

# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

## **PM Modi to meet over 12 experts on Friday to discuss Budget 2015**

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened a meeting of over a dozen experts on Friday to discuss the state of Indian economy and seek their views on the upcoming budget, the first full budget of the BJP-led NDA government after it came into power in May last year.

The meeting would be held at the National Institution for Transforming India or NITI Aayog, as it is commonly referred to. The venue has been chosen to raise the stature of the institution whose functional identity is yet to be defined. The prime minister is the chairman of NITI Aayog.

This would be followed by the first meeting of NITI Aayog's governing council, which comprises chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors, on Sunday, a government statement said on Tuesday.

Key people expected to participate in the meeting on Friday include Ashok Gulati, Bimal Jalan, GN Bajpai, Mukesh Butani, Nitin Desai, Parthasarathi Shome, Pulapare Balakrishnan, Rajiv Lall, R Vaidyanathan, Rajiv Kumar Shankar Acharya, Subir Gokarn, Swaminathan Aiyer, TN Ninan, Vijay Kelkar and YV Reddy.

The meeting will also be attended by Arvind Panagariya, vice-chairman of NITI Aayog and its full-time members Bibek Debroy and VK Saraswat, besides planning minister Rao Indrajit Singh, minister of state for finance Jayant Sinha and chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian.

"The first meeting of the governing council is expected to provide further suggestions on setting efficient processes and mechanism of interactions between the Centre and states and also between NITI and other stakeholders, so that synergy may be ensured between the efforts of different levels of government and a shared national development framework emerges," the statement said. According to the statement, the prime minister has sought suggestions from states on the new initiatives of this government like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Make in India campaign, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and more.

