DPP 2013 provided five routes for capital acquisitions. The DPP 2016 added an additional category "Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) as the most preferred way of capital acquisition. It also increased indigenous content requirement under Buy (Indian) from 30% to 40%.⁴⁰
Implemented One Rank One Pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rs 12,456 crore was allocated under One Rank One Pension for the year 2016-17. Out of this, Rs 3,021 crore was utilised by November 12, 2016.⁴¹ ▪ Judicial Committee submitted a report on One Rank One Pension scheme in October, 2016.⁴²
Sustained efforts and measures taken by the intelligence agencies and security forces in collaboration with the state governments to tackle Left-Wing Extremism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The total number of Left Wing Extremism incidents and deaths decreased from 2011 to 2016. However, the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh experienced an increase in the number of incidents and deaths in 2016 as compared to 2015.⁴³ ▪ Road connectivity project for Left Wing Extremism affected areas was approved by the Union Cabinet in December, 2016. The project will provide rural road connectivity in 35 worst affected districts.⁴⁴
<p>Committed to deal with challenges concerning the security of the country Firm and effective steps to be taken to deal with any situation arising out of cross-border terrorism</p> <p>Committed to forging a mutually respectful relationship with Pakistan and in creating an environment of co-operation in combating cross border terrorism</p> <p>India remains committed to providing support to the people of Afghanistan in realising their dream of building a stable, inclusive and democratic nation</p> <p>Committed to reach out to neighbouring countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Committee was constituted in April, 2016 under Ministry of Home Affairs, to strengthen border protection and address issues of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing along the Indo-Pakistan border.⁴⁵ ▪ India withdrew from 19th SAARC Summit to be held in September in Islamabad, Pakistan stating increase in cross-border terrorism and interference in internal affairs by one country.⁴⁶ ▪ India signed a trilateral agreement with Afghanistan and Iran, to link Chabahar Port in Iran with Afghanistan. India agreed to provide construction services and financing worth USD 1.6 billion for the same.⁴⁷ ▪ In September, 2016, India signed three agreements with Nepal with regard to post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal.⁴⁸ ▪ In July, 2016, the Union Cabinet approved various facilities including opening of a bank account, permission of purchase of property for self-employment, issue of driving license, PAN card, Aadhaar card, free movement within the state/UTs of their current stay and transfer of Long Term Visa papers between states, for minority communities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.⁴⁹
Foreign policy to focus on accelerating national development with emphasis on improving India's access to capital, technology, resources, energy and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United States: India was declared a major defence partner of the United States in

Policy Priority	Current Status
	<p>December, 2016.⁵⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The countries previously signed agreements related to exchange of counter-terrorism intelligence and maritime information, logistics support of armed forces during joint training, joint military exercises, and disaster related assistance and port visits, expedited clearance for low-risk passengers on arrival in the US, cooperation of clean energy, and wildlife conservation 2016.^{51, 52} ▪ United States also supported India's application for the membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group.⁵³ ▪ Japan: 10 agreements were signed between India and Japan during the Prime Minister's visit to Japan in November, 2016. Key agreements include nuclear cooperation, infrastructure investment and skilling cooperation.⁵⁴ ▪ United Kingdom: During UK Prime Minister's visit to India in November, 2016, two agreements were signed which include: (i) exchange of best practices and technical assistance regarding ease of doing business, and (ii) cooperation in intellectual property rights.⁵⁵ ▪ Russia: India signed 16 agreements with Russia in October 2016. The agreements were regarding defence, oil and natural gas, smart cities, transport, space and information technology.⁵⁶
<p>International Solar Alliance has been launched to address to climate change</p> <p>India has also provided strong leadership and new vision to regional and international groups like BRICS, G-20, WTO, East Asia Summit, ASEAN and the SCO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Solar Alliance was launched by India in 2015 to promote and develop solar energy. The agreement was opened up to signatures in November 2016. ▪ As of December 2016, 25 countries have signed the framework agreement.⁵⁷ ▪ The Eighth BRICS Summit was held in India in October, 2016. During the summit, three MoUs were signed among the BRICS countries on: (i) establishment of a common agricultural research platform, (ii) customs cooperation, and (iii) cooperation among diplomatic academies.⁵⁸ ▪ Prime Minister of India attended the 11th G20 Summit in China and 11th East Asia and 14th ASEAN summit in Laos.^{59,60} ▪ In May 2016, the Prime Minister of India attended the 13th India-European Union Summit. India and EU signed joint declarations regarding combating terrorism, water management, migration and climate change.⁶¹
<p>Enhanced NRI and PIO engagement by making it easier for them to get passports and offered Visa on Arrival by extending Electronic Travel Authorization facility to a large number of countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The facility of E-Tourist Visa was extended to 161 countries as of December, 2016.⁶²

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Energy	
Strong emphasis on increasing coal production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2016 (between April and October), coal production stood at 330.6 MT. 639 MT of coal was produced in 2015-16 while 609 MT of coal was produced in 2014-15.⁶³
Introduced dynamic and comprehensive reforms in the coal sector and conducted transparent auction/ allocation of over 70 coal blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coal Allocation Monitoring System and Coal Mitra Web Portal have been launched to bring transparency in coal distribution.⁶⁴
Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, policies have been formulated on mandatory procurement of power from waste to energy plants, co-marketing of compost by chemicals and fertilizer companies, and use of construction and demolition waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to energy plants were operational/under trail run in Delhi, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. ▪ As of November 2016, 53 proposals for conversion of MSW to energy plants from 22 states were under various stages of construction or tendering.⁶⁵
Renewable energy capacity to manifold to 175 GW by 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2016-17, as on December 31, 2016, 4.4 GW (26%) of renewable energy including grid and off-grid power was generated, against the target of 17 GW.⁶⁶ ▪ As of December 31, 2016, 51 GW of renewable energy was generated.⁶⁶
<i>PAHAL (Pratyaksh Hastantarit Labh)</i> has become the largest direct cash transfer program of its kind in the world, with nearly 15 crore beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since the inception of <i>PAHAL</i>, 204 crore connections have been established with Rs 38,276 crore of subsidy being transferred to LPG beneficiaries. ▪ Around 17 crore consumers registered an on November 28, 2016.⁶⁷
The Give-It-Up campaign in tandem with the Give Back programme has released subsidized fresh connections to 50 lakh BPL families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During the year 2015-16, around 63 lakh new LPG connections were released to BPL families under the campaign.⁶⁷ ▪ 105 lakh households have voluntarily given up their LPG subsidy.⁶⁷
Committed to providing electricity to all the census villages by May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Around 64% of the villages have been electrified while 32% villages are yet to be electrified. The rest (4%) are uninhabited villages.⁶⁸
<i>Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Scheme (UDAY)</i> for financial turnaround of power distribution companies has been launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As on January 9, 2016, 21 states have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with <i>UDAY</i>.⁶⁹
Urban and Rural Development	
The <i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)</i> (Housing for All by 2022) intending to cover 4041 statutory towns by 2022, envisages construction of about 2 crore houses to primarily benefit slum dwellers, urban poor and people from economically weaker sections and lower income groups of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rs 4,466 crore was allocated under Housing for All scheme for the year 2016-17. During 2015-16, the revised expenditure of Rs 1,271 crore was 69% less than the budgeted expenditure of Rs 4,150 crore.⁷⁰ ▪ Under PMAY-Urban, 9,435 houses were completed while construction of 2 lakh houses is under progress, as on January 3, 2017. 5.4 lakh houses are yet to be constructed.⁷¹

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<p><i>Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme</i> has been revamped to ensure the efficiency and transparency</p> <p><i>Mission Antyodaya</i>, an intensive Participatory Planning Exercise identifies the kind of assets to be created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PMAY was expanded to rural areas under <i>Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin</i> in March, 2016.⁷² ▪ Central share of Rs 12,230 crore has been released to the states under MGNREGS. This fund is expected to compensate for the pending wage liability of states in the financial year 2015-16.⁷³ ▪ Under <i>Deendayal Antyodaya Mission (DAY)</i>, 811 shelters were targeted to be operational in 2016-17.⁷⁴ As on July, 2016, 336 shelters were operational.⁷⁵ ▪ Table 1: Financial progress of DAY (in lakhs) ⁷⁶ <table border="1" data-bbox="1151 539 1863 691"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2014-15</th> <th>2015-16</th> <th>2016-17 (As of October 2016)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Allocated</td> <td>1,48,281</td> <td>1,48,863</td> <td>1,02,962</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Released</td> <td>67,214</td> <td>23,972</td> <td>18,926</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (As of October 2016)	Allocated	1,48,281	1,48,863	1,02,962	Released	67,214	23,972	18,926
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<p><i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i> to connect one lakh seventy eight thousand rural habitations with all-weather roads by March 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately, 68% of the targeted road length has been constructed and 44% of the targeted habitations were connected in the year 2016-17.⁷⁷ 												
<p>Second and third stages of smart cities programme are on the anvil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In September 2016, 27 new smart cities were announced.⁷⁸ Previously, 33 cities were selected under the programme. (For more details, see here) ▪ Budgetary support of Rs 48,000 crore is proposed under the scheme over five years (2015-2020). During the years 2015-16 and 2016-17, Rs 4,572 crore was released to 98 cities.⁷⁹ 												
<p>To develop 300 rural growth clusters across the country, <i>Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission</i> has also been launched</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The scheme aims to develop rural clusters to promote entrepreneurship and economic activities. Under the first phase, 100 clusters have been allocated to the states.⁸⁰ ▪ Rs 5,142 crore has been allocated for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 while Rs 32 crore has been released for the preparation of Integrated Clusters Action Plan.⁸⁰ 												
Transport													
<p>New Civil Aviation Policy with thrust on connectivity to small cities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In June 2016, National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 was released.⁸¹ As per the policy, Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) was released in October 2016. The scheme aims to improve regional connectivity while making it affordable. Major reforms include: (i) modification of 5/20 rule and (ii) cap of Rs 3,500 per RCS seat. (For more details, see here) ▪ Domestic Air Passenger traffic has increased by 23% between January and November 2016 as compared to the same period during 2015.⁸² 												

Policy Priority	Current Status
Improving sanitation standards at Railway Stations and Trains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of October, 2016, 49,000 bio toilets were installed in approximately 14,000 coaches.⁸³
<i>Bharatmala</i> , an umbrella scheme has been formulated for the development of national highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of December 2016, <i>Bharatmala</i> programme is yet to be formally launched.⁸⁴
A scheme for financial assistance to domestic shipyards has been launched to rejuvenate the shipping sector Inland waterways and coastal shipping to be promoted as an alternative mode of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy was introduced with an outlay of Rs 4,000 crore for years 2016 to 2026. Guidelines for the same were released in July 2016.⁸⁵ ▪ Under National Waterways Act, 2016, 111 waterways were identified as national waterways.⁸⁶ ▪ 14 Coastal Economic Zones were identified in 9 states under National Perspective Plan of Sagar Mala scheme.⁸⁷ ▪ To promote ease of doing business in the shipping sector, the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016 has been introduced.⁸⁸ (For more details on the Bill, see here.) ▪ To provide greater autonomy to major ports, the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016 has been introduced.⁸⁹ (For more details on the Bill, see here.)
To reduce air pollution, target for emission standards for motor vehicles have been drastically brought forward to achieve Bharat Stage-VI norm by 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A draft notification was released in February, 2016 to make Bharat Stage-VI norms applicable by April 1, 2020.⁹⁰
Health and Social Justice	
Strong focus has been placed on strengthening AYUSH.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permissions have been granted for setting up of 42 new Ayurveda colleges, four new Unani colleges and one new Siddha college.⁹¹ ▪ The second International day of yoga was celebrated from June 18-26, 2016 by 191 United Nations (UN) member-states.⁹¹
<i>Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan</i> (Accessible India Campaign) launched to provide universal accessibility for persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The campaign focuses on making 25-50 government buildings in 50 cities including all state capitals, airports and railways stations, accessible to persons with disabilities by July, 2016.⁹² ▪ So far 18 institutions are enlisted as access auditors and 1077 buildings were audited on their accessibility standards.^{93,94} ▪ The Parliament passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 in December 2016 which confers rights and entitlements to disabled persons.⁹⁵ (for more details on the Bill, see here)
<i>Swachh Bharat</i> to be manifested in our primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 97.8% of government primary schools have girl's toilet facility while 97.3% of the schools have boys' toilet facility.⁹⁶ ▪ Overall, the share of government schools with functional girls' and boys' toilet stands at

Policy Priority	Current Status												
	48.8% and 48.7% while the share of schools with toilets stands at 98.2% and 97.7%. ⁹⁶												
Education and Skill Development													
New Institutes of excellence in higher education have been set up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New institutions: Six IITs, seven IIMs, a NIT, two IISERs and eight IIITs became operational in 2016 while four central universities are yet to become functional.⁹⁷ <p>Table 2: Faculty Position in IITs, IIMs and NITs.⁹⁸</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1151 464 1715 576"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>IITs</th> <th>IIMs</th> <th>NITs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Faculty in position</td> <td>5,073</td> <td>703</td> <td>5,428</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vacancies</td> <td>2,671</td> <td>212</td> <td>3,183</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Union Cabinet approved the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017 in January 2017. The Bill seeks to declare IIMs as institutes of national importance enabling them to grant degrees to students.⁹⁹ ▪ The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed in the Parliament in August, 2016.¹⁰⁰ The Bill adds six new IITs and declares Institutes of Technology as institutions of national importance. (for more details on the Bill, see here) ▪ The National Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed the Parliament in August 2016.¹⁰¹ The Bill seeks to establish the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Andhra Pradesh as an institute of national importance. (for more details on the Bill, see here) ▪ The draft Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2016 was released in November, 2016.¹⁰² 		IITs	IIMs	NITs	Faculty in position	5,073	703	5,428	Vacancies	2,671	212	3,183
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IMPRINT India was launched to give impetus to research in scientific fields ranging from defence to sustainable living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 259 out of 2,612 project proposals were selected under the IMPRINT India initiative in September, 2016.¹⁰³ ▪ The approved project proposals seek a project cost of around Rs 595 crore over a period of three years till 2019. Out of this, 298 crore will be contributed by the participating Ministry.¹⁰³ 												
National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched for higher educational institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launched in September, 2015, NIRF released 'India Rankings 2016' in April, 2016. The ranking was available for engineering, management, pharmacy and universities. Citing inadequate participation from architecture and general degree colleges, rankings did not include these disciplines along with open universities. ▪ Out of 5,000 registered institutions, 3,640 completed the self-reporting exercise.¹⁰⁴ 												
The National Scholarship Portal provides a one-stop platform for applications of all scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During 2016-17, around 90 lakh students were estimated to receive scholarship through the portal in Direct Benefit Transfer mode.¹⁰⁵ 												

Policy Priority	Current Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Around 39 lakh scholarships were disbursed through the portal in 2015-16. The remaining scholarships to around 41 lakh students will be disbursed in the year 2016-17.¹⁰⁶
<p>To empower the minorities, two new schemes, <i>Nai Manzil</i> and <i>USTAAD</i> have been launched</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nai Manzil: Launched in August 2015, it was operationalized in the year 2016-17. The scheme aims to provide skill training for school dropouts and targets one lakh beneficiaries over a period of five years.¹⁰⁷ ▪ USTAAD: It aims to build capacity of traditional artisans/craftsman. Rs 20 crore was allocated for the year 2016-17. Previously, Rs 17 crore was allocated in the year 2015-16 of which Rs 16.9 crore was utilised.¹⁰⁸
Women and Child Development	
<p>Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to be strengthened and problems of malnutrition to be addressed in a holistic manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than 70% of Anganwadis (AWCs) are not visited by a doctor.¹⁰⁹ As per National Health Survey 2013-14, 29.4 % of children are underweight, 38.7% are stunted and 15.1% are wasted.¹¹⁰ ▪ ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) has been launched in 162 high malnutrition burden districts in 8 states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh).¹¹¹ ▪ Information and Communication Technology-enabled Real Time Monitoring of ICDS was launched.¹¹³
<p>Several measures to ensure safety and security of women have been launched: Emergency Response Systems, a Central Victim Compensation Fund, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children, and Organized Crime Investigative Agency and an Integrated Emergency Response Management System for women's safety on the railways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The following schemes/programs were proposed under the Nirbhaya Fund.¹¹² Nirbhaya Fund was set up with a corpus of Rs 2,000 crore in 2014-15. ▪ Out of this Rs 2,000 crore, initiatives worth around Rs 400 crore were under implementation as of July 2016: ▪ National Emergency Response System was proposed with a project cost of Rs 321.7 crore. The project aims to provide emergency response specifically inclined towards women issues. Emergency number '112' was allotted for the facility. ▪ One Stop Centres (OSCs) to facilitate women affected by violence were proposed to be set up with a cost of Rs 18.6 crore. 100 OSCs were to be operational by January 2017. As of December, 2016, 51 OSCs were operational.¹¹³ ▪ Universalisation of Women Helpline with cost of Rs 69.5 crore. Women Helplines were operational in 18 states/UTs as of December, 2016. ▪ Further, the following initiatives were proposed: ▪ Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF): Rs 200 crore was allocated for the scheme, of which Rs 190.7 crore was disbursed to the states/UTs.

Policy Priority	Current Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised CVCF guidelines were released in July, 2016.¹¹⁴ ▪ Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children: The initiative was proposed with an estimated cost of Rs 244.32 crore ▪ Organised Crime Investigative Agency: The project was proposed with a cost of Rs 83.2 crore. ▪ Integrated Emergency Response Management System: It was proposed with a project cost of Rs 500 crore. 983 railways stations were nominated for installation of CCTV cameras under Nirbhaya Fund.¹¹⁵
Agriculture, Food and Water Security	
<p><i>Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana</i>, a crop insurance scheme providing low premium rates for farmers has been launched for farmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During Kharif 2016, the scheme has been implemented by 21 states. 366.6 lakh farmers have been covered under the scheme.¹¹⁶ ▪ The sum insured (SI) under the scheme would be calculated on the basis of the yield of the crop in a particular area and the applicable minimum support price. The premium payable by the states would be: (i) 2% of SI for Kharif crops, (ii) 1.5% of SI for Rabi crops, and (iii) 5% of SI for commercial/horticultural crops.¹¹⁷
<p>Soil Health Cards to be distributed to all 14 crore farm-holdings by March, 2017 <i>Paramparogat Krishi Vikas Yojana</i> is being implemented to promote organic farming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana</i>, Soil Health Cards, Rainfed Area Development are implemented under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. As of November, 2016, Rs 423 crore was released out of Rs 1,062 crore allocated for 2016-17 under the mission.¹¹⁸ ▪ Till December 2016, 4.31 crore soil health cards had been made. Out of these, 4.25 crore soil health cards were distributed while others are under process.¹¹⁶ ▪ <i>Paramparogat Krishi Vikas Yojana</i> was initiated in 2014 to promote organic farming with a target to set up 10,000 clusters in three years. As of December, 2016, 9,186 clusters have been set up by the state governments.¹¹⁶
<p><i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana</i> has been launched to extend the irrigation coverage and assure efficiency in water usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under the scheme, Rs 12,527 crore will be used in 2016-17 for the implementation of 23 irrigation schemes.¹¹⁹ ▪ 99 major and medium irrigation projects have been identified under the scheme. The projects, with a capacity of 76.03 hectare, are expected to be completed by December 2019 in phases.¹¹⁹
<p>National Agriculture Market (NAM) is working towards setting up a common e-market platform to connect 585 wholesale markets across the country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of December 2016, 250 mandis in 10 states have been integrated with e-NAM Portal. Rs 93 crore has been released to integrate 399 mandis with e-NAM.¹¹⁶ ▪ As on December 27, 2016, 35 lakh tonnes of agriculture produce worth Rs. 7,131 crore has

Policy Priority	Current Status
	been transacted on e-NAM platform. ¹¹⁶
Committed to the growth of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries sectors in the country, a Blue Revolution is underway to ensure the integrated development and management of fisheries, with a central outlay of Rupees three thousand crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries is the central scheme on Blue Revolution. The scheme focuses on developing fisheries and strengthening institutional arrangement of fisheries. 22 new fishing harbours were proposed in six states as of November 2016.¹²⁰ ▪ During 2015-16 (provisional), fish production stood at 107.9 lakh tonnes. Fish production is aimed to increase to 150 lakh tonnes by 2019-20.
Several steps have been taken to usher in Second Green Revolution in the eastern states Strengthening agricultural higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The scheme Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) is being implemented in seven eastern states since 2010-11. It aims to improve crop yield in eastern India. For the year 2016-17, Rs 990 crore was allocated, of which Rs 630 crore was to be contributed by the centre and the rest by individual states.¹²¹ ▪ The number of agricultural graduates increased to 17,741 in 2015 as compared to 15,902 in 2012.¹²² ▪ A new project called 'Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture' is running in 25 districts of 25 states through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).¹¹⁶
New Urea Policy, 2015 has been notified, which aims to improve efficiency, and plug subsidy leakages by providing 100% neem-coated urea to farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 159 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) of urea was produced till September 2016. During 2015-16, urea production was 245 LMT.¹²³
The Food Processing Fund has been operationalized to provide affordable credit to designated food parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The fund was set up with Rs 2,000 crore under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. As of June 2016, 12 mega food park projects and two processing units worth Rs 541 crore was sanctioned from the fund.¹²⁴ ▪ In addition, 159 food parks were notified to avail affordable credit from the fund.¹²⁵
<i>Jal Kranti Abhiyan</i> has been launched to spread awareness on water conservation and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under <i>Jal Kranti Abhiyan</i>, two villages facing acute water scarcity in every district are selected as Jal Grams. Development plans are prepared for every Jal Gram to ensure optimum and sustainable provision of water.¹²⁶ ▪ So far, out of a total target of 1,352 Jal Grams, 1,090 have been identified.¹²⁷
Tourism	
Thirteen Circuits and thirteen pilgrimage sites have been identified for development under <i>Swadesh Darshan</i> scheme and <i>PRASAD</i> scheme respectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under <i>Swadesh Bharat</i> and <i>PRASAD</i> schemes, the release of funds has been lower than the allocated amount in the last three years, from 2014-15 to 2016-17.¹²⁸

Policy Priority	Current Status																								
	<p data-bbox="1108 258 1937 284">▪ Table 3: Funds allocated and released under Swadesh Bharat and PRASAD</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1149 292 1834 475"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">Swadesh Bharat (in crore)</th> <th colspan="2">PRASAD (in crore)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Allocated</th> <th>Released</th> <th>Allocated</th> <th>Released</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>2,279.2</td> <td>455.8</td> <td>48.3</td> <td>9.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>1,512.9</td> <td>437</td> <td>205.9</td> <td>74.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>152.8</td> <td>51.5</td> <td>78.6</td> <td>16.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Swadesh Bharat (in crore)		PRASAD (in crore)		Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released	2016-17	2,279.2	455.8	48.3	9.7	2015-16	1,512.9	437	205.9	74.5	2014-15	152.8	51.5	78.6	16.9
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<p data-bbox="188 549 987 608">Completing the constellation of the Indian navigational satellites in 2016 to cater to indigenous navigation and location-based services</p>	<ul data-bbox="1108 549 2029 675" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India had launched eight ISRO satellites, four student satellites and 22 foreign satellites in seven launch vehicle missions.¹²⁹ ▪ An independent regional navigation satellite system, Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System is completely deployed with the launch of its seventh and final satellite.¹²⁹ 																								
<p data-bbox="188 697 1016 722">Setting up world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing across the country.</p> <p data-bbox="188 767 1032 826">Policies like spectrum trading and sharing have been finalized for optimum utilization of resources</p>	<ul data-bbox="1108 697 2045 884" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) scheme was launched to provide financial assistance for setting up electronic manufacturing units. As of December 2016, 13 EMCs have been approved in 10 states.¹³⁰ ▪ Auction of 2354.75 MHz of spectrum in various ranges (700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz) was conducted in October 2016. Out of this, 964.8 MHz was sold in all ranges of except 700 MHz and 900 MHz.¹³¹ 																								
<p data-bbox="188 909 1070 968">Under <i>BharatNet</i>, Digital India, National Optical Fiber Network is being revamped to rapidly take broadband connectivity to villages</p>	<ul data-bbox="1108 909 2007 935" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As on February 29, 2016, more than 96 thousand KMs of optical fibre have been laid.¹³² 																								
<p data-bbox="188 995 1068 1054">Science & Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) initiative launched to explore the modern scientific roots of our traditional wisdom</p>	<ul data-bbox="1108 995 2013 1054" style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under SATYAM, proposals for conducting research in related fields were invited in 2015. 98 proposals out of 578 proposals received were selected for future scrutiny.¹³³ 																								

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