

A critical appraisal of India's existing climate policy institutional framework



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In This Issue

LEAD ESSAY:

- A critical appraisal of India's existing climate policy institutional framework

HEADLINE OF THE WEEK:

- India's Renewable Energy Targets may be Overambitious
- Foreigner's Can't Hire Wombs in India
- Half of 92 Road Projects at Risk due to Delay, Clearances

SECTION 1: ECONOMY

- Financial Inclusion Need Not be Pushed Beyond A Point, Rajan

SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Politics and Governance:** Little Clarity on What AYUSH Must be Doing; Government of India Order Prohibits Foreign-Funded NGO Trustees to Work as Independent Media Persons
- **Development:** Is Nuclear Energy the Deadliest of Them All?
- **Security:** India and US to Set Up Terror Data Exchange
- **Environment:** National Green Tribunal Plans to Restore Ganga to Its Pristine Glory
- **Law and Justice:** Aftermath of the Enactment; Consider Legislation to Bar Criminals from Practising: High Court; SC Forms Bench to Decide on UID's Constitutionality
- **Defence:** Modi Pushes "Obsolete" Made-In-India Plane on Reluctant Military

SECTION 3: SOCIETY

- **Gender:** Changing the Gender Agenda in India;
- **Social Justice:** Mizoram Adopts UN Declaration on Tribal Rights
- **Demography:** Population Politics

SECTION 4: INDIA AND WORLD

- **India in the World:** Nepal forms Panel to Ease Political Standoff with India

Lead Essay

A critical appraisal of India's existing climate policy institutional framework

The aftermath of India's submission of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) or its national 'climate action plan' to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has re-focused attention on India's national strategy to combat climate change. India is not only the world's third largest contributor to Greenhouse gas emissions, but is also among the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts. The most vulnerable communities in India depend substantially on access to natural resources which would be threatened by climate change, such as, adivasis, the coastal communities, the mountain communities, the rain-fed farmers, the land-less and the marginal and small farmers, the dalits, the women and the poor.¹

India's INDC is not only reflective of its national strategy to combat climate change, but is also indicative of the expected negotiating position the country will take in the intergovernmental negotiations at the 21st Conference of Parties at Paris during December 2015. India's INDC focuses on the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) as one of the core programmes through which it would be operationalised, and has identified four new missions in addition to the existing eight viz. wind energy, health, waste to energy and coastal areas.²

India's institutional strategy to combat climate change:

The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was institutionalised in 2008 under the direction of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. It consists of eight missions:

- National Solar Mission
- Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- Green India Mission
- National Water Mission
- National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture
- National Mission on Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge

Besides the NAPCC, there has also been an institutionalization of the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) in a mode of decentralized climate governance. Recently, the government added four new missions to the NAPCC:³

- Wind energy: It would be modelled on the existing solar mission, and may set its target to produce 50,000 to 60,000 MW of power by 2022.
- Health: Will seek to assess impact of climate change on human health and address capacity building for coping with worsening health effects due to climate change.
- Coastal areas: It will prepare an integrated coastal resource management plan and will map vulnerabilities holistically.
- Waste-to-energy: It will incentivise energy-to-waste initiatives, and will seek to reduce dependence on coal, oil and gas in power production.

¹ SANDRP 2009.

² Mohan 2015.

³ Sinha 2015.

Lead Essay

The government is now planning to systematise climate policy planning in the country by bringing all the existing programmes under one umbrella viz. the 'Climate Change Action Programme'. It will include the NAPCC and the SAPCCs and will be headed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) as the nodal ministry, which will coordinate across all other ministries and departments.⁴

Despite this range of policy initiatives that were institutionalised after 2007, climate change has failed to gain ascendancy as a consistent political and policy agenda either at national or sub-national levels. This is because the trajectory of institutionalization of climate policy programmes and the differential and hierarchical treatment rendered towards policy instruments is indicative of how the global climate politics has impacted policy-making in India.

The international context and Indian policy framing:

The adoption of the NAPCC was indicative of a major change in India's negotiating position in the run-up to the 2009 15th Conference of Parties at Copenhagen. It heralded a shift, within the UNFCCC discourse, from India's position as a 'developing' country to that of an 'emerging' power in the global economy. Such a shift was concomitant with a corresponding shift in the global climate policy discourse from the idea of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDRs) to Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRCs). In consequence, instead of demanding, as was the case during the UNFCCC negotiations from 1992 to 1997, that developed countries bear the responsibility for climate change mitigation, the idea of 'respective capabilities' gained traction. This ascendancy of the capabilities discourse in climate negotiations signalled the countries' willingness to respond to climate change in accordance with their national circumstances and through voluntary measures.

Thus, even while India continued to stick firmly to the per capita emissions principle of burden-sharing –and still does, as reflected in its latest INDC – that countries with lower per capita emissions and little historical role in contributing to cumulative GHG emissions, it recognized the necessity of contributing to international mitigation efforts. This led India to adopt a middle position in the critical 15th COP in 2009, when it declared that it will reduce its emissions intensity or emissions per unit of GDP by 20-25% (on a 2005 baseline) by 2020. Effectively, even as India accepted the international shift towards voluntary commitments, it formulated its mitigation commitments in terms of emissions intensity and adaptation planning rather than reduction targets, on the ground of capabilities and prevalent domestic conditions of necessity of development which precluded an abandonment of fossil fuels.

It was in this context of India's subtle change in, and acceptance of, the changing global consensus that we should view India's core policy of combating climate change viz. the NAPCC and the concomitant SAPCCs.

Critique of India's climate action plan:

As the heart of India's climate action planning, the NAPCC and the state-level climate action plans have faced severe criticisms on both scientific and political grounds:

- *Lack of participation and representation:* One of the major criticisms of the NAPCC was its completely depoliticized nature. It precluded all forms of people's participation at various levels of its formulation. According to an official civil society communication to the government.

There was no participatory or transparent process in formulation of NAPCC or even the specific mission plans. When this issue was raised before the joint secretary, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in September 2008, he said that participatory process should be taken up during formulation of the mission plans, but that too

⁴ Sharma 2014.

Lead Essay

has not happened...why should the same principles of common but differentiated responsibility and equity not be followed within India?⁵

- *Lack of institutional clarity and commitment:* India's national action policy has also been criticised for displaying a lack of clarity on goals and timelines and lack of prioritization among the various missions.⁶ The NAPCC elucidates no clear targets for emissions reduction, only laying emphasis on the idea that India's emissions will not exceed those of the developed countries.⁷ Thus, it does nothing to address the current high emissions trajectory of development whose benefits are largely reaped by the rich and the costs borne by the poor in the context of climate change.
- *No follow-up:* India's commitment to combat climate change is considerably diluted in the context of the fact that, even after 5 years of its launch, the NAPCC has not been subjected to any process of review or assessment, with only one informal review in 2011, which acknowledged the failure of the various missions to take-off successfully due to lack of clarity of the targets to be achieved.⁸
- *Poor progress of the missions:* This leads us to an acknowledgement of the poor progress of the missions already in place:
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Solar Mission: While the mission achieved the target of generating 1000 MW of solar PV between 2010 to 2013, there has been no progress on off-grid and solar thermal energy.⁹ Even the targets that were achieved came with regulatory compromises with certain companies cornering more of the projects than others and profiting from operating through dubious subsidiaries, leading to monopolistic practices in the solar market.¹⁰ As a part of this partial favouritism and regulatory lapse, the policy also relied heavily on imports and big projects instead of enhancing domestic capacity and small businesses. Currently also, despite India's best efforts, the US recently successfully initiated dispute-settlement action against India at the WTO to ensure that domestic content requirements are not implemented in India's solar market.¹¹
 - National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency: Despite launching a number of initiatives and schemes, including the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) initiative akin to the US's cap-and-trade system, the mission is beset with several problems. It does not align energy efficiency goals with research and development infrastructure, does not coordinate with the states, and makes PAT applicable only to the big companies, even while India is dominated by the small companies.¹²
 - National Water Mission: From the point of view of regulation, the mission emphasizes centralised water management rather than devolving power to the local authorities. It has also been criticised by civil society groups for being unclear on methods and policy instruments of water governance and failing to achieve much besides coming up with policy documents.¹³
 - Green India Mission: This is, perhaps, among the most lucrative and the most controversial among all other missions, as it relates directly to forest governance. Studies show that climate change policies like REDD+, Green India Mission etc., are being funded by the money from CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund

⁵ SANDRP 2009.

⁶ Jha 2015.

⁷ SANDRP 2009.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Jha 2015.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Reuters 2015.

¹² Jha 2015.

¹³ Ibid.

Lead Essay

Management and Planning Authority), with the MoEFCC diverting 7000 hectares of forests for infrastructure projects in the first 5 months of its tenure.¹⁴ The mission has become a capital accumulation strategy for both the centre and the states, with both seeking ways to attract lucrative external funding.

- National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture: Even though it seeks to mainstream adaptation and mitigation in agriculture through a number of central schemes, it promotes policy options like genetic modification, bio-fuels, etc. which are averse to the existing conditions of India's small and marginal farmers, and suffer from a lack of coordination between the centre and the states.
- *Poor state level planning*: The SAPCCs are even more worse-off in terms of transparency and lack of consultation with the people. They do not talk about strengthening provisions for access for the people to energy and natural resources, especially indigenous people, who will be most affected by these institutions.¹⁵ They are being aided by external funding agencies like World Bank, and propose policy options that will harm agriculture, such as climate smart agriculture, carbon sequestration, biotechnology etc.¹⁶
- *Focus of BAU scenarios*: The SAPCCs mainly look at business-as-usual scenarios, that is, the existing status quo, while advocating adaptation, instead of looking at worsening scenarios under climate change, thereby, missing the opportunity to align development towards a more sustainable and climate resilient economy.¹⁷

The way forward

From a critical analysis of the NAPCC and the concomitant SAPCCs, it is, thus, clear that India has a long way to go before it can streamline its climate policy realistically with both its imperatives viz. development and justice for the people. Instead of adding new missions and increasing the bulk of policy instruments within the existing institutional framework, a review and assessment has become imperative. While the Prime Minister had called for the revival of the PM's Council on Climate Change which was formed in 2007 and last met in 2011 in an informal meeting, it remains to be seen whether the government's focus on institutional capacity will actually bring about any change in ensuring people-friendly development or whether it will also become stuck in bureaucratic processes, non-transparent decision-making and poor policy alignment with scientific ground reality.

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¹⁴ Mausam 2015.

¹⁵ Jha 2015.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Menon 2014.

Lead Essay

Sharma, Richa. *The New Indian Express*. May 01, 2014. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Climate-Change-Programme-Launched/2014/05/01/article2199247.ece> (accessed October 10, 2015).

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Headlines

India's Renewable Energy Targets may be Overambitious

(Shreya Jai & Nitin Sethi, *Business Standard*, October 8, 2015)

India has committed that 40 per cent of its total power capacity by 2030 will be based on renewable sources. As things stand today, that will be a tall order. At 37,000 Mw, renewable energy currently accounts for close to 15 per cent of the total power capacity in the country. In order to achieve the desired target, experts with the government have estimated that 300,000 to 350,000 Mw of renewable energy would have to be set up to meet this target.

Read more: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-renewable-energy-targets-may-be-overambitious-115100801272_1.html

Date Accessed: 9.10.2015

Foreigners Can't Hire Wombs in India

(*India Today*, October 4, 2015)

The government has proposed that surrogacy for foreigners in India shall not be allowed but surrogacy shall only be permissible to overseas citizens of India (OCIs), people of Indian origin (PIOs), non resident Indians (NRIs) and any foreigner married to an Indian citizen. The proposed legislation aims at proper regulation and supervision of ART clinics and banks in the country and to prevent misuse of this technology, including surrogacy, and for safe and ethical practice of these services.

Read more: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/now-foreigners-cant-hire-wombs-in-india/1/489648.html>

Date Accessed: 6.10.2015

Half of 92 Road Projects at Risk Due to Delays, Clearances

(*The Asian Age*, October 7, 2015)

Whilst the government has announced several reforms like faster land acquisition and clearances and direct monitoring of progress of the roads sector by the PMO, Crisil Ratings analysis of 92 highway projects under the build, operate, transfer (BOT) model shows that around half of them are facing implementation risks because of delays and the weak financial position of the sponsors. A majority of these projects were awarded between FY 2010 and 2012, after aggressive bidding.

In case of 3,520 km of under-construction projects with a sanctioned debt of Rs 33,050 crore, there are high implementation risks. Eighty per cent are impacted by acquisition and clearances issues.

Crisil estimates that to ensure these under-construction projects progress as per schedule, their sponsors have to bring in around Rs 28,500 crore. Estimates predict a gap of Rs 12,500 crore for weak sponsors over next three years. "As of now, there is no solution in sight to bridge the gap," Crisil says.

Read more: <http://www.asianage.com/business/half-92-road-projects-risk-due-delays-clearances-589>

Date Accessed: 07.10.2015

Economics

Table 1: General Inflation Rates in Indian States: August 2015 (%)

States	Rural	Urban	General
All India	4.94	3.30	4.06
Northern Region			
Jammu & Kashmir	7.97	3.37	6.08
Himachal Pradesh	10.28	2.60	8.31
Punjab	6.85	5.37	6.15
Chandigarh	14.31	-0.81	0.69
Uttarakhand	4.29	3.46	3.73
Haryana	5.54	4.73	4.88
Delhi	6.73	5.42	6.30
Uttar Pradesh	3.13	3.01	2.73
Western Region			
Rajasthan	4.47	5.61	4.59
Gujarat	3.27	3.60	3.45
Maharashtra	7.16	3.24	4.68
Goa	8.48	4.99	5.77
Lakshadweep	12.49	3.27	7.69
Daman & Diu	18.91	8.23	14.13
Dadra Nagar & Haveli	17.43	6.62	12.52
Central Region			
Madhya Pradesh	3.81	4.76	4.06
Chattishgarh	8.62	1.78	5.53
Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	9.46	3.73	7.10
Karnataka	7.40	2.02	4.60
Kerala	3.61	-0.40	1.94
Tamil Nadu	3.40	2.53	3.01
Puducherry	16.63	7.39	10.19
Andaman & Nicobar Island	18.24	2.49	10.20
Northeastern Region			
Arunachal Pradesh	5.78		
Assam	3.81	2.82	3.05
Manipur	20.65	5.52	14.83
Meghalaya	-2.85	7.27	-1.70
Mizoram	7.28	3.16	4.53
Nagaland	12.23	5.18	9.04
Tripura	7.54	4.04	6.10
Sikkim	10.42	1.24	8.70
Eastern Region			
Bihar	5.63	3.65	4.81
Jharkhand	5.87	2.88	4.45
West Bengal	1.53	3.56	2.28
Odisha	6.16	-0.30	3.96

- Source: State-wise monthly inflation rates are estimated from year on year Consumer Price Index (CPI) data of MOSPI.
- There is one month time lag in CPI data (From the month February 2015 onwards the New Series is introduced with base 2012=100) provided by MOSPI, Government of India.
- The 2014 August data at state-level with base 2010 is here converted to new base 2012 with linking factors of MOSPI 1.22, 1.20 and 1.21 for rural, urban and combined respectively.

Economics

Financial Inclusion Need Not be Pushed beyond a Point: Rajan

(Business Standard, October 09, 2015)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Raghuram Rajan on Thursday, October 8, 2015 while participating in a seminar on “Financial Inclusion: Can It Meet Multiple Macroeconomic Goals?” on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings, said financial inclusion should not be pressed beyond a point. He said so because he believes beneficiaries may not have the capacity to make use of funds being made available to them.

Read more: http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/financial-inclusion-need-not-be-pushed-beyond-a-point-rajan-115100801354_1.html

Date Accessed: 9.10.2015

Governance and Development

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Little Clarity on What AYUSH Must be Doing

(*Caravan*, September 1, 2015)

The government overestimates the ability of AYUSH systems to perform the functions of conventional healthcare. Though the government launched the National AYUSH Mission in September 2014, it has not, so far, made clear what its specific plans are for deploying resources, and for integration. Instead, its approach has been characterised by grand theatrics such as Yoga Day, and unscientific statements such as that from Naik, and from others who work closely with the government, such as the spiritual leader Ramdev, who once publicly declared that yoga can “cure” homosexuality.

Read more: <http://www.caravanmagazine.in/perspectives/results-may-vary-AYUSH-ministry>

Date Accessed: 6.10.2015

Government of India Order Prohibits Foreign-Funded NGO Trustees to Work as Independent Media persons

(*Rajiv Shah, Counterview*, October 8, 2015)

The trustees of any society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and receiving foreign contribution under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), are not allowed to work as independent media persons according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). This came to light when the MHA justified why the FCRA license of the Sabrang trust, run by human rights activists Teesta Setalvaad and Javed Anand, was suspended. The MHA letter says, during investigations it was found that they also worked as “directors, co-editors, printers and publishers in a company, namely, Sabrang Communications and Publishers Pvt Ltd (SCPPL)”, and “published a magazine called 'Communalism Combat'.” This is a crime, according to the MHA, along with the “crime” of writing in different newspapers too.

Read more: <http://www.counterview.net/2015/10/govt-of-india-order-prohibits-foreign.html>

Date Accessed: 8.10.2015

DEVELOPMENT

Is Nuclear Energy the Deadliest of Them All?

(*Siddharth Singh, Business Standard*, October 7, 2015)

What is the cost of human life in the production of energy? Should this determine the energy sources that a country adopts? While nuclear energy receives much of the attention due to the expectation of devastatingly spectacular accidents, the fatalities from other forms of energy go nearly unnoticed as they feel more distant.

Accidents and Fatalities in the Energy Supply Chain

Energy Typed	Global Share in Energy Supply(201304)	Accidents Between 1970 and 2005 (with atleast 5 fatalities)	Fatalities in these accidents
Coal	30	1588	31939
Oil	33	602	25889
Natural Gas	24	164	2571
Hydro	7	13	30021
Nuclear	4	1	31

Read more: http://www.business-standard.com/article/punditry/is-nuclear-energy-the-deadliest-of-them-all-115100700514_1.html

Date Accessed: 8.10.2015

Governance and Development

SECURITY

India and US to Set Up Terror Data Exchange

(*India Today*, September 24, 2015)

India is expected to seek easy access to internet-related data on terror from service providers based in the US. This will be in exchange for an agreement proposed by the US for sharing vital information related to terror by Indian agencies with its Terrorist Screening Centre (TCS). A section of counter-terror officials feel that India should only get into the agreement if the US government can ensure that internet-related information needed by Indian agencies from various service providers can be provided without any delay.

Read more: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-and-us-to-set-up-terror-data-exchange/1/481698.html>

Date Accessed: 8.10.2015

ENVIRONMENT

National Green Tribunal Plans to Restore Ganga to its Pristine Glory

(*The Huffington Post*, October 7, 2015)

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), which was asked by the Supreme Court to act against industrial units polluting the Ganga, today unveiled its stage-wise plan to restore the river to its pristine glory. The green panel said it intended to take the issue of rejuvenation of Ganga stage-wise to clean up the 2,500 km stretch of the river spanning several northern and eastern states.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar commended the Centre for its programmes Swachh Bharat and National Mission for Clean Ganga and said plans of such significance would go a long way for restoration of the river. The Tribunal said the plan would comprise of three phases and the first phase would relate to pollution in the river from the originating point at Gomukh to Kanpur.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2015/10/07/ngt-uneveils-stagewise-pl_n_8255212.html?utm_hp_ref=in-politics

Date Accessed: 07.10.2015

LAW AND JUSTICE

Aftermath of the Enactment

(*Institute of Defence Study Analyses*, September 29, 2015)

The situation in Manipur has turned volatile after the State Government headed by Ibobi Singh hurriedly enacted three Bills in the State Assembly on 31 August 2015. The processing of these Bills was done in a non-consultative manner and in clear violation of the Constitutional requirement of prior consultations with tribal representatives elected from the hill areas of the State (*in accordance with the spirit of Article 371C of the Constitution*) before any enactment involving the interests of tribal people.

Read more: http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/AftermathoftheEnactmentofControversialStatutesinManipur_gsen_290915.html

Date Accessed: 6.10.2015

Consider Legislation to Bar Criminals from Practicing: High Court

(*Free Press Journal*, October 07, 2015)

Concerned about criminalization of Bar Councils, the Madras High Court in a note of caution asked Councils to not enroll law graduates with pending cases or criminals. The court has also asked the Centre government to consider prohibiting such persons from entering legal profession.

Governance and Development

Read more: <http://www.freepressjournal.in/consider-legislation-to-bar-criminals-from-practising-high-court/>

Date Accessed: 09.10.2015

DEFENCE

Modi Pushes "Obsolete" Made-in-India Plane on Reluctant Military

(Sanjeev Miglani and Tommy Wilkes, *Reuters*, 7 October, 2015)

The government has turned down the military's request to expand the acquisition of 36 fighter planes from Dassault Aviation SA to plug vital gaps, officials said, nudging it to accept an indigenous combat plane 32 years in the making. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for India's struggling Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA), in line with his Make-in-India policy to encourage domestic industry, also comes at a time when the air force is at its weakest operational strength since the 1962 war against China, which is causing anxiety within military circles.

Since it took over last year, the Modi administration has repeatedly said its overriding goal is to cut off the military's addiction to foreign arms which has made it the world's top importer.

An independent investigation by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India into the LCA programme identified 53 "shortfalls" in the plane. In a report in May, the auditor said that the plane wasn't as light as promised, the fuel capacity and speed were lower than required and there were concerns about safety.

Retired Air Marshal M. Matheswaran, a former deputy chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, said the LCA was obsolete.

Read more: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/10/07/india-defence-aircraft-tejas-rafale-airf-idUSKCN0S10D720151007>

Date Accessed: 07.10.2015

Society

GENDER

Changing the Gender Agenda in India

(East Asia Forum, September 26, 2015)

To achieve honest climate justice, the Paris conference must include women's voices and priorities in the global discourse. As they are the most directly affected section of the population, women at the grassroots level can also be important agents in climate solutions.

Read more: <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2015/09/26/changing-the-gender-agenda-in-india/>

Date Accessed: 8.10.2015

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Mizoram Adopts UN Declaration on Tribal Tights

(Deccan Herald, October 09, 2015)

The Mizoram assembly has adopted a resolution supporting the United Nations Declaration on Right of Indigenous People. The resolution comes on a day when a students' group urged the stated government to declare the entire state as scheduled tribe are in order to safeguard interest of natives.

Read More: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/505337/mizoram-adopts-un-declaration-tribal.html>

Date Accessed: 09.10.2015

DEMOGRAPHY

Population Politics

(Frontline, October 2, 2015)

The Bharatiya Janata Party and its Sangh Parivar associates are carrying on a mischievous campaign against Muslims based on the Census data on population growth, apparently with the Bihar elections in view. A closer analysis of the data on religious communities shows that the increase or decrease in Muslim populations or any other religious cohort in the States and in the districts is because of a range of factors that include socio-economic indicators, migration and access to quality health care—overall health services and reproductive health services.

Read more: <http://www.frontline.in/cover-story/population-politics/article7654812.ece?homepage=true>

Date Accessed: 8.10.2015

India and World

INDIA IN THE WORLD

Nepal forms Panel to Ease Political Standoff with India

(Zee News, October 9, 2015)

The Nepal government on Friday formed a three-member panel to talk with India to end the current political and diplomatic standoff and ensure smooth supply of essential commodities, including petroleum products. Nepal is facing a crisis after thousands of Nepal-bound trucks remain stranded at the Nepal-India border following violent demonstrations, protests and unrest in Nepal. The protests -- against the newly-adopted constitution -- have claimed more than 40 lives.

A cabinet meeting on Friday formed a three-member talk team headed by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mahendra Bahadur Pandey and having Chief Secretary of the Nepal government, Somlal Subedi, and Commerce and Supplies Secretary Naindra Prasad Upadhyay as members.

Read more: http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/nepal-forms-panel-to-ease-political-standoff-with-india_1808044.html

Date Accessed: 09.10.15

LAW AND JUSTICE

SC Forms Bench to Decide on UID's Constitutionality

(The Times of India, October 9, 2015)

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed with Centre's plea to decide the Constitutional validity of Aadhaar scheme, which has been under judicial review for nearly three years, at the earliest and set up a Constitution bench to hear the case. Appearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice H L Dattu, Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi made an impassioned plea for early adjudication of the case arising out of plea filed by various civil rights activists challenging the Constitutional validity of the ambitious scheme. He told the bench the court should allow the government and its agencies to link Aadhaar with various social welfare schemes.

Read more: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/SC-forms-bench-to-decide-on-UIDs-constitutionality/articleshow/49281204.cms>

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