Details of all Twelve Five Year Plans in India

The Indian Economy has lived on the concept of planning. From 1947, this has been carried on through the Five-year plans, developed, executed and monitored by the Planning commission and NITI Aayog. The NDA has decided to discontinue the five-year plans in India. Therefore, the twelfth five-year plan would be the last five-year plan of India. After this, three-year action plans will be made which will be part of a seven-year strategy paper and 15-year vision document. This three-year action plan has been launched from April 1st, 2017 onwards.

1. First Five Year Plan

Based on the Harrod Domar model with few modifications, the first five-year plan in India was made for the duration of 1951 to 1956. This was under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. The main focus was on the agricultural development of the nation. The five-year plan was successful as it achieved a growth rate of 3.6% while the target being 2.1%. When the plan ended, 5 IITs were set up in India.

2. Second Five Year Plan

For the duration of 1956 to 1961, Jawaharlal Nehru lead the second five-year plan. It was based on the PC Mahalanobis Model which was made in 1953. This five-year plan focused on the industrial development of the country. It was criticized by various experts and due to this, India faced a payment crisis in 1957. Even though the target growth rate was 4.5%, this plan managed to achieve only 4.27% growth.

3. Third Five Year Plan

Again, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, this five-year plan was made for a duration for 1961 to 1966. Named after the deputy chairman of Planning commission DR Gadgil, this plan was classed the Gadgil Yojna. The focus of this five-year plan was to make the economy independent. For this, the agriculture sector was focused on, especially the production of wheat. But when this plan was executed, India witnessed two major wars: Sino India war (1962) and Indi-Pakistan war (1965). Due to this, the focus was shifted to the defence industry and stabilization of prices as India witnessed inflation. Amidst all of this, the plan flopped with a growth rate of 2.4%. The target growth rate was 5.6%. 
4. Plan Holidays
The government announced plan holidays from 1966 to 1969 due to the failure of the third five-year plan. The main reason behind this was the two wars India witnessed. During this period, annual plans were made. Priority was given to the agriculture sector, allied sectors and the industrial sector. To increase exports in the nation, GOI declared devaluation of the Indian rupee.

5. Fourth Five Year Plan
Under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, the fourth five-year plan was for the duration of 196 to 1974. The plan had two main objectives: growth with stability and progressive achievement of self-reliance. In this period, 14 Indian banks were nationalized and the Green revolution started. The Bangladesh Liberation War and the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971 also took place during this period. The plan did not perform as well as expected. The target growth rate was estimated to be 5.6% while only 3.3% was achieved.

6. Fifth Five Year Plan
Focusing on Garibi Hatao, employment, justice, agricultural production and defence, this plan was for the duration of 1974 and 1978. Acts like the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and the Indian National Highway System was introduced in 1975. The Electricity Supply Act was also amended in 1975. This five-year plan was terminated in 1978 by the Moraji Desai government. Though, this plan was a success. It achieved a growth rate of 4.8% while the target was estimated at 4.4%.

7. Rolling Plan
As the fifth five-year plan was rejected, the Rolling plan was introduced. Three plans were introduced under Rolling plan:

- For the budget of the present year
- This plan was for a fixed number of years – 3, 4 or 5
• Perspective plan for long terms – 10, 15 or 20 years

This plan has various benefits as the targets could be reconstructed and the allocations and projects were changeable to the country’s economy. This means that the targets have to be the same every year, as changes in targets can make it difficult to achieve them. This would in turn result in the destabilization in the Indian economy. In 1980, Indian National Congress rejected this plan and a new five-year plan was introduced.

8. Sixth Five Year Plan

This plan was for the duration of 1980 to 1985 under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. It focused on economic liberalisation by eradicating poverty and achieving technological self-reliance. The model of this five-year plan was based on investment Yojna, infrastructural changing and trend. This plan was a success as it achieved a growth rate of 5.7% while the estimated target rate was 5.2%.

9. Seventh Five Year Plan

This plan for the duration of 1985 to 1990 under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi. This plan focused on the establishment of a self-sufficient economy, opportunities for productive employment and upgradation of technology. This was the first time that the private sector got priority over the public sector. The plan performed really well while achieving a growth rate of 6.01%. The target growth rate was 5.0%.

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10. Annual Plans

After the seventh five year plans, a volatile political situation arises at the centre. Due to this, the eighth five-year plan could not take place. For this period, from 1990 – 1991 and 1991 – 1992, two annual plans were formed.

11. Eighth Five Year Plan

This five-year plans in India took place under the leadership of PV Narasimha Rao for the duration from 1992 to 1997. The focus of this plan was the development of human resources i.e. employment, education, and public health. In this period, the
Narasimha Rao government launched the New Economic Policy of India. The plan achieved great success with a growth rate of 6.8% against a target of 5.6%.

12. **Ninth Five Year Plan**

Under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the ninth five-year plans of India focused on growth with justice and equity. This plan was for a period of 1997 to 2002. This plan was launched in the 50th year of independent India. The plan was a huge failure as it achieved a growth rate of 5.6% only, against a target growth rate of 7%.

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13. **Tenth Five Year Plan**

For the duration from 2002 to 2007, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh formed the tenth five-year plan. The aim of this plan was to double the Per Capita Income of India in the next 10 years. It also focused on reducing the poverty ratio of 15% by 2012. The plan had a target of 8.0% but achieved a growth rate of only 7.2%.

14. **Eleventh Five Year Plan**

Prepared by C Rangarajan, the eleventh five-year plan was under the leadership of Manmohan Singh. It was implemented for the duration from 2007 to 2012. It focused on rapid and more inclusive growth. While the target growth rate was 9%, the plan could achieve a growth rate of 8% only.

15. **Twelfth Five Year Plan**

For the duration of 2012 to 2017, the twelfth five-year plan of India aimed as faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth. The target growth rate was 8%.

The NDA then dissolved the planning commission with NITI Aayog. Thus, there will no more be five-year plans in India. The plans by NITI Aayog have no financial role and will only act as guide maps for the government. The three-year action plan provides a wide roadmap to the government. It does not provide or formulate any
scheme as it has no financial powers. As it does not require Union Cabinet’s approval, the recommendations are not binding on the government.

**Frequently Asked Questions about Five Year Plans in India**

1. **What is a five-year plan?**
   A. After independence, India had to rebuild its economy. The leaders then had to choose the kind of economy India would be and also outline plans for the same. This gave rise to the five-year plans in India. It is an economic plan that allocates resources of the country to fulfil certain goals planned by the Government for a certain time period. These plans were made for five years, and hence the name Five-year plans of India.

2. **How many five-year plans are there in India?**
   A. The planning commission was formed in 1950. The first five-year plan was formed in 1951. Since then twelve five-year plans have been made in India. The last five-year plan of India ended in 2017 after which the planning commission has been replaced by the NITI Aayog.

3. **What are the objectives of five-year plans in India?**
   A. Each five-year plan focuses on different things. The main objectives of the five-year plans are Economic Growth, Economic Equity and Social Justice, Full Employment, Economic Self-Reliance.

4. **Who introduced the rolling plan?**
   A. Moraarji Desai is known as the father of the rolling plan. This plan was introduced by the Janata Party which formed the government in the year 1978 – 1980.

5. **Do five year plans still exist?**
   A. The NDA then dissolved the planning commission with NITI Aayog. Thus, there will no more be five-year plans in India.
6. Were the five-year plans in India successful?
A. A few of them were successful, while the rest were a failure. 6 of the five-year plans of India were successful while the other 6 failed terribly.

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