POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
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In September 2000, the heads of State of 189 nations had come together at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York and signed the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration included eight important Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eighteen targets and forty-eight indicators. All the 189 states had committed to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and India:
India's MDG framework is based on the United Nations Development Goals' 2003 framework for monitoring the 8 MDGs. Out of the 18 targets, 12 are relevant for India; corresponding to the 12 targets, there are 35 identified indicators. India embraced the MDG framework at the policy level and designed its 'National Development Goals' (2005) according to the targets set for MDGs.

The country report on the MDGs (2014) indicates that India's achievement in respect of the MDGs has been a mixed bag. Thirteen years since the Millennium Declaration, visible progress has been achieved in reducing poverty, improving access and equity in education and healthcare. Yet, India is still struggling to deal with more complex issues like income inequality and gender inequity. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament, proportion of population with access to improved sanitation -in respect of these indicators, India is lagging by a huge margin. However, it has been argued that the framework of MDGs failed to integrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of development; sustainable development and climate change are dealt as separate issues and there is a disconnect between the mandates for the different aspects.

Post-2015 Development Agenda:
With less than a year to go before the deadline of 2015(the deadline set to achieve MDG targets), there is a need to define the global development framework beyond 2015, which would succeed the Millennium Development Goals.

The process to prepare a post-2015 development agenda has started as the UN has formed different expert groups. The vision underlying these UN-led efforts is to develop a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda, merging four key dimensions of inclusive economic and social development, environmental sustainability and peace and security. In July 2012, a High Level Panel (HLP) was set up by the UN to provide guidance and recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda that would "help respond to the global challenges of 21st century, building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and with a view to ending poverty."The panel has come up with a report called 'A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development'. The report advocates for a comprehensive sustainable development agenda with eradication of extreme poverty from the world by 2030 as the core objective. The new development agenda is to carry forward the best of MDGs with focus on poverty, water, sanitation, hunger, education and healthcare to find out optimum way forward for sustainable development beyond 2015.

The panel has identified five priority transformations for the post-2015 development agenda; these are -1) No one left behind, 2) Sustainable development at the core, 3) Economic transformation for job and inclusive growth, 4) Peace, and, effective, open and accountable institutions for all, and, 5) A renewed global partnership. The panel has recommended working on these transformative shifts as a universal agenda.

Universal Goals for Post-2015 Development Agenda as suggested by the High Level Panel of UN

Goal 1: End poverty
Goal 2: Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality
Goal 3: Quality education and lifelong learning
Goal 4: Ensure healthy lives
Goal 5: Ensure food security and good nutrition
Goal 6: Achieve universal access to water and sanitation
Goal 7: Secure sustainable energy
Goal 8: Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth
Goal 9: Manage natural resource assets sustainably
Goal 10: Ensure good governance and effective institutions
Goal 11: Ensure stable and peaceful society
Goal 12: Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long term finance

The panel believes that effective implementation of these five 'transformative shifts' can end poverty and inequality and promote inclusive and sustainable development. As a way forward, the panel has suggested some actions to implement the vision of the post-2015 development agenda.Like the MDGs, as a first step, 12 illustrative goals (see Box) and a number of targets are set up to show how these transformations could be expressed in precise and measurable terms. It has recommended that all the goals and targets should be universal and that the targets will only be considered 'achieved' if they are met for all relevant income and social groups in the country.

Debates over the Post-2015 Development Agenda:
The report produced by the HLP does better than the current MDG framework but it falls short in many respects. With regard to the process, it is said that the design of MDGs had received minimal inputs from developing countries. However, the HLP has made the process for the post-2015 agenda more participatory as they came out with the agenda after consulting a diverse set of stakeholders.

The HLP has also recognized the widespread call for a universal framework of goals applicable to all people in all countries,

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Bioinformatics: A Career Path for Researchers in Bio-Sciences
Dr. Arun S. Ninawe

In the global economic reform great career opportunities exist in bioinformatics and biosciences meeting the demand especially in the sector of research, education and excellence. With the relevance of bioinformatics the subject areas are genomics, personalize medicine, healthy food, agriculture and health are more closure from the angle of genomics study and to have help of bioinformatics and applied biology. Biosciences has tremendous scope in research and development. Biosciences can offer tangible solutions to some of the most important and complex problems facing mankind such as feeding the world population in billions, sustainable sources of energy, development of industrial materials to combat climate change and helping people to stay healthier with an increased life span with the evolvement and involvement of bioinformatics tools imaging and data visualization and interpretation. It has huge biotech market potential with US$100 billion.

An integrated component of biosciences with tools of IT solutions can handle biological research problems well. As an interdisciplinary science it includes not only biology but also subjects like mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering and many more. It combines disciplines like genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, embryology and cell biology, which are in turn linked to practical disciplines like chemical engineering, information technology, and robotics. It is also an accumulation of various combined technologies applied to living cells for production of a particular product or in enhancing the quality as per human desire. Its application varies from agriculture to industry, food, pharmaceutical, chemical, bio-products, textiles, medicine, nutrition, environmental conservation, animal sciences etc. The area requires highly trained human resource to understand molecular biology issues vis-a-vis application of computer and software tools.

The major research efforts in the field include sequence alignment, gene finding, genome assembly, protein structure alignment, protein structure prediction, prediction of gene expression and protein-protein interactions, genome-wide association studies and the modelling of evolution. Rapid developments in genomic and other molecular research technologies and developments in information technologies having molecular biologist in mapping and analyzing DNA and protein sequences, aligning different DNA and protein sequences to compare them and creating and viewing 3-D models of protein structures. To increase the awareness and understanding of biological processes focus on developing and applying computationally intensive technique is essential for research career in biosciences.

Biotechnology Information System (BTIS) has been recognized as one of the major scientific network in the world dedicated to provide the-state-of-the-art infrastructure, education, manpower and tools in bioinformatics. Under its leadership in India the bioinformatics programme has emerges as an key international player to undertake advanced research in frontier areas of bioinformatics and computational biology, create human resource in bioinformatics, to establish effective academia-industry interface, to pursue and promote international cooperation with leading institutions. Network organizations and countries globally competitive, in the world are working to create world-class platforms for technology development, transfer and commercialisation. The Department of Biotechnology has given a serious boost to this area by establishing Biotech Information System (BTIS), a **National Bioinformatics Network** by including bioinformatics as a path breaking advancements in biology and new technologies to produce high quality data on genome sequencing projects, including human genome. India has established BTIS in 1987 a Biotechnology Information System (BTIS) network to create an infrastructure that enables it to harness, biotechnology through the application of Bioinformatics.

Bioinformatics and Biotechnology as career:
The essential skills required for bio-informatics is a degree in bioinformatics with a background of mathematics, computer science and related area like biophysics. The bio-informaticist should have good communication skill both to represent scientific database and to understand recent genetic research with proficiency in different computer languages. One has to have good data visualization skills to interpret into models and other ways that

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with targets tailored to national realities and with mechanisms that promote accountability at every level. However, the panel's rhetorical reference to human rights does not carry through into the report's operative recommendations and proposals.

The report views rapid economic growth as a major part of the solution, rather than recognizing the problems caused by growth obsession. It ignores the fact that economic growth may not address escalating inequality while redistribution of wealth and access to resources, certainly will.In fact the word inequality - though it appears several times in the document - does not appear in the list of targets at all.

The panel has recommended that post-2015 goals should not apply rigidly to every country, and that a global framework should instead be adaptable to countries' individual situations. However, this approach contradicts the logic of 'zero goals' (e.g. a goal of eradicating poverty by 2030), where by definition, all countries must achieve the desired outcome on time.

The HLP acknowledges the necessity of improving governance system and effective institutions by formulating a new goal for this. However, one of the major problems in developing countries like India today is corruption and mismanagement of public resources. A 'zero tolerance' to corruption, instead of 'reducing bribery and corruption' should be the target for the post-2015 development agenda.

Financing has a crucial role in the success of the sustainable development agenda. The report emphasizes on domestic resource mobilization as one of the fundamental sources of financing sustainable development, eradication of poverty and delivery of public services; however, it also has a strong focus on constructive engagement of the private sector for financing of development. The report argues that many of the goals and targets can be met by the actions and efforts of the private sector, but has very little on how the private sector will be genuinely accountable to those living in poverty.

The process of setting the post -2015 development agenda is a historic opportunity to move towards a bold new vision for the future, which would have socio-economic equity, ecological sustainability and genuine prosperity for all as its central pillars. In spite of many gaps, the HLP report has started with this promise. The new development framework can only be successful, if there is a joint effort both from UN and national governments. The framework would be more inclusive and appropriate if some of the pertinent suggestions coming from different stakeholders in the global south get incorporated in the final post-2015 agenda, and, it would be effective if respective national governments ensure that the agenda for post-2015 development goals are taken up as national goals and pursued seriously overtime.

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Bioinformatics...
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make it understandable for biologist and other team members apart from experience and skill of using bioinformatics tools. To start with the career one has to be 10+2 with Biology as a major subject who can peruse B.Sc. with bio-informatics further post graduation both in India and Foreign Universities awarding M.Sc. in Bioinformatics and M.Sc. in Bioinformatics and Applied Biology. Post Graduation education is also available in engineering, technology, medicine and pharmaceutical sciences with bioinformatics background. Interested students need to have aptitude for computer programming and research interest while considering career in this area.

These new avenues for the research students to learn pay them good salary and perks in genome based companies in the world of globalization by protecting their invention through IPR and patenting and run high profitable bio-business. The candidates with relevant background having analytical skill can also be appointed as Data Scientist and Predictive Modellers by the bioinformatics and biotechnology companies. In life sciences, pharmaceuticals and contract research, ample opportunities exist for bio-informative graduates and PG students again in human genome project and other animal and plant bio-diversity and bio-conservation projects. The newly appointed bio-informatics PG students can earn a salary package about 4-5 lakhs in Government and also in Private Pharmaceuticals and by serving in biotech companies.

Complete tools for Researchers/ Scientists:

Bioinformatics has large scope in understanding genomics and biotechnology in sequence assembly, designing database and maintenance of gene sequences and other biological and chemical information, sequence gene analysis of DNA fragment with the studies on genes of interest, proteomics, pharmacogenomics etc. Bioinformatics a efficient tool it has been purposefully used to solve the biological problems and help the bio-scientist by using gaming technology to capture 3D shapes of carbohydrates in a sale-essential information for the design of carbohydrate based medicines. It also helps to generate genome database and develop new algorithmic approaches in dealing with large biological data sets. Bioinformatics has also great application in chemical engineering, drug design, vaccine development etc. It can help the scientist and researchers in determining the structure of cells and proteins in studying their biological behaviour and chemical composition. A tiny particle like virus can be studied and accordingly drug can be design capable of killing the virus and stimulates its effectiveness on computer. Researchers are now easily enabled in trying vaccines permutation and combinations of genetic code. Another exciting area in bioinformatics is the fusion of biology and computer science with specialization in Computer software enables in-depth research into the mysteries of the human body. The researchers are being provided aid for data access as well as a range of online analysis tools to be useful to both experimentalist and computational biologist. It is also reaping the benefits for the community in gathering and sharing scientific data.

To excel in the sector of bioinformatics and biotechnology IBB was established in 2002 at the University of Pune University by University Grants Commission to promote high quality research and develop technically skilled human resource in the area of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology. This is also for creation of excellence at the global level in research and manpower development in Bioinformatics and Biotechnology. Biotechnology helps in integration of basic research with industrial applications in modern biology in cutting edge of science and technology, imparting high quality education and conducting research in forefront areas. There are many more institutes with the state of art facilities have now come up for promotion of education and research career in bioinformatics and biotechnology and these institutes are exceedingly doing well during the last one decade in the field. The National Centre for Biotechnology Information is putting the database and analysis tools available on the website to benefit the larger sector of scientific community working in various disciplines of bio-sciences including biotechnology and bio-informatics.

Indicative Institutes and their URLs:

Institute of Bioinformatics & Biotechnology (IBB), University of Pune
http://www.unipune.ac.in/snc/institute_of_bioinformatics_and_biotechnology/

Indian Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology, Banaglore
http://www.ibab.ac.in/

Institute of Bioinformatics
http://www.ibioinformatics.org

National Center for Biotechnology Information
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/

Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Jaipur
htpp://www.bisr.res.in

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur
http://www.kanpuruniversity.org/engineering_technology.htm

Bioinformatics Institute of India, Noida
http://www.bii.in

Bioinformatics Centre (BIC), Bose Institute, Kolkata
http://www.boseinst.ernet.in/bic/

IIIT-Allahabad
http://bi.iiita.ac.in

Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore
www.vit.ac.in

Dr. D. Y. Patil Biotechnology & Bioinformatics Institute, Pune
http://biotech.dpu.edu.in

Biotechnology Information System Network, New Delhi
http://www.btisnet.nic.in/

National Informatics Centre, New Delhi
http://www.nic.in/

Life Sciences World LSW
http://www.lifescienceworld.in/biotech/biotechnology_industry_in_india.html

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NEWS DIGEST

■ Supreme Court sets up a panel on April 23rd to frame comprehensive guidelines to help end the abuse of public advertisements for political mileage. A bench led by Chief Justice P. Sathasivam constituted a three-member committee to study best practices around the world and submit recommendations to the court in three months.

■ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports that the country may get below normal monsoon this year. The monsoon will likely be 95 per cent of the Long-Period Average (LPA), the weather department said in its first forecast for this year's rainy season. The department forecasts a 60 per cent probability of El Nino this year, a weather phenomenon that can cause drought-like conditions.

■ Air passengers can now use portable electronic devices such as mobiles, laptops and tablets in all phases of flight, the Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on 23rd April. In a notice, the air regulator said, "The DGCA has amended its Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) relating to air safety on 23rd April and decided to allow the use of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) including cell phones. The use of PEDs shall be in the non-transmitting mode commonly called flight/airplane mode".

■ India on 23rd April successfully test-fired indigenously developed surface to air supersonic missile Akash from the Interim Test Range at Chandipur in Orissa's Balasore district, nearly 200 km from here. Being the first indigenously designed, developed and produced Air Defence System of India, Akash has a strike range of approximately 25 km. It can carry a warhead of 60 kilograms.

■ An RBI panel on 23rd April made case for Centralised Bill Payment System catering to different financial instruments, like cheques, debit cards and mobile banking. In order to ensure uniform and efficient implementation of operations of the bill payments system in the country, standards have to be set for process standards, business standards for establishing the relationship between all entities, and information exchange standards for transaction as well as settlements, the Central bank appointed panel explained.

■ The Reserve Bank of India disallows overseas branches of domestic banks from extending external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to manufacturing and infrastructure companies for repaying rupee loans.

■ Mexico bid farewell on 21st April to its favourite adoptive son, Colombian novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, with a national tribute filled with the late Nobel winner's favorite music and roses. Garcia Marquez, who died in Mexico City on 17th April aged 87, will be eulogised in the domed Bellas Artes Palace, a cultural centre where Mexico pays tributes to its late artistic icons.

■ On World Heritage Day i.e. 18th April, India got a special gift from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which put 15 additional sites located across the country in its tentative list of world heritage sites. The Archaeological Survey of India is seeing this development as an acknowledgement of the diversity of architectural and the rich cultural heritage of the country. India had submitted a list of 33 sites to UNESCO. This means, 48 sites now stand a chance of becoming world heritage sites.

■ A new mobile app and desktop app on Windows 8 platform for train enquiry as an enhancement to National Train Enquiry System (NTES) has been developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), the IT wing of Indian Railways in consultation with and support from Microsoft.