

NATIONAL POLICY ON VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

A National Policy on Voluntary Organisations (VOs) was announced in 2007. It aims to further strengthen, promote and develop such institutions.

As per this policy, by 'VOs' are meant organisations engaged in public service, based on ethical, cultural, social, economic, political, religious, spiritual, philanthropic or scientific and technological considerations. VOs include formal as well as informal groups, such as: community-based organisations (CBOs), non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs), charitable organisations, support organisations, networks or federations of such organisations, as well as professional membership associations.

To be covered under the policy, VOs should broadly have the following characteristics:

- (a) They are private, i.e., separate from Government
- (b) They do not return the profits generated to their owners or directors
- (c) They are self-governing, i.e., not controlled by Government
- (d) They are registered organisations or informal groups, with defined aims and objectives.

The specific objectives of the policy are listed below:

1. To create an enabling environment for VOs that stimulates their enterprise and effectiveness, and safeguards their autonomy
2. To enable VOs to legitimately mobilise necessary financial resources from India and abroad
3. To identify systems by which the Government may work together with VOs, on the basis of the principles of mutual trust and respect, and with shared responsibility
4. To encourage VOs to adopt transparent and accountable systems of governance and management

NATIONAL POLICY ON RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION

A National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation was notified in 2004. This policy laid down immediate provisions for resettlement and rehabilitation of affected families, and the States, public sector undertakings or public bodies were free to offer better packages. The entire issue has subsequently been considered in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme (CMP), which

called for a 'more effective' system of resettlement and rehabilitation for tribal and other groups displaced by development projects. A new rehabilitation policy has, therefore, been formulated and notified in 2007. The salient features of the new policy are:

1. Policy covers all cases of involuntary displacement.
2. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) introduced for projects involving displacement of 400/200 or more families in plain/tribal, hilly, Scheduled Areas, etc.
3. Tribal Development Plan in case of displacement of 200 + ST families;
4. Consultations with Gram Sabhas or public hearings made compulsory;
5. Principle of rehabilitation before displacement;
6. If possible, land for land as compensation;
7. Skill development support and preference in project jobs (one person per nuclear family);
8. Rehabilitation Grant in lieu of land/job;
9. Option for shares in companies implementing projects to affected families;
10. Housing benefits to all affected families including the landless;
11. Monthly pension to the vulnerable, such as disabled, destitute, orphans, widows, unmarried girls, etc;
12. Monetary benefits linked to the Consumer Price Index; also to be revised suitably at periodic intervals;
13. Necessary infrastructural facilities and amenities at resettlement areas;
14. Periphery development by project authorities;
15. R&R Committee for each Project, to be headed by administrator for R&R;
16. Ombudsman for grievance redressal; and
17. National Rehabilitation Commission for external oversight.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

A National Policy for the Empowerment of Women was adopted in 2001. The goal of the policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. Specifically, the objectives of the policy include:

1. Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realise their full potential
2. The *de-jure* and *de-facto* enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women on equal basis with men in all spheres-political, economic, social, cultural and civil
3. Equal access to participation and decision-making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation
4. Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc
5. Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

6. Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women
7. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process
8. Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against woman and the girl child
9. Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly with women's organisations

NATIONAL POLICY FOR CHILDREN

The first National Policy for Children was adopted in 1974. This policy was revised and replaced by a new policy in 2013.

The new National Policy for Children (2013) reaffirms the government's commitment to the realisation of the rights of all children in the country. It recognises every person below the age of eighteen years as a child and that childhood is an integral part of life with a value of its own, and a long term, sustainable, multi-sectoral, integrated and inclusive approach is necessary for the harmonious development and protection of children.

The policy lays down twelve guiding principles that must be respected by national, state and local governments in their actions and initiatives affecting children. They are :

1. Every child has universal, inalienable and indivisible human rights.
2. The rights of children are interrelated and interdependent.
3. Every child has the right to life, survival, development, education, protection and participation.
4. Right to life, survival and development goes beyond the physical existence of the child and also encompasses the right to identity and nationality.
5. The mental, emotional, cognitive, social and the cultural development of the child are to be addressed in totality.
6. All children have equal rights and no child shall be discriminated.
7. The best interest of the child is of primary concern in all decisions and actions affecting the child.
8. The family environment is most conducive for the all-round development of children.
9. Every child has the right to a dignified life, free from exploitation.
10. Children are to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, violence, maltreatment and exploitation in all settings.
11. Children must be provided the opportunity to express their views in matters affecting them.
12. Children's views are to be given due consideration in accordance with their age, maturity and evolving capacities.

The policy has identified survival, health, nutrition, education, development, protection and participation as the undeniable rights of every child, and has also declared these as key priority areas.

As children's needs are multi-sectoral, interconnected and require collective action, the policy aims at purposeful convergence and strong coordination across different sectors and levels of

governance; active engagement and partnerships with all stakeholders; setting up of a comprehensive and reliable knowledge base; provision of adequate resources; and sensitisation and capacity development of all those who work for and with children.

The policy provides for the formulation of a National Plan of Action for Children and the constitution of a National Coordination and Action Group for Children to monitor the progress of implementation.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006. It recognises that persons with disabilities are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

The policy emphasises upon the fact that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

The salient features of the policy are:

1. Physical rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling and medical interventions and provision of aids and appliances
2. Educational rehabilitation which includes vocational training
3. Economic rehabilitation, for a dignified life in society. It includes employment in the public as well as private sector and self-employment
4. Development of rehabilitation professionals
5. Creation of a barrier-free environment
6. Provision of social security by various means like disability pension, unemployment allowance, etc.
7. Promotion of non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

NATIONAL POLICY FOR OLDER PERSONS

The National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons. The policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives. The primary objectives of the policy are:

1. To encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse's old age
2. To encourage families to take care of their older family members
3. To enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organisations to supplement the care provided by the family
4. To provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people
5. To provide adequate healthcare facility to the elderly
6. To promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organisers of

services for the elderly

7. To create awareness regarding elderly persons to help them lead productive and independent life

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

The first National Youth Policy was adopted in 1988. This policy was revised and replaced by another policy in 2003.

The changing scenario in the country due to globalisation, rapid technological advancement and the emergence of India as a global economic power necessitated a review of the 2003 policy. Accordingly, a new revised/modified policy was notified in 2014.

The vision of NYP-2014 is “to empower the youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations”. In order to achieve this vision, all stakeholders must work towards meeting five key objectives. This requires specific action in eleven priority areas, identified as important for youth development. The following table lists these objectives and priority areas:

Table 2.1 Objectives and Priorities of National Youth Policy (2014)

<i>Objectives</i>		<i>Priority Areas</i>	
1.	Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India’s economic development	(i)	Education
		(ii)	Employment and Skill development
		(iii)	Entrepreneurship
2.	Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges	(i)	Health and healthy lifestyle
		(ii)	Sports
3.	Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership	(i)	Promotion of social values
		(ii)	Community engagement
4.	Facilitate participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance	(i)	Participation in politics and governance
		(ii)	Youth engagement
5.	Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalised youth	(i)	Inclusion
		(ii)	Social justice

In the 2003 policy, ‘youth’ was defined as a person of age between 13-35 years, but in the 2014 policy, the youth age-group is defined as 15-29 years with a view to have a more focused approach, as far as various policy interventions are concerned.

NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION

A National Policy on Education (NPE) was adopted in 1986 and this was modified/revised in 1992. The modified policy envisages a National System of Education to bring about uniformity in education, making adult education programmes a mass movement, providing universal access to education, retention of students and quality in elementary education, special emphasis on education of girls, establishment of pace-setting schools like Navodaya Vidyalayas in each district, vocationalisation of secondary education, synthesis of knowledge and inter-disciplinary research in higher education, starting more Open Universities in the states, strengthening of the All-India Council of Technical Education, encouraging sports, physical education, *yoga* and adoption of an effective evaluation method, etc. Besides, a decentralised management structure had also been suggested to ensure popular participation in education.

The National System of Education as envisaged in the NPE is based on a national curricular framework, which envisages a common core along with other flexible and region-specific components. While the policy stresses on widening of opportunities for the people, it calls for consolidation of the existing system of higher and technical education. It also emphasises upon the need for a much higher level of investment in education of at least six per cent of the national income.

The Policy also envisages that the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) will play a pivotal role in reviewing educational development, determining the changes required to improve upon the system and monitoring implementation, and will function through appropriate mechanisms created to ensure contact with, and coordination among, the various areas of human resource development.

NATIONAL POLICY ON CHILD LABOUR

A National Policy on Child Labour was formulated in 1987. It contains the action plan for tackling the problem of child labour. It envisages:

1. A legislative action plan for strict enforcement of Child Labour Act and other labour laws
2. Focusing and convergence of general development programmes for benefiting working children wherever possible
3. Project-based plan of action for launching of projects for the welfare of working children in areas of high concentration of child labour

In pursuance of the above policy, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme was started in 1988 to rehabilitate the working children. The Scheme seeks to adopt a sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes in the first instance. Under the Scheme, after a survey of child labour engaged in hazardous occupations and processes has been conducted, children are to be withdrawn from these occupations and processes and then put into special schools in order to enable them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system.

NATIONAL POLICY ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDMD) was adopted in 2009. The objectives of the

policy are as follows:

1. Promoting a culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience at all levels through knowledge, innovation and education
2. Encouraging mitigation measures based on technology, traditional wisdom and environmental sustainability
3. Mainstreaming disaster management into the developmental planning process
4. Establishing institutional and techno-legal frameworks to create an enabling regulatory environment and a compliance regime
5. Ensuring efficient mechanism for identification, assessment and monitoring of disaster risks
6. Promoting a productive partnership with the media to create awareness and contributing towards capacity development
7. Ensuring efficient response and relief with a caring approach towards the needs of the vulnerable sections of the society
8. Undertaking reconstruction as an opportunity to build disaster resilient structures and habitat for ensuring safer living

NATIONAL TRIBAL POLICY

A draft National Tribal Policy was formulated in 2006. It covers all important issues that concern tribals. Its objectives are as follows:

1. Preservation of traditional and customary systems and regime of rights and concessions enjoyed by different ST communities
2. Preventing alienation of land owned by STs and restoring possession of wrongfully alienated lands
3. Protection and vesting of rights of STs on forest lands and other forest rights
4. Providing a legislative frame for rehabilitation and resettlement in order to minimise displacement
5. Empowerment of tribal communities to promote self-governance and self-rule
6. Protection of political rights to ensure greater and active participation of tribals in political bodies at all levels
7. Reducing and removing the gap in the HDI of the tribal population and the general population
8. Ensuring access to health care services, safe drinking water and improved sanitation
9. Increase the participation of STs in sports and culture at local, district state and National levels
10. Promotion and development of tribal handicrafts and organic and ethnic products
11. Arresting the increasing demand from new communities for inclusion in the list of STs by rationalising the process of scheduling
12. Focussing on the development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), which are to be renamed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
13. Development of nomadic and semi-nomadic Tribes through need based specific programmes

NATIONAL POLICY ON OPEN STANDARDS FOR E-GOVERNANCE

The Government of India (GoI) has taken major initiatives to accelerate the development and implementation of e-Governance and to create right environments for introducing G2G, G2B, G2E and G2C services within the country.

A National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance was notified in November 2010. It provides a set of guidelines for the consistent, standardised and reliable implementation of e-Governance solutions. It has been designed to ensure seamless interoperability of various e-Governance solutions developed by multiple agencies. It also aims to improve the technology choices available and avoid vendor lock-in.

The policy is applicable to all systems used for e-Governance. All standards used in any new e-Governance Systems (including all inter-department and intra-department systems) and Government to public (including businesses) systems must adhere to this policy. For legacy systems, it must be ensured that interface with other systems from the legacy system must adhere to this policy. The designated body/agencies responsible for standardisation would apply the principles of this policy while adopting/evolving standards.

The GoI shall adopt Single and Royalty-Free (RF) Open Standard progressively for a “specific purpose within a domain” (“area”), to meet the laid down objectives of the policy.

An Identified Standard will qualify as an “Open Standard” if it meets the following criteria:

1. Specification document of the Identified Standard shall be available with or without a nominal fee
2. The patent claims necessary to implement the Identified Standard shall be made available on a Royalty-Free basis for the life time of the Standard
3. Identified Standard shall be adopted and maintained by a not-for-profit organisation, wherein all stakeholders can opt to participate in a transparent, collaborative and consensual manner
4. Identified Standard shall be recursively open as far as possible
5. Identified Standard shall have technology-neutral specification
6. Identified Standard shall be capable of supporting all Indian official languages

NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

The first National Health Policy (NHP) of 1983 was a response to the commitment to the Alma Ata declaration to achieve “Health for All by 2000”. It was revised in 2002.

The National Health Policy of 2002 (NHP-2002) was formulated with the following objectives:

1. The main objective of this policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country.
2. The approach is to increase access to the decentralized public health system by establishing

new infrastructure in deficient areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions.

3. Overriding importance is given to ensuring a more equitable access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country.
4. Emphasis is given to increasing the aggregate public health investment through a substantially increased contribution by the Central Government. It is expected that this initiative will strengthen the capacity of the public health administration at the state level to render effective service delivery.
5. The contribution of the private sector in providing health services is much enhanced, particularly for the population group which can afford to pay for services.
6. Primacy is given to preventive and first-line curative initiatives at the primary health level through increased sectoral share of allocation.
7. Emphasis is laid on rational use of drugs within the allopathic system.
8. Increased access to tried and tested systems of traditional medicine is ensured.

Within these broad objectives, NHP-2002 endeavours to achieve the time-bound goals mentioned in the following table:

Table 2.2 Goals of National Health Policy (2002)

<i>Goals</i>	<i>To Be Achieved By</i>
1. Eradicate Polio and Yaws	2005
2. Eliminate Leprosy	2005
3. Eliminate <i>Kala Azar</i>	2010
4. Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis	2015
5. Achieve zero-level growth of HIV / AIDS	2007
6. Reduce Mortality by 50% on account of Tuberculosis, Malaria and other Vector and Water-Borne diseases	2010
7. Reduce Prevalence of Blindness to 0.5%	2010
8. Reduce IMR to 30/1000 and MMR 100/Lakh	2010
9. Increase utilisation of public health facilities from current level of <20 to >75%	2010
10. Establish an integrated system of surveillance, National Health Accounts and Health Statistics.	2005
11. Increase health expenditure by Government as a % of GDP from the existing 0.9% to 2.0%	2010
12. Increase share of Central grants to constitute at least 25% of total health spending	2010
13. Increase State Sector Health spending from 5.5% to 7% of the budget	2005
14. Further increase of State Sector Health Spending from 7% to 8%	2010

NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH POLICY

A draft National Health Research Policy was formulated in 2011. Its vision is to maximise the returns on investments in health research through creation of a health research system to prioritise, coordinate, facilitate conduct of effective and ethical health research and its translation into products, policies and programmes aimed at improving health especially of the vulnerable populations.

The objectives of the policy are:

1. To identify priorities for effective and ethical health research to enable the achievement of the objectives of National Health Policy (NHP) 2002, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Bharat Nirman and National Food Security Act as well as global commitments such as Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and International Health Regulations (IHR), ensuring that the results of health research are translated into action.
2. To foster inter-sectoral coordination in health research including all departments within the Government, Private Sector and the Academia to promote innovation and ensure effective translation to encourage/accelerate indigenous production of diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics, medical devices, etc.
3. To focus on the marginalised, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged sections of society.
4. To strengthen national networks between research institutes, academia and service institutes, and encourage Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
5. To put in place strategies and mechanisms for assessing the cost effectiveness and cost benefits of interventions for health.
6. To develop and manage human resources and infrastructure for health research and ensure that international collaborative research contributes to national health.

The policy makes the following prescriptions:

1. Create a National Health Research System
2. Establish a National Health Research Management Forum
3. Operationalise a Ten-point action programme

NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY

A National Population Policy was adopted in 2000. It provides a framework for advancing goals and prioritising strategies during the next decade to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people of India. It states that the objective of economic and social development is to improve the quality of lives people lead to enhance their well-being and to provide them with opportunities and choices to become productive assets in society.

The objectives of the policy are mentioned below:

1. The immediate objective is to address the un-met needs for contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

2. The medium-term objective is to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement levels by 2010, through a vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies.
3. The long-term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

In pursuance of these objectives, the policy formulated 14 National Socio-Demographic Goals to be achieved by 2010. They are :

1. To address the un-met needs for basic reproductive and child health services.
2. To make school education free and compulsory and reduce drop outs.
3. To reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births.
4. To reduce maternal mortality rate to below 100 per 100,000 live births.
5. To achieve universal immunization of children.
6. To promote delayed marriage for girls.
7. To achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries.
8. To achieve universal access to information/counseling and services.
9. To achieve 100 per cent registration of births, deaths and marriages.
10. To contain the spread of AIDS.
11. To prevent and control communicable diseases.
12. To integrate Indian Systems of Medicine in the provision of services.
13. To promote vigorously the small family norm.
14. To bring convergence in implementation of related programs.

NATIONAL URBAN HOUSING AND HABITAT POLICY

The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (2007) seeks to promote various types of public-private partnerships for realising the goal of “Affordable Housing For All” with special emphasis on the urban poor. The salient features of the policy are as follows:

1. Role of housing and provision of basic services to the urban poor has been integrated into the objectives of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).
2. Special emphasis has been laid on Scheduled Castes/Tribes/Backward Classes/Minorities, Empowerment of Women within the ambit of the urban poor.
3. The policy focuses on a symbiotic development of rural and urban areas in line with the objectives of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act.
4. Emphasis has been laid on urban planning, increased supply of land, use of spatial incentives like additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR), Transferable Development Rights, etc., increased flow of funds, healthy environment, effective solid waste management and use of renewal sources of energy.
5. Encouraging Integrated townships and Special Economic Zones. 10-15% of land in every new public/private housing projects or 20-25% FAR whichever is greater to be reserved for

EWS/LIG Housing through appropriate spatial incentives.

6. Private sector to be permitted land assembly within the purview of Master Plans. Action plans for urban slum dwellers and special package for cooperative housing, labour housing and employees housing is to be prepared.
7. Approach will be *in situ* slum rehabilitation. Relocation will be considered only in specific cases.
8. Micro finance institutions to be promoted at state level to expedite flow of finances to urban poor.
9. Model municipal laws to be prepared by the Central Government.
10. Development of mass rapid transit system at sub-regional level envisaged.
11. Green cover for cities to be encouraged for balanced ecological development.
12. All states to be encouraged to develop a “Habitat Infrastructure Action Plan” for all cities with a population of over one lakh.

NATIONAL POLICY ON URBAN STREET VENDORS

In 2009, the Government had comprehensively revised the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors (2004). The revised National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009 aims at fostering a congenial environment for the urban street vendors to carry out their activities without harassment from any quarter. It also provides mechanism of regulation of such activities to avoid congestion on sidewalks and to ensure free flow of traffic on roads.

The salient features of the policy are mentioned as follows:

1. A Town Vending Committee (TVC) is to be constituted by the appropriate Government in all cities/towns.
2. To prevent the extortion of street vendors, the collection of revenue through TVC introduced.
3. TVC to be responsible for redressal of grievances and resolution of disputes arising amongst street vendors or between street vendors and third parties – as the first point of intervention.
4. Demarcation of ‘Restriction- Free Vending Zones’, ‘Restricted Vending Zones’ and ‘No-Vending Zones’ to be made city/town specific; Mobile vending to be permitted in all areas unless designated as ‘No-vending Zone’.
5. Master/zonal/local development plans to address the requirements of space for street vending as an important urban activity.
6. There should not be any cut-off date for registration or limit imposed on the number of vendors to be permitted in any city/town.
7. Registration and issuance of Identity Cards to street vendors with details such as vendor’s code number, vendor’s name, vendor’s nominee, category (stationary/mobile) etc.
8. Comprehensive, digitised photographic surveys of street vendors and their locations .
9. Concept of roster-based time-sharing model of space introduced where demand for space exceeds supply.
10. Provision for reservation for SCs/STs and priority to differently-abled persons in the

allocation of vending stalls/spaces.

11. A time limit for stationary vendors – 10 years with a further extension of another 10 years introduced.
12. Street vendors, being micro-entrepreneurs to be provided with access to credit, microfinance, insurance, vocational education etc.

NATIONAL URBAN SANITATION POLICY

The vision of the National Urban Sanitation Policy (2008) is that “all Indian cities and towns become totally sanitized, healthy and liveable and ensure and sustain good public health and environmental outcome for all their citizens with a special focus on hygienic and affordable sanitation facilities for the urban poor and women.”

In order to achieve the above goal, the policy suggests the undertaking of the following activities :

1. Generating awareness about sanitation and its linkages with public and environmental health amongst communities and institutions.
2. Promoting mechanisms to bring about and sustain behavioural changes aimed at adoption of healthy sanitation practices.
3. Promoting access to households with safe sanitation facilities (including proper disposal arrangements).
4. Promoting community-planned and managed toilets for groups of households who have constraints of space, tenure or economic constraints in gaining access to individual facilities.
5. Adequate availability and 100% upkeep and management of public sanitation facilities in all urban areas, to rid them of open defecation and environmental hazards.
6. Mainstream thinking, planning and implementing measures related to sanitation in all sectors and departmental domains as a cross-cutting issue.
7. Strengthening national, state, city and local institutions (public, private and community) to accord priority to sanitation provision.
8. Extending access to proper sanitation facilities for poor communities and other unserved settlements.
9. Promoting proper functioning of network-based sewerage systems and ensuring connections of households to them.
10. Promoting recycle and reuse of treated waste water for non-potable applications.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING POLICY

In 2011, the government announced a National Manufacturing Policy to bring about a quantitative and qualitative change with the following six objectives:

1. Increase manufacturing sector growth to 12-14% over the medium-term to make it the engine of growth for the economy. The 2 to 4% differential over the medium-term growth rate of the overall economy will enable manufacturing to contribute atleast 25% of the National GDP by

2022.

2. Increase the rate of job creation in manufacturing to create 100 million additional jobs by 2022.
3. Creation of appropriate skill sets among the rural migrant and urban poor to make growth inclusive.
4. Increase domestic value addition and technological 'depth' in manufacturing.
5. Enhance global competitiveness of Indian manufacturing through appropriate policy support.
6. Ensure sustainability of growth, particularly with regards to the environment including energy efficiency, optimal utilisation of natural resources and restoration of damaged/ degraded ecosystems.

Specific policy instruments have been conceptualised to achieve the objectives stated above. These instruments broadly cover the following areas:

1. Rationalisation and simplification of business regulations
2. Simple and expeditious exit mechanism for closure of sick units while protecting labour interests
3. Financial and institutional mechanisms for technology development, including green technologies
4. Industrial training and skill upgradation measures
5. Incentives for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
6. Special Focus Sectors
7. Leveraging infrastructure deficit and government procurement—including defence
8. Clustering and aggregation : National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs)
9. Trade Policy

NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY

The vision of the National Telecom Policy (2012) is to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development.

The objectives/thrust areas of the policy are as follows:

1. Increase rural tele-density from the current level of around 39 to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020.
2. Provide affordable and reliable broadband-on-demand by the year 2015 and to achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.
3. Enable citizens to participate in and contribute to e-governance in key sectors like health, education, skill development, employment, governance, banking, etc. to ensure equitable and inclusive growth.
4. Provide high speed and high quality broadband access to all village panchayats through a combination of technologies by the year 2014 and progressively to all villages and habitations

by 2020.

5. Promote innovation, indigenous R&D and manufacturing to serve domestic and global markets, by increasing skills and competencies.
6. Simplify the licensing framework to further extend converged high quality services across the nation including rural and remote areas. This will not cover content regulation.
7. Strive to create One Nation – One License across services and service areas.
8. Achieve One Nation – Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation – Free Roaming.
9. Reposition the mobile phone from a mere communication device to an instrument of empowerment that combines communication with proof of identity, fully secure financial and other transaction capability, multi-lingual services and a whole range of other capabilities that ride on them and transcend the literacy barrier.
10. Deliver high quality seamless voice, data, multimedia and broadcasting services on converged networks for enhanced service delivery to provide superior experience to users.
11. Optimise delivery of services to consumers irrespective of their devices or locations by fixed-mobile convergence, thus making available valuable spectrum for other wireless services.
12. Recognise telecom as Infrastructure Sector to realise true potential of ICT for development.
13. Enhanced and continued adoption of green policy in telecom and incentivise use of renewable energy sources for sustainability.
14. Protect consumer interest by promoting informed consent, transparency and accountability in quality of service, tariff, usage etc.
15. Achieve substantial transition to new Internet Protocol (IPv 6) in the country in a phased and time bound manner by 2020 and encourage an ecosystem for provision of a significantly large bouquet of services on IP platform.

NATIONAL WATER POLICY

The first National Water Policy was adopted in 1987. This policy was revised in 2002 and again in 2012.

The new National Water Policy of 2012 was formulated to ensure sustainable and equitable development taking into consideration the likely impact due to climate change. The salient features of this policy are as follows:

1. Safe water for drinking and sanitation should be considered as pre-emptive needs, followed by high priority allocation for other basic domestic needs (including needs of animals), achieving food security, supporting sustenance agriculture and minimum eco-system needs. Available water, after meeting the above needs, should be allocated in a manner to promote its conservation and efficient use.
2. There is a need to evolve a National Water Framework Law as an umbrella statement of general principles governing the exercise of legislative and/or executive (or devolved) powers by the Centre, the States and the local governing bodies.

3. There is a need for comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-state rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources.
4. Ecological needs of the river should be determined, through scientific study, recognising that the natural river flows are characterized by low or no flows, small floods (freshets), large floods, etc., and should accommodate developmental needs.
5. Planning and management of water resources structures, such as, dams, flood embankments, tidal embankments, etc., should incorporate coping strategies for possible climate changes. The acceptability criteria in regard to new water resources projects need to be re-worked in view of the likely climate changes.
6. A system to evolve benchmarks for water uses for different purposes, i.e., water footprints, and water auditing should be developed to promote and incentivise efficient use of water.
7. Pricing of water should ensure its efficient use and reward conservation. Equitable access to water for all and its fair pricing, for drinking and other uses such as sanitation, agricultural and industrial, should be arrived at through independent statutory Water Regulatory Authority, set up by each state.
8. Water Users, Associations (WUAs) should be given statutory powers to collect and retain a portion of water charges, manage the volumetric quantum of water allotted to them and maintain the distribution system in their jurisdiction.
9. Encroachments and diversion of water bodies (like rivers, lakes, tanks, ponds, etc.) and drainage channels (irrigated area as well as urban area drainage) must not be allowed, and wherever it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly.
10. Being inter-disciplinary in nature, water resources projects should be planned considering social and environmental aspects also in addition to techno-economic considerations in consultation with project affected and beneficiary families.
11. While every effort should be made to avert water related disasters like floods and droughts, through structural and non-structural measures, emphasis should be on preparedness for flood/drought with coping mechanisms as an option. Greater emphasis should be placed on rehabilitation of natural drainage system.
12. There is a need to remove the large disparity between stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas. Efforts should be made to provide improved water supply in rural areas with proper sewerage facilities.
13. There should be a forum at the national level to deliberate upon issues relating to water and evolve consensus, co-operation and reconciliation amongst party states.
14. A permanent Water Disputes Tribunal at the Centre should be established to resolve the disputes expeditiously in an equitable manner.
15. Water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. For improved service delivery on sustainable basis, the State Governments/urban local bodies may associate private sector in public private partnership mode with penalties for failure.
16. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) taking river basin/sub-basin as a unit should be the main principle for planning, development and management of water resources.
17. A National Water Informatics Centre should be established to collect, collate and process

hydrologic data regularly from all over the country, conduct the preliminary processing, and maintain in an open and transparent manner on a GIS platform.

18. An autonomous centre for research in water policy should also be established to evaluate impacts of policy decisions and to evolve policy directives for changing the scenario of water resources.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY

The first ever National Agriculture Policy was announced in 2000. The policy seeks to actualise the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalisation and globalisation. Over the next two decades, the policy aims to attain:

1. A growth rate in excess of four per cent per annum in the agriculture sector.
2. The policy seeks to promote technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading, and socially acceptable use of country's natural resources – land, water and genetic endowment to promote sustainable development of agriculture.
3. The use of bio-technologies will be promoted for evolving plants which consume less water, are drought resistant, pest resistant, contain more nutrition, give higher yields and are environmentally safe.
4. Conservation of bio-resources through their *ex situ* preservation in Gene Banks, as also *in situ* conservation in their natural habitats through bio-diversity parks, etc., will receive a high priority to prevent depletion of bio-diversity.
5. Balanced and conjunctive use of bio-mass, organic and inorganic fertilizers and controlled use of agro chemicals through integrated nutrients and pest management (INM & IPM) will be promoted.
6. A regionally differentiated strategy will be pursued, taking into account the agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions to realise the full growth potential of every region. Special attention will be given to development of new crop varieties, particularly of food crops, with higher nutritional value.
7. A major thrust will be given to development of rainfed and irrigated horticulture, floriculture, roots and tubers, plantation crops, aromatic and medicinal plants, bee-keeping and sericulture for augmenting food supply, promoting exports and generating employment in the rural areas.
8. Development of animal husbandry, poultry, dairying and aqua-culture will receive a high priority in the efforts for diversifying agriculture, increasing animal protein availability in the food basket and for generating exportable surpluses.
9. An integrated approach to marine and inland fisheries, designed to promote sustainable aquaculture practices, will be adopted.
10. The regionalisation of agricultural research based on identified agro-climatic zones will be accorded high priority. Application of frontier sciences like bio-technology, remote sensing technologies, pre-and post-harvest technologies, energy saving technologies, technology for

environmental protection through national research system as well as proprietary research will be encouraged.

11. The research and extension linkages will be strengthened to improve quality and effectiveness of research and extension system.
12. Adequate and timely supply of quality inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals, bio-pesticides, agricultural machinery and credit at reasonable rates to farmers will be the endeavour of the Government.
13. The Government will endeavour to create a favourable economic environment for increasing capital formation and farmer's own investments by removing distortions in the incentive regime for agriculture, improving the terms of trade with manufacturing sectors and bringing about external and domestic market reforms.
14. Rural electrification will be given a high priority as a prime mover for agricultural development. The quality and availability of electricity supply will be improved and the demand of the agriculture sector will be met adequately in a reliable and cost effective manner.
15. Bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised, completion of all on-going projects, restoration and modernisation of irrigation infrastructure including drainage, evolving and implementing an integrated plan of augmentation and management of national water resources will receive special attention for augmenting the availability and use of irrigation water.
16. Emphasis will be laid on development of marketing infrastructure and techniques of preservation, storage and transportation with a view to reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring a better return to the grower.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR FARMERS

The Government had constituted a National Commission on Farmers in 2004 under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. The Commission submitted its final report in 2006. Based on the recommendations made by the Commission, the “National Policy for Farmers, 2007” has been formulated and approved.

The goals of the policy are:

1. To improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers and to ensure that agricultural progress is measured by advances made in this income.
2. To protect and improve land, water, bio-diversity and genetic resources essential for sustained increase in the productivity, profitability and stability of major farming systems by creating an economic stake in conservation.
3. To develop support services including provision for seeds, irrigation, power, machinery and implements, fertilizers and credit at affordable prices in adequate quantity for farmers.
4. To strengthen the bio-security of crops, farm animals, fish and forest trees for safeguarding the livelihood and income security of farmer families and the health and trade security of the nation.

5. To provide appropriate price and trade policy mechanisms to enhance farmers' income.
6. To provide for suitable risk management measures for adequate and timely compensation to farmers.
7. To complete the unfinished agenda in land reforms and to initiate comprehensive asset and aquarian reforms.
8. To mainstream the human and gender dimension in all farm policies and programmes.
9. To pay explicit attention to sustainable rural livelihoods.
10. To foster community-centred food, water and energy security systems in rural India and to ensure nutrition security at the level of every child, woman and man.
11. To introduce measures which can help attract and retain youths in farming and processing of farm products for higher value addition by making it intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding.
12. To make India a global outsourcing hub in the production and supply of the inputs needed for sustainable agriculture, products and processes developed through biotechnology and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
13. To restructure the agricultural curriculum and pedagogic methodologies for enabling every farm and home science graduate to become an entrepreneur and to make agricultural education gender sensitive.
14. To develop and introduce a social security system for farmers.
15. To provide appropriate opportunities in adequate measure for the non-farm employment of the farm households.

For the purpose of this policy, the term “farmer” will refer to a person actively engaged in the economic and/or livelihood activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities and will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters and planting labourers, as well as persons engaged in various farming related occupations such as sericulture vermiculture, and agro-forestry. The term will also include tribal families/persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The objectives of the National Environment Policy (2006) are mentioned below:

1. To protect and conserve critical ecological systems and resources, and invaluable natural and man-made heritage, which are essential for life support, livelihoods, economic growth, and a broad conception of human well-being.
2. To ensure equitable access to environmental resources and quality for all sections of society, and in particular, to ensure that poor communities, which are most dependent on environmental resources for their livelihoods, are assured secure access to these resources.
3. To ensure judicious use of environmental resources to meet the needs and aspirations of the present and future generations.

4. To integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans, programmes, and projects for economic and social development.
5. To ensure efficient use of environmental resources in the sense of reduction in their use per unit of economic output, to minimise adverse environmental impacts.
6. To apply the principles of good governance (transparency, rationality, accountability, reduction in time and costs, participation, and regulatory independence) to the management and regulation of use of environmental resources.
7. To ensure higher resource flows, comprising finance, technology, management skills, traditional knowledge, and social capital, for environmental conservation through mutually beneficial multi-stakeholder partnerships between local communities, public agencies, the academic and research community, investors, and multilateral and bilateral development partners.

NATIONAL BIO-FUEL POLICY

The National Policy on Bio-fuels (2009) endeavours to facilitate and bring about optimal development and utilisation of indigenous biomass feedstocks for production of bio-fuels. The policy also envisages development of the next generation of more efficient bio-fuel conversion technologies based on new feedstocks.

The policy sets out the vision, medium-term goals, strategy and approach to bio-fuel development, and proposes a framework of technological, financial and institutional interventions and enabling mechanisms.

The policy aims at mainstreaming of bio-fuels and, therefore, envisions a central role for it in the energy and transportation sectors of the country in the coming decades. The policy will bring about accelerated development and promotion of the cultivation, production and use of bio-fuels to increasingly substitute petrol and diesel for transport and be used in stationary and other applications, while contributing to energy security, climate change mitigation, apart from creating new employment opportunities and leading to environmentally sustainable development.

The salient features of the policy are as follows:

1. Bio-diesel production will be taken up from non-edible oil seeds in waste/degraded/marginal lands.
2. An indicative target of 20% blending of bio-fuels, both for bio-diesel and bio-ethanol, by 2017 has been proposed.
3. Minimum Support Price (MSP) for non-edible oil seeds would be announced with periodic revision to provide fair price to the growers.
4. Minimum Purchase Price (MPP) for purchase of bio-ethanol and bio-diesel would be announced with periodic revision.
5. Major thrust will be given to research, development and demonstration with focus on plantations, processing and production of bio-fuels, including Second Generation Bio-fuels.
6. Financial incentives, including subsidies and grants, may be considered for second generation bio-fuels. If it becomes necessary, a National Bio-fuel Fund could be considered.
7. A National Bio-fuel Coordination Committee, headed by the Prime Minister, will be set up to

provide policy guidance and coordination.

8. A Bio-fuel Steering Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, will be set up to oversee implementation of the policy.

NATIONAL POLICY ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The vision of the National Policy on Information Technology (2012) is to strengthen and enhance India's position as the Global IT hub and to use IT and cyber space as an engine for rapid, inclusive and substantial growth in the national economy.

The policy seeks to achieve the twin goals of bringing the full power of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) within the reach of the whole of India and harnessing the capability and human resources of the whole of India to enable India to emerge as the Global Hub and Destination for IT and ITES (Information Technology Enabled Services) by 2020. The focus of the policy is therefore on deployment of ICT in all sectors of the economy and on providing IT solutions to the world.

The objectives/thrust areas of the policy are as follows:

1. To increase revenues of IT and ITES Industry from 100 Billion USD currently to 300 Billion USD by 2020 and expand exports from 69 Billion USD currently to 200 Billion USD by 2020.
2. To gain significant global market-share in emerging technologies and services.
3. To promote innovation and R&D in cutting edge technologies and development of applications and solutions in areas like localisation, location based services, mobile value-added services, cloud computing, social media and utility models.
4. To encourage adoption of ICTs in key economic and strategic sectors to improve their competitiveness and productivity.
5. To provide fiscal benefits to SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and Startups for adoption of IT in value creation.
6. To create a pool of 10 million additional skilled manpower in ICT.
7. To make at least one individual in every household e-literate.
8. To provide for mandatory delivery of and affordable access to all public services in electronic mode.
9. To enhance transparency, accountability, efficiency, reliability and decentralisation in Government and in particular, in delivery of public services.
10. To leverage ICT for key social sector initiatives like education, health, rural development and financial services to promote equity and quality.
11. To make India the global hub for development of language technologies, to encourage and facilitate development of content accessible in all Indian languages and thereby help bridge the digital divide.
12. To enable access of content and ICT applications by differently-abled people to foster inclusive development.
13. To leverage ICT for expanding the workforce and enabling life-long learning.
14. To strengthen the Regulatory and Security Framework for ensuring a secure and legally

compliant Cyberspace ecosystem.

15. To adopt open standards and promote open source and open technologies.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

India's Scientific Policy Resolution (SPR) of 1958 resolved to foster, promote and sustain the cultivation of science and scientific research in all its aspects. Technology was then expected to flow from the country's established science infrastructure. The Technology Policy Statement (TPS) of 1983 emphasised the need to attain technological competence and self-reliance.

The Science and Technology Policy (STP) of 2003 brought science and technology together and emphasised the need for investment in R & D. It called for integrating programmes of socio-economic sectors with the national R & D system to address national problems as well as creating a national innovation system.

India has declared 2010–20 as the “Decade of Innovation”. The Government has stressed the need to enunciate a policy to synergise science, technology and innovation and has also established the National Innovation Council. The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy of 2013 is in furtherance of these pronouncements. It aims to bring fresh perspectives to bear on innovation in the Indian context.

The guiding vision of aspiring Indian STI enterprise is to accelerate the pace of discovery and delivery of science-led solutions for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth. A strong and viable Science, Research and Innovation system for High Technology-led path for India (SRISHTI) is the goal of the STI policy.

The key elements of the STI policy are:

1. Promoting the spread of scientific temper amongst all sections of society.
2. Enhancing skill for applications of science among the young from all social strata.
3. Making careers in science, research and innovation attractive enough for talented and bright minds.
4. Establishing world class infrastructure for R & D for gaining global leadership in some select frontier areas of science.
5. Positioning India among the top five global scientific powers by 2020.
6. Linking contributions of science, research and innovation system with the inclusive economic growth agenda and combining priorities of excellence and relevance.
7. Creating an environment for enhanced Private Sector Participation in R & D.
8. Enabling conversion of R & D outputs into societal and commercial applications by replicating hitherto successful models as well as establishing of new PPP structures.
9. Seeking S & T-based high-risk innovations through new mechanisms.
10. Fostering resource-optimised, cost-effective innovations across size and technology domains.
11. Triggering changes in the mindset and value systems to recognise, respect and reward performances which create wealth from S & T-derived knowledge.
12. Creating a robust national innovation system.

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY

The National Mineral Policy enunciated by the Central Government in 1993 was for liberalisation of the mining sector. With the passage of time and the economic development of the country, which requires a vibrant energy, metal and commodities sector to meet the infrastructure, manufacturing and other sectoral demands, nature and requirements of the mineral sector has changed.

Based on the recommendations of a High Level Committee set up in the Planning Commission, the National Mineral Policy, 1993 was replaced with a new National Mineral Policy, 2008.

The new National Mineral Policy provides for a change in the role of the Central Government and the State governments, particularly in relation to incentivising private sector investment in exploration and mining and ensuring level-playing field and transparency in the grant of concessions and promotion of scientific mining within a sustainable development framework as also to protect the interest of local population in mining areas.

The salient features of the policy are mentioned below:

1. It will be ensured that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically in the entire geologically conducive mineral bearing area of the country using state-of-the-art techniques in a time bound manner.
2. Zero waste mining will be the national goal and mining technology will be upgraded to ensure extraction and utilisation of the entire run-of-mines.
3. The regulatory environment will be improved to make it more conducive to investment and technology flows. Capital market structures will be developed to attract risk investment into survey and prospecting.
4. Transparency in allocation of concessions will be assured. Preference may be given to a value addition industry in grant of mineral concession. However, this will not in any way undermine the security of tenure to a holder of a concessionaire.
5. The development of a proper inventory of resources and reserves, a mining tenement registry and a mineral atlas will be given priority.
6. Enforcement of mining plans for adoption of proper mining methods and optimum utilisation of minerals will be ensured.
7. A framework of sustainable development will be designed which takes care of bio diversity issues and to ensure that mining activity takes place along with suitable measures for restoration of the ecological balance.
8. Special care will be taken to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) populations through developing models of stakeholder interest based on international best practice.
9. Employment and tertiary sector spin-offs from both value addition as well as from mining will be encouraged so as to maximise the contribution of the mineral sector to the country's gross domestic product.
10. Innovative structures will be devised for developing and financing the infrastructure needs of the mining sector. While assistance through viability gap funding will be extended where required the principle of user charges and Private Public Participation will be the basis on which mining infrastructure will be built.
11. The revenues from minerals will be rationalised to ensure that the mineral bearing states get a

fair share of the value of the minerals extracted from their grounds.

12. A comprehensive institutional framework for Research & Development, and Training will be developed.

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

The National Sports Policy, 1984 was the first move towards developing an organised and systematic framework for the development and promotion of sports in the country, and the precursor of the present National Sports Policy, 2001.

The twin planks of the National Sports Policy (2001) are “Broad-basing of Sports” and “Achieving Excellence in Sports” at the national and international levels.

The salient features of the policy are as under:

1. Broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence.
2. Up-gradation and development of infrastructure.
3. Support to National Sports Federations and other sports bodies.
4. Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports.
5. Special incentives to promote sports.
6. Enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth.
7. Involvement of corporate sector in sports promotion.
8. Promote sports mindedness among the public at large.

The Draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy (2007) aims at building on previous sports policies with a view to accomplishing the unfinished agenda and addressing the emerging challenges of India in the 21st century. It aims at making the framework for sports in India more effective and inclusive with the full ownership and involvement of all stakeholders. The participant/athlete shall occupy centre-stage in the policy, with all other stakeholders playing a promotional, supportive and convergent role.

The policy has three broad objectives: (i) Sports for all, (ii) Excellence in sports and (iii) Contingent Constitutional, Legal and Institutional measures to operationalise the policy. These are explained below:

1. To provide universal access to sports and physical education for all classes of citizens, in all segments of society and across all age groups.
2. To provide for sports facilities in rural areas and urban areas through local institutions.
3. Universalise sports facilities in educational institutions, get physical education and sports made an integral part of the curriculum up to the higher secondary level.
4. Mass participation for sports culture and competitions by fostering a sports club culture, promoting sports competitions, linking youth development and sports, by advocating the benefits of sports.
5. Promotion of sports among young girls and women, sports for persons with disability, sports and physical exercise for senior citizens, National Physical Fitness Programme.
6. To achieve the highest levels of performance at the highest levels of international competition,

a well-formulated, target-oriented and need-based approach will be adopted.

7. Ensuring fair and reasonable opportunities to all talented young sportspersons, irrespective of economic background, social origin, gender or regional location, to fully realise their potential, and win laurels for themselves and glory for the nation.
8. Providing for a sufficient number of sports competitions at all levels, from the village/urban neighbourhood level through the block/district level to the state level, to create a culture of mass participation in competitive sports.
9. Strengthening scientific and technical support systems for high performance athletes.
10. Making available sufficient high-end facilities, including appropriate nutrition, and trained sports instructors and sports scientists/doctors.
11. Devising a scheme of sports pensions that rewards a wide spectrum of not only those who have secured international or national-level awards but also those who have represented the nation.
12. High priority must be accorded to capping, reversing and eventually ending the scourge of doping in Indian athletics and other sports.
13. Leveraging sports for national economic development by encouraging sports tourism, including adventure sports in the country.
14. There has been under consideration in Parliament since the Twelfth Lok Sabha a Bill aimed at transferring the subject of “sports” from the State List to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule. It is, therefore, proposed to pursue in Parliament the need to shift the emphasis on sports from its present constitutional position.
15. A legislation under the residuary powers vested in the Union Government under Entry 97 of the Concurrent List may be considered for providing a legal framework for the Long-Term Development Plans.
16. To resolve disputes, a legislation is proposed to be introduced for establishing a Sports Regulatory Authority.
17. Thorough revamping of the Sports Authority of India and the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan to match up to the additional responsibilities
18. National Sports Federations/IOA: Redefining their relationship with Government through the modalities, principles and criteria for negotiating and enforcing the conditionalities agreed upon in Long-term Development Plans.

NATIONAL POLICY ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Government of India has set a target of skilling 500 million people by 2022. To this end, it formulated a National Policy on Skill Development in 2009. The vision of this policy is to empower all individuals through improved skills, knowledge, nationally and internationally recognised qualifications to gain access to decent employment and ensure India’s competitiveness in the global market.

The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Create opportunities for all to acquire skills throughout life, and especially for youth, women

and disadvantaged groups.

2. Promote commitment by all stakeholders to own skill development initiatives.
3. Develop a high-quality skilled workforce/entrepreneur relevant to current and emerging employment market needs.
4. Enable the establishment of flexible delivery mechanisms that respond to the characteristics of a wide range of needs of stakeholders.
5. Enable effective coordination between different ministries, the Centre and the States and public and private providers.

The coverage of the policy includes the following:

1. Institution-based skill development—including it is ITCs/vocational schools/technical schools/polytechnics/professional colleges, etc.
2. Learning initiatives of sectoral skill development organized by different ministries/departments.
3. Formal and informal apprenticeships and other types of training by enterprises.
4. Training for self-employment/entrepreneurial development.
5. Adult learning, retraining of retired or retiring employees and lifelong learning.
6. Non-formal training including training by civil society organisations.
7. E-learning, web-based learning and distance learning.

NATIONAL NUTRITION POLICY

A National Nutrition Policy was adopted in 1993. It advocates a multi-sectoral strategy for eradicating malnutrition and achieving optimum nutrition for all.

The policy advocates the monitoring the nutrition levels across the country and sensitizing government machinery on the need for good nutrition and prevention of malnutrition.

The policy also includes the Food and Nutrition Board, which develops posters, audio jungles and video spots for disseminating correct facts about breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

The policy has classified the nutritional problems of India as follows:

1. Under-nutrition resulting in:
 - (a) Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM)
 - (b) Iron deficiency (Nutritional Anemia)
 - (c) Iodine deficiency disorder
 - (d) Vitamin “A” deficiency
 - (e) Low birth weight children
2. Seasonal dimensions of nutrition
3. Natural calamities & nutrition
4. Market distortion and disinformation
5. Urbanisation
6. Special nutritional problems of hill people, industrial workers, migrant workers, and other

special categories

7. Problems of overnutrition, overweight and obesity for a small section of urban population

The policy suggested the following instruments to deal with the nutritional problems of India:

A. Direct intervention — Short Term:

- (i) Nutrition intervention for specially vulnerable groups:
 - (a) Expanding the safety net
 - (b) Reaching the adolescent girls
 - (c) Ensuring better coverage of expectant women
- (ii) Fortification of essential foods
- (iii) Popularisation of low cost nutritious food
- (iv) Control of micro-nutrient deficiencies amongst vulnerable groups

B. Indirect Policy Instruments — Long Term Institutional & Structural Changes:

- (i) Food security
- (ii) Improvement of dietary pattern through production and demonstration
- (iii) Policies for effecting income transfers so as to improve the entitlement package of the rural and urban poor:
 - (a) Improving the purchasing power
 - (b) Public distribution system
- (iv) Land reforms
- (v) Health & family welfare
- (vi) Basic health and nutrition knowledge
- (vii) Prevention of food adulteration
- (viii) Nutrition surveillance
- (ix) Monitoring of nutrition programmes
- (x) Research
- (xi) Equal remuneration
- (xii) Communication
- (xiii) Minimum wage administration
- (xiv) Community participation
- (xv) Education & literacy
- (xvi) Improvement of the status of women

NATIONAL LITIGATION POLICY

The Government has formulated the National Litigation Policy 2010, for conduct of litigation on its behalf.

The policy is aimed at reducing pendency of cases and puts checks on government litigation which form the bulk of pending cases.

The provisions / features / objectives of the policy are as follows:

1. The policy is based on the recognition that Government and its various agencies are the pre-dominant litigants in courts and Tribunals in the country. Its aim is to transform Government into an “Efficient and Responsible” litigant. This policy is also based on the recognition that it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the rights of citizens, to respect fundamental rights and those in charge of the conduct of Government litigation should never forget this basic principle.

According to the policy, “Efficient Litigant” means:

- (a) Focusing on the core issues involved in the litigation and addressing them squarely.
- (b) Managing and conducting litigation in a cohesive, coordinated and time-bound manner.
- (c) Ensuring that good cases are won and bad cases are not needlessly persevered with.
- (d) A litigant who is represented by competent and sensitive legal persons: competent in their skills and sensitive to the facts that Government is not an ordinary litigant and that a litigation does not have to be won at any cost.

Similarly, as per the policy, “Responsible Litigant” means:

- (a) That litigation will not be resorted to for the sake of litigating.
 - (b) That false pleas and technical points will not be taken and shall be discouraged.
 - (c) Ensuring that the correct facts and all relevant documents will be placed before the court.
 - (d) That nothing will be suppressed from the court and there will be no attempt to mislead any court or Tribunal.
2. Government must cease to be a compulsive litigant. The philosophy that matters should be left to the courts for ultimate decision has to be discarded. The easy approach, “Let the court decide,” must be eschewed and condemned.
 3. The purpose underlying this policy is also to reduce Government litigation in courts so that valuable court time would be spent in resolving other pending cases so as to achieve the goal in the National Legal Mission to reduce average pendency time from fifteen years to three years. Litigators on behalf of Government have to keep in mind the principles incorporated in the National mission for judicial reforms which includes identifying bottlenecks which the Government and its agencies may be concerned with and also removing unnecessary Government cases. Prioritisation in litigation has to be achieved with particular emphasis on welfare legislation, social reform, weaker sections and senior citizens and other categories requiring assistance must be given utmost priority.
 4. Given that Tribunalisation is meant to remove the loads from Courts, challenge to orders of Tribunals should be an exception and not a matter of routine.
 5. In Service Matters, no appeal will be filed in cases where:
 - (a) the matter pertains to an individual grievance without any major repercussion;
 - (b) the matter pertains to a case of pension or retirement benefits without involving any principle and without setting any precedent or financial implications.
 6. Further, proceedings will not be filed in service matters merely because the order of the Administrative Tribunal affects a number of employees. Appeals will not be filed to espouse the cause of one section of employees against another.
 7. Proceedings will be filed challenging orders of Administrative Tribunals only if:

- (a) there is a clear error of record and the finding has been entered against the Government.
 - (b) the judgement of the Tribunal is contrary to a service rule or its interpretation by a High Court or the Supreme Court.
 - (c) the judgement would impact the working of the administration in terms of morale of the service, the Government is compelled to file a petition; or
 - (d) if the judgement will have recurring implications upon other cadres or if the judgement involves huge financial claims being made.
8. Appeals in Revenue matters will not be filed:
- (a) if the stakes are not high and are less than that amount to be fixed by the Revenue Authorities;
 - (b) if the matter is covered by a series of judgements of the Tribunal or of the High Courts which have held the field and which have not been challenged in the Supreme Court;
 - (c) where the assessee has acted in accordance with long-standing industry practice;
 - (d) merely because of change of opinion on the part of jurisdictional officers.
9. All pending cases involving Government will be reviewed. This Due Diligence process shall involve drawing upon statistics of all pending matters which shall be provided for by all Government departments (including PSUs). The Office of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General shall also be responsible for reviewing all pending cases and filtering frivolous and vexatious matters from the meritorious ones.
10. Cases will be grouped and categorised. The practice of grouping should be introduced whereby cases should be assigned a particular number of identity according to the subject and statute involved. In fact, further sub-grouping will also be attempted. To facilitate this process, standard forms must be devised which lawyers have to fill up at the time of filing of cases. Panels will be set up to implement categorisation, review such cases to identify cases which can be withdrawn. These include cases which are covered by decisions of courts and cases which are found without merit withdrawn. This must be done in a time bound fashion.

NATIONAL DATA SHARING AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

The objective of the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy–2012 (NDSAP-2012) is to facilitate access to Government of India owned shareable data and information in both human readable and machine readable forms through a network all over the country in a proactive and periodically updatable manner, within the framework of various related policies, Acts and Rules of the Government, therefore, permitting a wider accessibility and use of public data and information.

The policy is formulated to promote data sharing and enable access to Government of India owned data for national planning and development. It is designed so as to apply to all sharable non-sensitive data available either in digital or analog forms.

The policy will apply to all data and information created, generated, collected and achieved using public funds provided by Government of India directly or through authorised agencies by various Ministries/ Departments/Organisations/Agencies and Autonomous bodies.

The principles on which data sharing and accessibility need to be based include: Openness, Flexibility, Transparency, Quality, Security and machine-readable.

As per the policy, every department has to identify datasets by the following categories:

- (i) Negative List : The datasets, which are confidential in nature and would compromise to the county's security if made public, are put into this list.
- (ii) Open List: This list comprises of datasets which don't fall under negative list. These datasets shall be prioritised into high value datasets and non-high values datasets.

Different types of datasets generated both in geospatial and non-spatial form by Ministries/Departments shall be classified as shareable data and non-shareable data. The derived statistics like national accounts statistics, indicators like price index, databases from census and surveys are the types of data produced by a statistical mechanism. However, the geospatial data consists primarily of satellite data, maps, etc. In such a mechanism, it becomes important to maintain standards in respect of metadata, data layout and data access policy.

The benefits of the data sharing policy are as follows:

1. Maximising use: Ready access to government owned data will enable more extensive use of a valuable public resource for the benefit of the community.
2. Avoiding duplication: By sharing data the need or separate bodies to collect the same data will be avoided resulting in significant cost savings in data collection.
3. Maximised integration: By adopting common standards for the collection and transfer of data, integration of individual data sets may be feasible.
4. Ownership information: The identification of owners for the principal data sets provide information to users to identify those responsible for implementation of prioritised data collection programs and development of data standards.
5. Better decision-making: Data and information facilitates making important decisions without incurring repetitive costs. Ready access to existing valuable data is essential for many decision-making tasks such as protecting the environment, development planning, managing assets, improving living conditions, national security and controlling disasters.
6. Equity of access: A more open data transfer policy ensures better access to all bonafide users.

NATIONAL POLICY ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) of 2012 attempts to curb the menace of drug abuse and contains provisions for treatment, rehabilitation and social re-integration of victims of drug abuse. The implementation of the provisions of the policy will lead to reduction of crime, improvement in public health and uplifting of the social milieu.

The policy will serve as a guide to various Ministries and organisations and re-assert India's commitment to combat the drug menace in a holistic manner.

The salient features of the policy are as follows:

1. The policy recommends production of Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) in India by a company or body corporate. This would enable India to retain its status of a traditional supplier of Opiate Raw Material (ORM) to the rest of world, while remaining competitive.
2. The consumption of poppy straw by addicts will be gradually reduced and finally stopped in a

time frame decided by the States.

3. On the illicit cultivation of poppy and cannabis, the policy emphasizes use of satellite imageries for detection of illicit crop and its subsequent eradication and development of alternate means of livelihood in respect of cultivators in pockets of traditional illicit cultivation.
4. The private sector may be allowed production of alkaloids from opium. At present alkaloids from opium are produced only in Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories (GOAFs).
5. Non-intrusive methods of regulating the manufacture, trade and use of such psychotropic substances will be introduced.
6. Emphasis will be laid on adequate access to morphine and other opioids necessary for palliative care, a strategy to address street peddlers of drugs, periodic surveys of drug abuse to gauge the extent, pattern and nature of drug abuse in the country, recognition of de-addiction centers.
7. There will be a time bound plan of action, detailing the steps to be taken by different Ministries/ Departments/agencies, in response to the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances have several medical and scientific uses. However, they can be and are also abused and trafficked. India's approach towards Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is enshrined in Article 47 of the Constitution of India which mandates that the 'State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health'. The same principle of preventing use of drugs except for medicinal use was also adopted in the three international conventions on drug related matters, viz., Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. India has signed and ratified these three conventions. India's commitment to prevention of drug abuse and trafficking predates the coming into force of the three conventions.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 was framed taking into account India's obligations under the three UN drug conventions as well as Article 47 of the Constitution mentioned above. This Act prohibits, except for medical or scientific purposes, the manufacture, production, trade, use, etc. of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The Government's policy has thus been to promote their use for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion from licit sources, and prohibiting illicit traffic and abuse. Unlike the earlier Opium Acts and the Dangerous Drugs Act which it replaced, the NDPS Act has given the power of enforcement to various central and state law enforcement agencies, thus spreading the net of law enforcement far and wide.

Table 2.3 National Policies and Related Ministries

	<i>Name of the Policy</i>	<i>Related Ministry / Department</i>
1.	National Policy on Skill Development	Ministry of Labour & Employment
2.	National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation	Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)

3.	National Youth Policy	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Youth Affairs)
4.	National Policy on Voluntary Organisations	Planning Commission
5.	National Policy for Empowerment of Women	Ministry of Women and Child Development
6.	National Policy for Children	Ministry of Women and Child Development
7.	National Policy for Persons with Disabilities	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Department of Disability Affairs)
8.	National Policy for Older Persons	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Department of Social Justice & Empowerment)
9.	National Policy on Education	Ministry of Human Resource Development
10.	National Policy on Child Labour	Ministry of Labour & Employment
11.	National Policy on Disaster Management	Ministry of Home Affairs
12.	National Tribal Policy	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
13.	National Policy on Open Standards for E-Governance	Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Electronics & Information Technology)
14.	National Sports Policy	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)
15.	National Nutrition Policy	Ministry of Women and Child Development
16.	National Litigation Policy	Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Legal Affairs)
17.	National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances	Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)
18.	National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy	Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Science & Technology)
19.	National Mineral Policy	Ministry of Mines
20.	Science, Technology and Innovation Policy	Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Science & Technology)
21.	National Policy on Information Technology	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics & Information Technology)
22.	National Bio-fuel Policy	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
23.	National Environment Policy	Ministry of Environment & Forests
24.	National Policy for Farmers	Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)
25.	National Agriculture Policy	Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)
26.	National Water Policy	Ministry of Water Resources
27.	National Telecom Policy	Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications)
28.	National Manufacturing Policy	Ministry of Commerce & Industry

		(Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion)
29.	National Urban Sanitation Policy	Ministry of Urban Development
30.	National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
31.	National Policy on Urban Street Vendors	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
32.	National Health Research Policy	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health Research)
33.	National Health Policy	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare)
34.	National Population Policy	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare)
