

Planning in India

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise The Planning in India. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

1. The Planning Commission (1950-2014)

A. Establishment and Structure



- **Date Established:** 15th March, 1950.
- **Legal Basis:** Established by a resolution of the Union Cabinet. It was an **extra-constitutional and non-statutory** body (not established by an Act of Parliament or mentioned in the Constitution).
- **Leadership:**
 - The Prime Minister was the **ex officio Chairman**.
 - The **Deputy Chairman** held a rank equivalent to a Cabinet Minister.

B. Key Personnel

- **First Chairman:** Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.
- **Notable Deputy Chairmen:** Dr. Manmohan Singh, Montek S. Ahluwalia.
- **Notable Figures Never Deputy Chairman:** Pranab Mukherjee, P. Chidambaram.

C. Function and Role

- Served as the highest decision-making body for economic planning in India.
- Described as the "economic cabinet" for both the Union and the States.
- Primary function was to formulate **Five-Year Plans** for the balanced utilization of the country's resources.
- The Secretary of the Planning Commission also acted as the Secretary of the **National Development Council (NDC)**.

D. Abolition

- Abolished in **2014** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

2. NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

A. Establishment and Nature

- **Date Established:** January 2015 (replaced the Planning Commission).
- **Legal Basis:** Established by a resolution of the Union Cabinet. It is an **extra-constitutional and non-statutory** body.
- **Governing Principle:** Based on **Cooperative Federalism**.

B. Structure and Leadership

- Has a **full-time Chairman** (a specific feature highlighted in the data).
- **Chairman:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **First Vice-Chairman:** Arvind Panagariya.

3. The National Development Council (NDC)

A. Establishment

- **Date Formed:** 6th August 1952.
- **Constitutional Status:** An **extra-constitutional** body (not mentioned in the Constitution).

B. Composition

- **Members:**
 - The Prime Minister presides over meetings.
 - Chief Ministers of all States.
 - Ministers of the Union Cabinet.
- **Not a Member:** The Chairman of the Finance Commission.

C. Function and Role

- Primary functions are to:
 - Approve Five-Year Plans.
 - Discuss the progress of the National Plan.
 - Suggest ways to achieve the goals of the National Plan.
 - Give guidelines for the formulation of the National Plan.
- The Secretary of the **Planning Commission** acted as the Secretary of the NDC.

4. Constitutional Status Summary of Key Bodies

Body	Constitutional Status	Notes
Finance Commission	Constitutional Body	Mentioned in the Constitution of India.
Election Commission	Constitutional Body	Mentioned in the Constitution of India.
UPSC	Constitutional Body	Mentioned in the Constitution of India.
State PSC	Constitutional Body	Mentioned in the Constitution of India.
Inter-State Council	Constitutional Body	Mentioned in the Constitution of India.
Planning	Extra-Constitutional	Not mentioned in the Constitution.

Commission	Body	Abolished in 2014.
NITI Aayog	Extra-Constitutional Body	Not mentioned in the Constitution.
National Development Council (NDC)	Extra-Constitutional Body	Not mentioned in the Constitution.
Zonal Councils	Extra-Constitutional Body	Not mentioned in the Constitution.

Know More About Planning in India:

- [Planning in India – Old Year Questions](#)

