

India's 12th five-year plan goes Hackathon

In an unprecedented impetus to get people across India to engage directly with the 12th plan, a 2-day Hackathon was organised by the Planning Commission and National Innovation Council on 6th and 7th April 2013 in partnership with universities across the country. Audiences participated live from 10 sites at Aligarh Muslim University, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, IISc Bangalore, Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, University of Delhi and University of Jammu.

This 32 hour marathon to hack the Plan was inaugurated by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister. Describing its objective of 'bringing people to the plan' Montek Singh Ahluwalia invited participants to submit their entries with a focus on any of seven key sectors, namely macroeconomic framework, agriculture and rural development, health, water and environment, energy, education and skills development, and urban development.

The web-portal provides necessary resources to participants by giving an overview for each of the sectors listed as well as access to multiple data sets. For further details see <https://data.gov.in/hackathon>.

The 12th Five-year Plan (2012 – 2017) aims to achieve faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth in India. The plan is broadly classified under sections – macroeconomic framework; sustainable development; water; land issues; environment, forestry and wildlife; science and technology; innovation; governance; and regional equality. Financing the 12th plan estimates resource availability of Rs 80,50,123 crore (circa £96 billion) with the target GDP growth rate of 8 percent. This implies public sector resources of 11.8 percent of GDP compared to 10.96 percent of GDP expended in the 11th Plan.

The key achievements of the 11th plan (2007/8 to 2011/12) as stated in the draft 12th plan document are:

<http://planningcommission.gov.in/plans/planrel/12thplan/welcome.html>

- GDP growth was 7.9 percent compared with 7.6 percent in the Tenth Plan (2002–03 to 2006–07) and 5.7 percent in the Ninth Plan (1997–98 to 2001–02).
- Agricultural GDP growth accelerated to an average rate of 3.7 percent, compared with 2.4 percent in the Tenth Plan, and 2.5 percent in the Ninth Plan.
- The percentage of population below the poverty line declined at the rate of 1.5 percentage points (ppt) per year in the period 2004–05 to 2009–10, double the rate at which it declined in the previous period 1993–94 to 2004–05.
- The rate of growth of real consumption per capita in rural areas in the period 2004–05 to 2011–12 was 3.4 percent per year, which was four times the rate in the previous period 1993–94 to 2004–05.

- The rate of unemployment declined from 8.2 percent in 2004–05 to 6.6 per cent in 2009–10 reversing the trend observed in the earlier period when it had actually increased from 6.1 percent in 1993–94 to 8.2 percent in 2004–05.
- Rural real wages increased 6.8 percent per year in the Eleventh Plan (2007–08 to 2011–12) compared to an average 1.1 per cent per year in the previous decade, led largely by the government’s rural policies and initiatives.
- Complete immunisation rate increased by 2.1 ppt per year between 2002–04 and 2007–08, compared to a 1.7 ppt fall per year between 1998–99 and 2002–04. Institutional deliveries increased by 1.6 ppt per year between 2002–04 and 2007–08 higher than the 1.3 ppt increase per year between 1998–99 and 2002–04.
- Net enrolment rate at the primary level rose to a near universal 98.3 percent in 2009–10. Dropout rate (classes I–VIII) also showed improvements, falling 1.7 ppt per year between 2003–04 and 2009–10, which was twice the 0.8 ppt fall between 1998–99 and 2003–04.

Over a 1000 people participated in the Hackathon on 6th and 7th April. The entries were made online in three categories - visualisations, short films and mobile applications. Prizes have been awarded to entries in each of these categories ranging on topics including - ‘help my city’; education innovation; maternal and child health; malnutrition; water, environment and energy; and inclusive growth.

Anyone interested in sending your inputs on the 12th plan can write to arc@lse.ac.uk with the subject ‘India’s 12th Plan’ and we aim to send the feedback to the Planning Commission.

Dr Ruth Kattumuri, Co-Director, India Observatory