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Current Affairs

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UNION BUDGET 2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

The key highlights from the 2019 Interim Budget can be summed up as follows:

- Income tax to be exempted for individuals drawing an income of up to Rs.5 lakh.
- The standard deduction of Rs.40,000 has been raised to Rs.50,000.
- Rs.23,000 crore relief to be proposed through direct tax to offer relief to 3 crore taxpayers.
- A person will not be required to pay any income tax if they draw a gross income of up to Rs.6.5 lakh and make investments in insurance, specified savings, and provident funds.
- An assured yearly amount of Rs.6,000 to be provided to 12 crore small and marginal farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme.
- The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) threshold to be raised from Rs.10,000 to Rs.40,000 for interest which is earned on deposits in banks and/or post offices.
- Tax exemption on notional rent on a second self-occupied house.
- The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) threshold to be raised from Rs.1.8 lakh to Rs.2.4 lakh for the deduction of tax on rent.
- The tax benefits have been extended till 31 March 2020 for affordable housing.
- The tax exemption period extended from 1 year to 2 years for notional rent on unsold inventories.
- Rs.75,000 crore to be allocated for the financial year 2019-20 for the PM-KISAN scheme.
- Farmers to be provided with an interest subvention of 2% during disasters for the complete period of reschedulement of a loan.
- Farmers related to fisheries and animal husbandry activities to be provided with an interest subvention of 2%. An additional interest subvention of 3% to be provided in case of timely repayments.
- Under the PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme, 10 crore workers belonging to the unorganised sector will be eligible to receive a monthly pension of Rs.3,000 with a contribution of Rs.100 or Rs.55 per month.
- The fiscal deficit has been fixed at 3.4% of GDP for 2019-20 with the target of making it 3% by 2020-21.
- The Current Account Deficit has been set at 2.5% of GDP for the financial year 2020.
- The total expenditure for the financial year 2020 to rise to Rs.27.84 lakh (rise by 13%).
- The allocation towards the National Education Mission to be increased to Rs.38,572 crore (rise by around 20%).
- The allocation towards the Integrated Child Development Scheme to be increased to Rs.27,584 crore (rise by more than 20%).
- Disinvestment target for financial year 2020 has been set at Rs.90,000 crore. The same target is likely to be met for the financial year 2018-19 which was set at Rs.80,000 crore.
- In order to meet the 10% reservation for the poor, the educational institutions will get 25% additional seats.
- Defence budget to be allocated at an all-time high of over Rs.3,00,000 crore.
- The allocation for the North East has been increased to Rs.58,166 crore for the financial year 2020 (rise by 21%).
- For the financial year 2020, railways department is set to get a capital support of Rs.64,587.
- The filmmakers of India to get single window clearance access for the purpose of easy shooting of films. The regulatory norms will mostly rely on self-declaration.
- For entities who are registered under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), 2% interest subsidy will be provided for

MSMEs on incremental loans of Rs.1 crore.

- Out of the 25% sourcing for the government undertakings, a minimum of 3% will be from SMEs which are owned by women.
- Within a period of 5 years, 1 lakh villages are to be transformed into digital villages.
- New portal in order to support national programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Reforms and amendments to be made in stamp duty to make sure that a streamlined system is implemented for the levy of stamp duties which are to be imposed, as well as, collected at one place.
- With the intention of the betterment of 1.5 crore fishermen, a Department of Fisheries is to be created separately.
- The 22nd AIIMS planned to be set up in Haryana.
- An allocation of Rs.60,000 crores for MGNREGA in the year 2019-20.
- India to become a \$5 trillion economy in the upcoming 5 years and a \$10 trillion economy in the next 8 years.

Highlights on the basis of different sectors:

The highlights of the 2019 Interim Budget with regard to the different sectors can be summed up as follows:

- **Economy:** Interim Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said that India has already been validated as a hefty player in the global economy. It is also said to be one of the fastest growing economy. He added that for the current financial year, the Current Account Deficit (CAD) is to be cut down to 2.19% from 5.6%.
- **Anti-corruption:** The Interim Finance Minister has also pitched in for more transparency with reference to the coal block auction and spectrum auction.
- **Housing and electricity:** The Interim Finance Minister has claimed that the government has built 1.53 crore houses under the

housing scheme. He added that under the Saubhagya Yojana, almost every house has been provided with an electricity connection for free.

- **Farming:** The amount of Rs.6,000 which is to be allocated for the farmers, as mentioned above, will be transferred to their bank accounts in 3 instalments. It can be availed by any farmer who holds less than 2 hectares of land. An estimated amount of Rs.75,000 crore will be spent by the government for this scheme.
- **For the common man:** The contribution for new pension schemes under the EPFO has been bumped up to 14% from 4%. The Interim Finance Minister also said that the gratuity limit has been to Rs.30 lakh from Rs.10 lakh.
- **For women:** The Interim Finance Minister said that the central government is prioritising women. He claimed that 75% of the total women are enrolled as beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. He added that the women are entitled to 26 weeks of maternity leave.
- **For workers belonging to the unorganised sector:** Under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan pension scheme launched by the government, the workers who belong to the unorganised sector will be eligible to draw a pension of Rs.3,000 every month after the age of 60 years.
- **Defence:** The defence budget for 2019 has been set at more than Rs.3 lakh crore. Thus, the defence budget has hit an all-time high. The Interim Finance Minister also added that Rs.35,000 crore has been allocated under the 'One Rank One Pension' scheme for the soldiers.
- **Income Tax:** The interim Interim Finance Minister said that the direct tax collection has been increased from Rs.6.38 lakh crore to Rs.12 lakh crore. He also added that the income tax returns will now be processed within 24 hours and the refunds will be initiated accordingly.

MACEDONIA TO BECOME NATO'S 30TH MEMBER

General Jens Stoltenberg comments on the United States withdrawal from INF Treaty, in Oslo, Norway February 1. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said on Saturday that its 29 members will on Wednesday clear the way for Macedonia to become the alliance's 30th member, following its historic name change. Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov would attend the ceremony at NATO headquarters, he added.

AMERICA'S WAR AND PEACE WITH TALIBAN

New developments in the peace talks between the U.S. and the Taliban have raised both hopes and concerns of the Afghan people. In the latest round of meeting between the U.S. special envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, and Taliban representatives, which lasted six days, both sides agreed in principle to the framework of a deal. While there are several unverified accounts in the media as regards this framework, one thing is certain — the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

"We made progress on vital issues in our discussions and agreed to agreements in principle on a couple of very important issues," Mr. Khalilzad told the media in Kabul on Monday, when he arrived in the Afghan capital to inform President Ashraf Ghani on the new developments. Due to strong resistance from the Taliban, the Afghan government has not yet been fully included in the talks. "There is a lot more work to be done before we can say we have succeeded in our efforts, but I believe for the first time that I can say that we have made significant progress," Mr. Khalilzad noted.

RISHI KUMAR SHUKLA APPOINTED CBI DIRECTOR

Former Director-General of Police of **Madhya Pradesh** Rishi Kumar Shukla, a 1983 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the M.P. cadre, was on Saturday appointed the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the country's premier investigation agency, for two years.

Mr. Shukla was picked from a panel of several names cleared by the high-power committee, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has, based on the panel recommended by the Committee constituted as per Section 4A(1) of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, approved the appointment of Rishi Kumar Shukla as Director, CBI, for a period of two years," stated the official notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in the evening.

KALAMKARI

Kalamkari is a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile, produced in Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Only natural dyes are used in *Kalamkari* and it involves twenty three steps.

There are two distinctive styles of kalamkari art in India - Srikalahasti style and the Machilipatnam style. The Srikalahasti style of *Kalamkari* (Kalankari), wherein the "kalam" or pen is used for freehand drawing of the subject and filling in the colors, is entirely hand worked. This style flowered around temples and their patronage and so had an almost religious identity - scrolls, temple hangings, chariot banners and the like, depicted deities and scenes taken from the Hindu epics - Ramayana, Mahabharata,

Purana and the mythological classics. This style owes its present status to Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay who popularized the art as the first Chairperson of the All India Handicrafts Board. *Kalamkari* specifically depicts epics such as the Ramayana or Mahabharata. However, there are recent applications of the *kalamkari* technique to depict Buddha and Buddhist art forms.

MIMO (MULTIPLE INPUT, MULTIPLE OUTPUT)

MIMO (multiple input, multiple output) is an antenna technology for wireless communications in which multiple antennas are used at both the source (transmitter) and the destination (receiver). The antennas at each end of the communications circuit are combined to minimize errors and optimize data speed. MIMO is one of several forms of smart antenna technology, the others being MISO (multiple input, single output) and SIMO (single input, multiple output).

In conventional wireless communications, a single antenna is used at the source, and another single antenna is used at the destination. In some cases, this gives rise to problems with multipath effects. When an electromagnetic field (EM field) is met with obstructions such as hills, canyons, buildings, and utility wires, the wavefronts are scattered, and thus they take many paths to reach the destination. The late arrival of scattered portions of the signal causes problems such as fading, cut-out (cliff effect), and intermittent reception (picket fencing). In digital communications systems such as wireless Internet, it can cause a reduction in data speed and an increase in the number of errors. The use of two or more antennas, along with the transmission of multiple signals (one for each antenna) at the source and the destination, eliminates the trouble caused by multipath wave propagation, and can even take advantage of this effect.

MIMO technology has aroused interest because of its possible applications in digital television (DTV), wireless local area networks (WLANs), metropolitan area networks (MANs), and mobile communications. It's a critical component in 5G technology evolution.

ECOTONE

An ecotone is a transition area between two biomes. It is where two communities meet and integrate. It may be narrow or wide, and it may be local (the zone between a field and forest) or regional (the transition between forest and grassland ecosystems). An ecotone may appear on the ground as a gradual blending of the two communities across a broad area, or it may manifest itself as a sharp boundary line. The word ecotone was coined from a combination of *eco*(logy) plus *-tone*, from the Greek *tonos* or tension – in other words, a place where ecologies are in tension.

There are several distinguishing features of an ecotone. First, an ecotone can have a sharp vegetation transition, with a distinct line between two communities. For example, a change in colors of grasses or plant life can indicate an ecotone. Second, a change in physiognomy (physical appearance of a plant species) can be a key indicator. Water bodies, such as estuaries, can also have a region of transition, and the boundary is characterized by the differences in heights of the macrophytes or plant species present in the areas because this distinguishes the two areas' accessibility to light. Scientists look at color variations and changes in plant height. Third, a change of species can signal an ecotone. There will be specific organisms on one side of an ecotone or the other.

EDGE EFFECTS

In ecology, edge effects are changes in population or community structures that occur at the boundary of two or more habitats. Areas with small habitat fragments exhibit especially pronounced edge effects that may extend throughout the range. As the edge effects increase, the boundary habitat allows for greater biodiversity. Types of edge effects-

- Inherent – Natural features stabilize the border location.
- Induced – Transient natural disturbances (e.g., fire or flood) or human related activities, subject borders to successional changes over time.
- Narrow – One habitat abruptly ends and another begins (e.g., an agricultural field.)
- Wide (ecotone) – A large distance separates the borders of two clearly and purely definable habitats based upon their physical conditions and vegetation, and in between there exists a large transition region.
- Convoluted – The border is non-linear.
- Perforated – The border has gaps that host other habitats.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Section 135, companies act 2013

(1) Every company having net worth of rupees five hundred crore or more, or turnover of rupees one thousand crore or more or a net profit of rupees five crore or more during any financial year shall constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board consisting of three or more directors, out of which at least one director shall be an independent director.

(2) The Board's report under sub-section (3) of section 134 shall disclose the composition of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

(3) The Corporate Social Responsibility Committee shall,—

(a) formulate and recommend to the Board, a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy which shall indicate the activities to be undertaken by the company as specified in Schedule VII;

(b) recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the activities referred to in clause (a); and

(c) monitor the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the company from time to time.

(4) The Board of every company referred to in sub-section (1) shall,—

(a) after taking into account the recommendations made by the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, approve the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy for the company and disclose contents of such Policy in its report and also place it on the company's website, if any, in such manner as may be prescribed; and

(b) ensure that the activities as are included in Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the company are undertaken by the company.

(5) The Board of every company referred to in sub-section (1), shall ensure that the company spends, in every financial year, at least two per cent. of the average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy:

Provided that the company shall give preference to the local area and areas around it where it operates, for spending the amount earmarked for Corporate Social Responsibility.

WOLFSBERG GROUP

The Wolfsberg Group is a non-governmental association of thirteen global banks. Its goal has been to develop financial industry standards for anti-money laundering (AML),

know your customer (KYC) and counter terrorist financing (CTF) policies. Its work is similar to what the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) does on a government level. In addition to its AML-activities, the Wolfsberg Group also serves as a collective action group in the field of anti-corruption. The Wolfsberg Group has criticized FATF's draft AML revision as "too prescriptive and too narrowly conceived". The group operates in relative obscurity without press coverage.

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Social stratification is a kind of social differentiation whereby a society groups people into socioeconomic strata, based upon their occupation and income, wealth and social status, or derived power (social and political). As such, stratification is the relative social position of persons within a social group, category, geographic region, or social unit.

In modern Western societies, social stratification typically is distinguished as three social classes: (i) the upper class, (ii) the middle class, and (iii) the lower class; in turn, each class can be subdivided into strata, e.g. the upper-stratum, the middle-stratum, and the lower stratum. Moreover, a social stratum can be formed upon the bases of kinship, clan, tribe or caste, or all four.

The categorization of people by social strata occurs in all societies, ranging from the complex, state-based or polycentric societies to tribal and feudal societies, which are based upon socio-economic relations among classes of nobility and classes of peasants. Historically, whether or not hunter-gatherer societies can be defined as socially stratified or if social stratification began with agriculture and common acts of social exchange, remains a debated matter in the social sciences. Determining the structures of social stratification arises from inequalities of status among persons, therefore, the

degree of social inequality determines a person's social stratum. Generally, the greater the social complexity of a society, the more social strata exist, by way of social differentiation.

PROXY VOTING

In 2017 Representation of People Act 1950 was amended to include proxy voting rights for NRIs. The issue of proxy voting for NRIs came up in a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court in 2014. The Supreme Court asked the EC to initiate a committee to examine the proposal, following which the Committee for Exploring Feasibility of Alternative Options for Voting by Overseas Electors was set up. The EC looked at existing systems across the world and shortlisted four possible ones: voting in embassies, online voting, postal or e-postal ballot and proxy voting.

The EC then discussed the issue with all political parties. Based on the committee report, the BJP was of the view that voting through proxy could be considered as there would be no logistical problem involved. The BSP, the Communist Party of India and the Congress were not in favour of proxy voting as they said it could never be guaranteed that the proxy voter would vote as per the wishes of the actual voter. They also said that proxy voting suffered from the inherent problem of 'trust deficiency' and violated the principles of 'secrecy of voting' and 'free and fair elections'.

The committee observed that the proxy voting facility would be a "convenient, efficacious and doable method" of providing voting facility to overseas electors. Since the appointment of the proxy can be made at any point of time, the issue of time constraint, the logistical issues of voting in the embassies and the related issue of seeking the host country's permission were completely eliminated. The load on the

returning officer and the election machinery would also be considerably less.

The committee ruled out the first two possibilities – voting in embassies and online voting – for logistical and technical reasons and zeroed in on the last two – postal ballots and proxy voting. The committee conclude that providing the proxy voting facility was operationally the most simple and viable option for facilitating voting by overseas electors. Regarding the issue of trust in the proxy raised by political parties, it is important to note that this issue is also applicable in the case of service voters who appoint proxies. It is expected that a person will appoint a proxy only when there is trust in the proxy.

The Supreme Court then asked the government to examine the proposals of the committee. On August 3, the government approved changes to the law to allow NRIs to vote through proxies.

The committee had recommended that proxy voting facility be considered as an option to be provided to overseas electors under the following conditions:

(i) One person can act as the proxy for only one overseas elector.

(ii) Only a person already enrolled in the same constituency in which the overseas elector is enrolled can be appointed as proxy for overseas elector.

(iii) The appointment of a proxy shall be valid till the time it is revoked by the elector who can then make a fresh appointment of proxy.

The arguments against even the broader issue of voting rights for citizens abroad are numerous and strong.

1. The fundamental right to equality is the prime argument. How can we give special privilege of distance voting to some people who have migrated abroad when there are many times more domestic migrants who also seek to have a voting right at their homes? It is patently discriminatory. If a person from Bihar moves to Delhi or Mumbai in search of a job or education, he loses his right to chose his legislator in his village but if he goes to London, he will be entitled to special privilege. Remember that right to vote is not a fundamental right whereas right to equality is.
2. There are strict regulations including the model code for campaigning. Bribery and inducements of voters are strictly kept in check. These are impossible to implement abroad.
3. There can be no guarantee of NRI voters exercising their vote in a free and fair manner as there can be no check on coercion or inducements by the employers and supervisors. Remember, a majority of foreign migrants are poor workers often at the mercy of their employers who even take their passports into custody.
4. There is no guarantee that votes would not be sold to the so called proxy. Nor is it certain that the proxy will vote as per the wishes of the main voter. Secrecy of vote of course goes out of the window.

The committee even recommended a safer alternative of e-postal ballots (sending ballots by email and receiving it back by post). It had also recommended first doing a pilot study and extending it only “if found feasible, practicable and meeting the objectives of free and fair and elections.” Remember a free and fair election is non negotiable and is the basic structure of the

constitution as repeatedly asserted by the Supreme Court.

Some of the Supreme Court judgements to assert for free and fair elections:

1. *Union vs ADR 2003*, where the court said, "Democracy cannot survive without free and fair elections."
2. *Mohinder Singh Gill vs Chief Election Commissioner of India, 1977*, where the court said, "It needs little argument to hold that the heart of the parliamentary system is free and fair election."
3. *SC 2013 PUCL vs Union (NOTA)*, where the court said, "Free and fair election is the basic structure of the constitution."

GREEN-SHOE OPTION

Green Shoe option means an option of allocating shares in excess of the shares included in the public issue and operating a post-listing price stabilizing mechanism for a period not exceeding 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIIIA of DIP Guidelines, which is granted to a company to be exercised through a Stabilizing Agent. This is an arrangement wherein the issue would be over allotted to the extent of a maximum of 15% of the issue size. From an investor's perspective, an issue with green shoe option provides more probability of getting shares and also that post listing price may show relatively more stability as compared to market.

ANGEL TAX

Simply put, the angel tax is a 30.9 % tax levied on investments made by external investors in startups or companies. To clarify, the entire investment is not taxed – only the amount that is considered above

"fair value" valuations of the startup, classified as 'income from other sources' in the Income Tax Act of India. The problem arises because startups are often valued subjectively on the basis of discounted cash flows, without taking into account intangibles like goodwill. This can cause differing interpretations of "fair value" and leave startups vulnerable to unduly high taxes because the taxman feels the investment is too high over their valuation.

The angel tax dates back to the Finance Budget of 2012 when then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee announced the introduction of the Finance Act 2012. The taxation is a major thorn in the side for many ventures and has forced many angel investors to shy away from offering financial support to Startupdreams. 2019-20 budget against wide expectation of the Startups for abolition of the angel tax was belied.

PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Primary producers convert an abiotic source of energy (e.g. light) into energy stored in organic compounds, which can be used by other organisms (e.g. heterotrophs). The primary producers can convert the energy in the light (phototroph and photoautotroph) or the energy in inorganic chemical compounds (chemolithotrophs) to build organic molecules, which is usually accumulated in the form of biomass and will be used as carbon and energy source by other organisms (e.g. heterotrophs and mixotrophs). The photoautotrophs are the main primary producers, converting the energy of the light into chemical energy through photosynthesis, ultimately building organic molecules from carbon dioxide, an inorganic carbon source. Examples of chemolithotrophs are some archaea and bacteria (unicellular organisms) that produce biomass from the oxidation of inorganic chemical compounds, these organisms are

called chemoautotrophs, and are frequently found in hydrothermal vents in the deep ocean. Primary producers are at the lowest trophic level, and are the reasons why Earth is sustainable for life to this day.

SECONDARY PRODUCERS

Secondary producers are animals that consume plants or even other animals and, therefore, are heterotrophs. It means they cannot produce their own source of organic material, they must acquire it from plants (herbivorous) or other animals (carnivorous). Plants and photosynthetic organisms are primary producers.

FIRST LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS

The first law of thermodynamics is a version of the law of conservation of energy, adapted for thermodynamic systems. The law of conservation of energy states that the total energy of an isolated system is constant; energy can be transformed from one form to another, but can be neither created nor destroyed. The first law is often formulated $\Delta U = Q - W$. $\{\displaystyle \Delta U=Q-W.\}$

It states that the change in the internal energy ΔU of a closed system is equal to the amount of heat Q supplied to the system, minus the amount of work W done by the system on its surroundings. An equivalent statement is that perpetual motion machines of the first kind are impossible.

BIOMASS

Biomass most often refers to an energy source; biomass can either be used directly via combustion to produce heat, or indirectly after converting it to various forms of biofuel. Conversion of biomass to biofuel can be achieved by different methods which are broadly classified into: *thermal*, *chemical*,

and *biochemical*. Some chemical constituents of plant biomass include lignins, cellulose, and hemicellulose.

Based on the source of biomass, biofuels are classified broadly into two major categories. First-generation biofuels are derived from sources such as sugarcane and corn starch. Sugars present in this biomass are fermented to produce bioethanol, an alcohol fuel which can be used directly in a fuel cell to produce electricity or serve as an additive to gasoline. However, utilizing food-based resources for fuel production only aggravates the food shortage problem. Second-generation biofuels, on the other hand, utilize non-food-based biomass sources such as agriculture and municipal waste. These biofuels mostly consist of lignocellulosic biomass, which is not edible and is a low-value waste for many industries. Despite being the favored alternative, economical production of second-generation biofuel is not yet achieved due to technological issues. These issues arise mainly due to chemical inertness and structural rigidity of lignocellulosic biomass.

RULE OF LAPSE IN PARLIAMENT

Article 107 enumerates certain situations in which a Bill lapses. A Bill which has lapsed is no more before the Parliament. It has to be introduced again and all steps are required to be taken again. Our Constitution has made a departure from the British practice. Prorogation has no effect on a pending Bill, in India. In England, a Bill lapses on the prorogation of the House of Commons. The position regarding lapsing of Bills may be thus summarized. (a) A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution. The Bill may have originated in the Lok Sabha or may have been transferred to it by the Rajya Sabha. (b) A Bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. (c) A Bill

originating in the Rajya Sabha which has not been passed by the Lok Sabha and which is still pending in the Rajya Sabha does not lapse. (d) A Bill which has been passed by both the Houses and has been presented to the President for assent does not lapse. (e) A Bill returned by the President for reconsideration does not lapse. (f) A Bill in regard to which the President has notified his intention to summon the houses to a joint sitting does not lapse by dissolution of the Lok Sabha. (g) All motions, resolutions, amendments etc. pending in the Lok Sabha lapse on its dissolution.

MAJOR LAKES FAMOUS LAKES IN HARYANA

- a. Badkhal Lake
- b. Brahma Sarovar
- c. Karna Lake
- d. Sannihit Sarovar
- e. Surajkund Lake
- f. Tilyar Lake
- g. Blue Bird Lake

ERNST HAECKEL

Coined the term ecology. Ernst Haeckel was a German zoologist who discovered, described and named thousands of new species, mapped a genealogical tree relating all life forms, and coined many terms in biology, including *anthropogeny*, *ecology*, *phylum*, *phylogeny*, and *Protista*.

NICHE

In ecology, a niche is the match of a species to a specific environmental condition. It describes how an organism or population responds to the distribution of resources and competitors (for example, by growing when resources are abundant, and when predators, parasites and pathogens are scarce) and how it in turn alters those same factors (for example, limiting access to resources by other organisms, acting as a food source for predators and a consumer of prey). The type and number of variables comprising the dimensions of an environmental niche vary from one species to another [and] the relative importance of particular environmental variables for a species may vary according to the geographic and biotic contexts.

The concept of ecological niche is central to ecological biogeography, which focuses on spatial patterns of ecological communities. Alteration of an ecological niche by its inhabitants is the topic of niche construction. The majority of species exist in a standard ecological niche, sharing behaviors, adaptations, and functional traits similar to the other closely related species within the same broad taxonomic class, but there are exceptions.

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

One of India's competitive advantages is its demographic dividend. Demographic dividend occurs when the proportion of working people in the total population is high because this indicates that more people have the potential to be productive and contribute to growth of the economy. According to the United National population research, during the last four decades the countries of Asia and Latin America have been the main beneficiaries of the demographic dividend. Advanced countries of Europe, Japan and USA have an ageing population because of low birth rates and

low mortality rates. Neither the least developed countries nor the countries of Africa have as yet experienced favourable demographic conditions according to the research by UN population division. China's one child policy has reversed the demographic dividend it enjoyed since the mid 1960s according to a World Bank global development report.

Falling birth rates reduce the overall expenditure required to provide basic necessities for the under 14 age group (which is yet to be productive) and increased longevity ensures that a large proportion of the population are within the 15-59 age group (working population). Dependency ratio refers to the proportion of non-working population on the working population. In India this ratio is around 0.6 according to the World Bank.

However, reaping the demographic dividend requires focused policy action. A recent UNESCAP survey warns there are no guarantees the "dividend" will automatically translate to economic growth. Countries need to put in place the appropriate "social and economic policies and institutions" to absorb the rapidly growing labour force. Reforms in the health and education sector, financial inclusion and adequate employment opportunities are essential pre-requisites to ensure that India's young population is truly an asset.

CUT MOTIONS: POLICY CUT, ECONOMY CUT, AND TOKEN CUT

A motion may be moved to reduce the amount of a demand in any of the following ways:-

1. Disapproval of Policy Cut Motions

- A Disapproval of Policy Cut motion is moved so that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re.1.
- It represents the disapproval of the policy underlying the demand.
- A member giving notice of such a motion shall indicate in precise terms the particulars of the policy which he proposes to discuss.
- The discussion shall be confined to the specific point or points mentioned in the notice and it shall be open to members to advocate an alternative policy.

2. Economy Cut Motions

- An Economy Cut motion is moved so that the amount of the demand be reduced by a specified amount.
- It represents the economy that can be effected.
- Such specified amount may be either a lump sum reduction in the demand or omission or reduction of an item in the demand.
- The notice shall indicate briefly and precisely the particular matter on which discussion is sought to be raised and speeches shall be confined to the discussion as to how the economy can be effected.

3. Token Cut Motions

- A Token Cut motion is moved so that that the amount of the demand be reduced by Rs.100.
- This is to ventilate a specific grievance which is within the sphere of the responsibility of the Government of India.
- The discussion thereon shall be confined to the particular grievance specified in the motion.

Admissibility of cut motions

In order that notice of motion for reduction of the amount of demand may be admissible, it shall satisfy the following conditions, namely:-

1. it shall relate to one demand only;
2. it shall be clearly expressed and shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements;
3. it shall be confined to one specific matter which shall be stated in precise terms;
4. it shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;
5. it shall not make suggestions for the amendment or repeal of existing laws;
6. it shall not refer to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government of India;
7. it shall not relate to expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India;
8. it shall not relate to a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India;
9. it shall not raise a question of privilege;
10. it shall not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session and on which a decision has been taken;
11. it shall not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration in the same session;
12. it shall not ordinarily seek to raise a discussion on a matter pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any commission or court of enquiry appointed to enquire into, or investigate any matter: Provided that the Speaker may in his discretion allow such matter being raised in the

House as is concerned with the procedure or stage of enquiry, if the Speaker is satisfied that it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of such matter by the statutory tribunal, statutory authority, commission or court of enquiry;

13. it shall not relate to a trivial matter.

Speaker to decide admissibility

The Speaker shall decide whether a cut motion is or is not admissible under these rules and may disallow any cut motion when in his opinion it is an abuse of the right of moving cut motions or is calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affect the procedure of the House or is in contravention of these rules.

Notice of cut motions

If notice of a motion to reduce any demand for grant has not been given one day previous to the day on which the demand is under consideration, any member may object to the moving of the motion, and such objection shall prevail unless the Speaker allows the motion to be made.

SEOUL PEACE PRIZE 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday was conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize 2018 "for his contribution to high economic growth in India and world through 'Modinomics.'" Modi, who is the fourteenth recipient and the only Indian to bag the award will receive a diploma, a plaque and honorarium cash prize at a mutually convenient time, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

HAYABUSA2

Hayabusa2 is an asteroid sample-return mission operated by the Japanese space agency, JAXA. It follows on from *Hayabusa* mission which returned asteroid samples in 2010. *Hayabusa2* was launched on 3 December 2014 and rendezvoused with near-Earth asteroid 162173 Ryugu on 27 June 2018. It is in the process of surveying the asteroid for a year and a half, departing in December 2019, and returning to Earth in December 2020.

BERESHEET LANDER

SpaceIL is an Israeli organization, established in 2011, that was competing in the Google Lunar X Prize (GLXP) to land a spacecraft on the Moon. SpaceIL successfully launched its *Beresheet* lander on 22 February 2019, which is expected to land on the Moon's surface on 12 April 2019. The *Beresheet* mission includes plans to measure the Moon's local magnetic field to help understand how it formed, and also carries a digital "time capsule". *Beresheet* would be the first Israeli spacecraft to travel beyond Earth orbit and the first private lander on the Moon. Israel would also become the fourth country, after the Soviet Union, United States, and China, to land a spacecraft on the Moon.

Food Corporation of India (FCI)

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was set up on 14 January 1965 having its first District Office at Thanjavur – rice bowl of Tamil Nadu – and headquarters at Chennai (The Headquarters later shifted to Delhi) under the Food Corporations Act 1964 to implement the following objectives of the National Food Policy :

1. Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the poor farmers

2. Distribution of foodgrains throughout the country for Public Distribution System (PDS)
3. Maintaining a satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks of foodgrains to ensure National Food Security
4. Regulate market price to provide foodgrains to consumers at a reliable price

COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL COSTS AND PRICES (CACP)

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is a decentralised agency of the Government of India. It was established in 1965 as the Agricultural Prices Commission, and was given its present name in 1985. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. Prof. Vijaya Paul Sharma is currently chairman. The commission was established to recommend Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), to motivate cultivators and farmers to adopt the latest technology in order to optimise the use of resources and increase productivity.

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (also Right to Food Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India which aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two thirds of India's 1.2 billion people.^[1] It was signed into law on 12 September 2013, retroactive to 5 July 2013.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India. It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System. Further, the NFSA 2013 recognizes maternity entitlements. The Midday Meal

Scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme are universal in nature whereas the PDS will reach about two-thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas).

Under the provisions of the bill, beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (or, PDS) are entitled to 5 kilograms (11 lb) per person per month of cereals at the following prices:

- Rice at ₹3 per kg
- Wheat at ₹2 per kg
- Coarse grains (millet) at ₹1 per kg.

Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free cereals.

The bill has been highly controversial. It was introduced into India's parliament on 22 December 2011, promulgated as a presidential ordinance on 5 July 2013, and enacted into law on 12 September 2013. Odisha government implemented food security bill in 14 district from 17 November 2015. Assam government implemented Act on 24 December 2015.

BRINGING GREEN REVOLUTION TO EASTERN INDIA (BGREI)

The programme of "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)" was launched in 2010-11 to address the constraints limiting the productivity of "rice based cropping systems" in eastern India comprising seven (7) States namely; Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal) and West Bengal. The programme is now a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

1. To increase production & productivity of rice and wheat by adopting latest crop production technologies;
2. To promote cultivation in rice fallow area to increase cropping intensity and income of the farmers;

3. To create water harvesting structures and efficient utilization of water potential; and
4. To promote post harvest technology and marketing support.

The major interventions are as follows.

1. Block / cluster demonstration of improved production technology
2. Asset building activities for farm improvement
3. Site specific activities for farm renovation
4. Seed production & distribution
5. Need based Inputs
6. Marketing support & post-harvest management and
7. Ecology specific rice based cropping

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RKVY)

Concerned by the slow growth in the Agriculture and allied sectors, the National Development Council (NDC), in its meeting held on 29th May, 2007 resolved that a special Additional Central Assistance Scheme (RKVY) be launched. The NDC resolved that agricultural development strategies must be reoriented to meet the needs of farmers and called upon the Central and State governments to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. The NDC reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the 11th plan.

The Department of Agriculture, in compliance of the above resolution and in consultation with the Planning Commission, has prepared the guidelines for the RKVY scheme, to be known as National Agriculture Development Programme (RKVY).

Objectives of the programme

- To incentivize the states that increase their investment in Agriculture and allied sectors

- To provide flexibility and autonomy to the States in planning and executing programmes for agriculture
- To ensure the preparation of Agriculture Plans for the districts and states
- To achieve the goal of reducing the yield gaps in important crops
- To maximize returns to the farmers
- To address the agriculture and allied sectors in an integrated manner
- Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries
- Agricultural Research and Education
- Agricultural Marketing
- Food storage and Warehousing
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Agricultural Financial Institutions
- Other Agriculture Programmes and Cooperation

Basic features of RKVY

- It is a State Plan scheme
- The eligibility of a state for the RKVY is contingent upon the state maintaining or increasing the State Plan expenditure for Agricultural and Allied sectors
- The base line expenditure is determined based on the average expenditure incurred by the State Government during the three years prior to the previous year.
- The preparation of the district and State Agriculture Plans is mandatory
- The scheme encourages convergence with other programmes such as NREGS.
- The pattern of funding is 100% Central Government Grant.
- If the state lowers its investment in the subsequent years, and goes out of the RKVY basket, then the balance resources for completing the projects already commenced would have to be committed by the states.
- It is an incentive scheme, hence allocations are not automatic
- It will integrate agriculture and allied sectors comprehensively
- It will give high levels of flexibility to the states
- Projects with definite time-lines are highly encouraged

List of allied sectors covered under the scheme

- Crop Husbandry (including Horticulture)

DECENTRALISED PROCUREMENT (DCP)

The Scheme of Decentralised procurement (DCP) refers to the manner of procurement of foodgrains to the central (federal) government stock, through the state agencies, rather than through the central (Federal) agency of Food Corporation of India (FCI).

The foodgrains are procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Central Government for ensuring (a) a cost covering price for the producing farmers and to (b) effect distribution of these foodgrains at affordable prices to the needy and under-privileged through the public distribution system (PDS) of the country so as to ensure food security.

Under the decentralized procurement scheme (DCP), the State Government itself undertakes direct purchase of paddy and/or wheat on behalf of Government of India. Purchase centres are opened by the State Governments and their agencies as per their requirements. Under this scheme, the State Governments themselves procure grains for the Central pool, store and distribute these foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (eg mid day meal, supply of foodgrains to Scheduled Cast /tribe/other backward class hostels etc.), based on the allocation made by the Union or Central Government.

The surplus of foodgrains procured by DCP States, in excess of their requirement is handed over to FCI for the Central Pool

stocks and deficit, if any, is met by FCI directly.

IGMRI

Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI) is responsible to investigate the nature, extent and degree of losses due to insects, rodents, birds and micro organisms under different agro climatic conditions and to develop code of practices for proper grain storage and handling by recommending cost effective techniques for control of stored grain pests. Information about regional centres, thrust areas, relaxation, training courses, etc. is given. Access to Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) and Quality Control Cells (QCC) is also available. It is located in Hapur, UP.

PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETY (PACS)

A Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) is a basic unit and smallest co-operative credit institutions in India It works on the grassroots level (gram panchayat and village level).

It is basically an association of members residing in a particular locality. The members can be borrowers or non-borrowers. The funds of this society re derived from the share capital of the deposits and also the loans from central cooperative banks. According to the norms, the paid-up share capital and reserves of a Primary Credit Society should be less than Rs 1 lakh. Such as society can do banking business without being required to take a licence from the RBI. However, the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2012 has permitted RBI to assume additional regulatory powers over co-operative bank.

NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION

National Population Commission (राष्ट्रीयजनसंख्याआयोग) is a commission of the Indian government.

It was established in 11 may 2000. It is chaired by the prime minister with the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission as vice chairman. Chief ministers of all states, ministers of the related central ministries, secretaries of the concerned departments, eminent physicians, demographers and the representatives of the civil society are members of the commission.

The commission has the mandate

- to review, monitor and give direction for implementation of the National Population Policy with the view to achieve the goals set in the Population Policy
- promote synergy between health, educational environmental and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilization
- promote inter sectoral coordination in planning and implementation of the programmes through different sectors and agencies in center and the states
- develop a vigorous peoples programme to support this national effort.

SAARC FOOD BANK

In pursuance of the decision taken in the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2007, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries have signed the Agreement to establish the SAARC Food Bank. The Food Bank will supplement national efforts to provide food security to the people of the region. The agreement on Establishing the SAARC Food Bank was ratified by the President of India on 17th April, 2007. As per this agreement, SAARC Food Bank shall have a reserve of foodgrains to

be maintained by each member states consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both as assessed share of the country.

India's initial assessed share in the reserve was 1,53,200 MTs out of a total share of 2,43,000 MTs. The assessed share is presently kept as 3,06,400 MTs out of a total share of 4,86,000 MTs. The reserves have been kept in different strategic locations in the designated Godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI).

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY

The National Institute of Virology, Pune is an Indian virology research institute, and one of the Translational science cells part of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). It was previously known as 'Virus Research Center' and was founded in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation. It has been designated as a WHO H5 reference Laboratory for SE Asia region

The Virus Research Center (VRC), Pune came into existence in 1952 under the joint auspices of the ICMR and the Rockefeller Foundation, as a part of the global programme of investigations on the arthropod-borne group of viruses. In view of its expanded scope and activities, the VRC was redesignated as the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in 1978.

The NIV is identified today as the WHO Collaborating Center for arboviruses reference and hemorrhagic fever reference and research. NIV is also the National Monitoring Center for Influenza, Japanese encephalitis, Rota, Measles and Hepatitis.

PRERNA SCHEME – (NATIONAL POPULATION STABILIZATION FUND)

- In order to help push up the age of marriage of girls and space the birth of children in the interest of health of young mothers and infants.
- JansankhyaSthirataKosh (National Population Stabilization Fund) – an autonomous body of the MoHFW, Govt. of India has launched PRERNA, a Responsible Parenthood Strategy in all districts of seven focus states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- The strategy recognizes and awards couples who have broken the stereotype of early marriage, early childbirth and repeated child birth and have helped change the mindsets of the community.
- In order to become eligible for award under the scheme, the girl should have been married after 19 years of age and given birth to the first child after at least 2 years of marriage.
- The couple will get an award of Rs.10, 000/- if it is a Boy child or Rs.12, 000/- if it is a Girl child.
- If birth of the second child takes place after at least 3 years of the birth of first child and either parent voluntarily accept permanent method of family planning within one year of the birth of the second child, the couple will get an additional award of Rs.5,000/- (Boy child) / Rs.7,000/- (Girl child).
- The amount of award is given in the form of National Saving Certificate (NSC). The scheme is meant only for BPL families.

SANTUSHTI SCHEME

Santushti is a Scheme of JansankhyaSthirataKosh (JSK) for high populated states of India viz Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Odisha. Under this scheme, JansankhyaSthirataKosh, invites private sector gynecologists and vasectomy surgeons (who are already working under NRHM scheme of Gol) to conduct operations in Public Private Partnership mode.

According to this Scheme, an accredited private Nursing Home/ Hospital (Quality assurance manual for Sterilization services), working under NHM can sign a MOU with JSK. Upon signing the MOU Pvt. Hospitals/NH shall be entitled for incentive, whenever it conducts 10 or more Tubectomy/Vasectomy cases in a month.

CENSUS TOWNS AND STATUTORY TOWNS

All Municipal areas and other urban areas declared as such by the state government are statutory towns. they have their own administrative structure and in most cases can levy taxes.

Census towns are areas outside the statutory towns that have distinct urban characteristics like population density (above 400 per sq. km), minimum population size of 5000 and more than 75% of male workers engaged in non agricultural activities.

ISRO CENTRES

ISRO is managed by the Department of Space (DoS) of the Government of India. DoS itself falls under the authority of the Space Commission and manages the following agencies and institutes:

- Indian Space Research Organisation

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram.
- Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Thiruvananthapuram.
- Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota.
- ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.
- ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), Bangalore.
- Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.
- National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad.
- ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU), Thiruvananthapuram.
- Development and Educational Communication Unit (DECU), Ahmedabad.
- Master Control Facility (MCF), Hassan, Karnataka.
- ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bangalore.
- Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS), Bangalore.
- Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun.
- Antrix Corporation – The marketing arm of ISRO, Bangalore.
- Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.
- National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Gadanki, Andhra Pradesh.
- North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC), Umiam.
- Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali.
- Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram

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Sarabhai Space Centre	uram	ISRO base is also the main technical centre and the venue of development of the SLV-3, ASLV, and PSLV series. The base supports India's Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station and the Rohini Sounding Rocket programme. This facility is also developing the GSLV series.			The LPSC, Bangalore also produces precision transducers.
Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre	Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore	The LPSC handles design, development, testing and implementation of liquid propulsion control packages, liquid stages and liquid engines for launch vehicles and satellites. The testing of these systems is largely conducted at IPRC at Mahendragiri.	Physical Research Laboratory	Ahmedabad	Solar planetary physics, infrared astronomy, geo-cosmo physics, plasma physics, astrophysics, archaeology, and hydrology are some of the branches of study at this institute. An observatory at Udaipur also falls under the control of this institution.
			Semi-Conductor Laboratory	Chandigarh	Research & Development in the field of semiconductor technology, micro-electro mechanical systems and process technologies relating to semiconductor processing.
			National Atmospheric Research Laboratory	Tirupati	The NARL carries out fundamental and applied research in Atmospheric

y		and Space Sciences.
Space Applications Centre	Ahmedabad	

MADAD

The MADAD (Help) Portal is an online grievances monitoring system launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on February 21, 2015. The e-portal provides Indian citizens living abroad an online platform in which they can file consular grievances to the Indian government.

If you are an NRI, once registered, you can use the MADAD Portal to submit consular grievances and complaints and track their status. Grievances categories include topics such as compensation, court case, domestic help, repatriation, and more. Once you choose your category and submit your grievance, you can identify whether or not your complaint has been addressed by a convenient color-coding system. Cases not responded to within a certain period of time change to a red color and are escalated to higher authorities.

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP)

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, electricity and manufacturing. The all India IIP is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base

period. It is compiled and published monthly by the central statistical organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation six weeks after the reference month ends.

The level of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an abstract number, the magnitude of which represents the status of production in the industrial sector for a given period of time as compared to a reference period of time. The base year was at one time fixed at 1993–94 so that year was assigned an index level of 100. The current base year is 2011-2012.

The Eight Core Industries comprise nearly 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). These are Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilisers.

NATIONAL INVESTMENT AND MANUFACTURING ZONES(NIMZS)

In order to boost manufacturing sector, the government has already announced setting up of sixteen national investment and manufacturing zones (NIMZs). The National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) has the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade. The NMP provides for promotion of clusters and aggregation, especially through the creation of national investment and manufacturing zones (NIMZ). Till 2013-14, 16 NIMZs are being set up. Of these, eight are along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). Besides, eight other NIMZs have been given in-principle approval: (i) Nagpur in Maharashtra, (ii) Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, (iii) Medak in Andhra Pradesh (now Telengana), (iv) Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh (v) Tumkur in Karnataka, (vi) Kolar

in Karnataka, (vii) Bidar in Karnataka, and (viii) Gulbarga in Karnataka.

BACKWARD REGIONS GRANT FUND (BRGF)

The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is an Indian government program designed to "address regional imbalances in development." The programme was launched by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at Barpeta, Assam on 19 February 2007.

The BRGF Programme covers 250 districts in 27 States, of which 232 districts fall under the purview of Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution dealing with the Panchayats and the Municipalities, respectively. The remaining 18 districts are covered by other local government structures, such as Autonomous District and Regional Councils under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and state specific arrangements as in the case of Nagaland and the hill areas of Manipur.

The program calls for each district to undertake a study to determine the district's problems and then create a plan to address those problems. The program was funded with 19.25 billion rupees in 2006–2007.

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE (SPV)

A special-purpose vehicle is a legal entity (usually a limited company of some type or, sometimes, a limited partnership) created to fulfill narrow, specific or temporary objectives. SPEs are typically used by companies to isolate the firm from financial risk. A formal definition is "The Special Purpose Entity is a fenced organization having limited predefined purposes and a legal personality". A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is a legal entity created for a specific purpose. In the context of raising capital, a SPV (usually structured as LLC) can be used

as a funding structure, by which all investors (or investors under a given investment threshold) are pooled together into a single entity.

INVEST INDIA

'Invest India' is India's official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation. It is a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, set up in 2010 for prospective overseas investors and to those aspiring Indian investors desiring to invest in foreign locations, and acts as a structured mechanism to attract investment. Invest India is essentially an Investment Promotion Agency in India.

Operationalized in early 2010, Invest India is set up as a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (35% equity), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) (51% equity), and State Governments of India (0.5% each).

Thus, essentially, Invest India is a private company, unlike India Brand Equity Foundation - another investment promotion agency in India set up by the same Ministry – Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The core mandate of Invest India is investment promotion and facilitation. It provides sector-specific and state-specific information to a foreign investor, assists in expediting regulatory approvals, and offers hand-holding services. Its mandate also includes assisting Indian investors to make informed choices about investment opportunities overseas.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY APPELLATE BOARD (IPAB)

Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) is one of the most prominent IP tribunal in the country. It is formed under the Department of Industrial policy and promotion, Government of India (DIPP). IPAB has its headquarters at Chennai and have sittings at Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Ahmadabad.

You can file appeals against the decisions of the Controller General of Patents under Patent Act 1970, Registrar under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in IPAB.

NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT POLICY, 2016

The National Intellectual Property Right Policy 2016, drafted by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), aims to build a comprehensive framework for the protection of IPR, by creating a relationship between the multiple statutes and the various governing bodies, concerning IPR.

As per the Policy, DIPP shall be the nodal point to coordinate, guide and oversee implementation and future development of IPR in India. The responsibility for actual implementation of the plans will remain with the Ministries/ Departments concerned in their assigned sphere of work.

The Policy has broadly enlisted 7 objectives and the steps to be undertaken therein by the department.

1. **IPR Awareness** – Despite having creativity and innovation in abundance, India suffers from lack of knowledge and awareness about IPR. This Policy aims to create awareness amongst

general public regarding the benefits and importance of

2. **Generation of IPR** – In furtherance to creating wide spread awareness about the relevance of IPR, the Policy aims to enhance the overall intellectual property filings made in the
3. **Legal and Legislative Framework** – The Policy aims to review/ revise/ update the laws, rules, regulations, pertaining to IPR, so as to ensure that the same are in consonance with the national needs and priorities.
4. **Administration and Management** – In order to effectively implement the laws/ rules/ regulations governing IPR, it is imperative to have an efficient administrative/ governing body. This Policy aims to ensure that operations at the IPR offices are more efficient, streamlined and cost effective.
5. **Commercialization of IPR** – The owners of IPR tend to face the challenge of being unable to effectively capitalize the value and reward of the IPR. Thus, the Policy aims to create a public platform to function as a common database of IPRs. Such a platform can help creators and innovators connect to potential users, buyers and funding
6. **Enforcement and Adjudication** – It is the responsibility of the owner of an IPR to protect the IPR against any infringement/ misuse/ abuse etc. The Policy aims to build respect for IPR among the general public and to sensitize

inventors and creators of IPR on measures for protection and enforcement of their rights. Additionally, the Policy also aims at building greater capacity of the enforcement agencies at various levels to ensure better enforcement of the

7. **Human Capital Development** – The Policy envisages developing a pool of IPR professionals and experts so that the country is able to build a national capacity for providing thought leadership in the field of innovation.

MODIFIED INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADATION SCHEME (MIUS)

MIUS was notified in 2013 and the original scheme of IUS was launched in 2003. Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IUS) was launched in 2003 with the objective of enhancing industrial competitiveness of domestic industry by providing quality infrastructure through public private partnership in selected functional clusters/locations which have potential to become globally competitive. The Scheme was recast in February, 2009 on the basis of an independent evaluation to strengthen the implementation process. A modified version of IUS viz. 'Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIUS)' was notified in July, 2013. Under MIUS, projects have been undertaken to upgrade infrastructure in existing Industrial Parks/ Estates/ Areas. Greenfield projects have also been undertaken in backward areas and North Eastern Region (NER) under the scheme. Projects are being implemented by the State Implementing Agency (SIA) of the State Government. Central Grant upto 50% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs.50.00 crore

is provided under MIUS with at least 25% contributions of State Implementing Agency and in case of North Eastern States, the central grant and minimum contribution of the SIA are up to 80% and 10% respectively. Final approval has been accorded to 23 projects with central grant amounting to Rs. 548.98 crore. Central assistance of Rs.314.73 crore (as on 30.06.2018) has been provided to 22 projects under MIUS.

SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries)

- Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Govt. of India has launched this scheme in the year 2005 with the view to promote Cluster development.
- As per the revised guidelines, the following schemes are being merged into SFURTI:
- The Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans
- The Scheme for Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP)
- The Scheme for Rural Industries Service Center (RISC) and
- Other small interventions like Ready Warp Units, Ready to Wear Mission, etc.

Objectives of Scheme

- To organize the traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and provide support for their long term sustainability and economy of scale;
- To provide sustained employment for traditional industry artisans and rural entrepreneurs;
- To enhance marketability of products of such clusters by providing support for new products, design intervention and improved packaging and also the improvement of marketing infrastructure;

- To equip traditional artisans of the associated clusters with the improved skills and capabilities through training and exposure visits;
- To make provision for common facilities and improved tools and equipment for artisans to promote optimum utilization of infrastructure facilities;
- To strengthen the cluster governance systems with the active participation of the stakeholders, so that they are able to gauge the emerging challenges and opportunities and respond to them in a coherent manner.

ASPIRE SCHEME

- ASPIRE Scheme or Scheme for promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and Agro-Industry is promoted by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- It will promote Innovation & Rural Entrepreneurship through rural Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI), Technology Business Incubator (TBI) and Fund of Funds for start-up creation in the agro-based industry.
- The ASPIRE Scheme fund has a Rs.200 crore corpus

The main objectives of the ASPIRE scheme are to:

- Create new jobs and reduce unemployment;
- Promote entrepreneurship culture in India;
- Grassroots economic development at district level;
- Facilitate innovative business solution for un-met social needs; and
- Promote innovation to further strengthen the competitiveness of MSME sector.

GRAM NYAYALAYAS

Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 is an Act of Parliament of India enacted for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas or village courts for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India. The Act came into force from 2 October 2009. However, the Act has not been enforced properly, with only 194 functional Gram Nyayalayas in the country (as of 10 March 2015) against a target of 5000 such courts. The major reasons behind the non-enforcement includes financial constraints, reluctance of lawyers, police and other government officials.

- The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari, who will have the same power, enjoy same salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class. Such Nyayadhikari are to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court.
- A Gram Nyayalaya have jurisdiction over an area specified by a notification by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court. The Court can function as a mobile court at any place within the jurisdiction of such Gram Nyayalaya, after giving wide publicity to that regards.
- The Gram Nyayalayas have both civil and criminal jurisdiction over the offences and nature of suits specified in the First, Second and Third schedule of the Act. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Nyayalayas are fixed by the respective High Courts.
- The fees charged in civil suits shall not exceed Rs.100 irrespective of the value of property in dispute.
- Both the Central and the State Government can add or remove items in the Schedule. While the Central Government can amend the list in Schedule I and II, by notifying them and thereafter laying it in the Parliament, the

State Government can amend the items in Part III of Schedule I or II, in the areas of law which the state is competent to enact law after due consultation with the respective High Court and notifying it. Such notification has to be laid in the State Legislature.

- Offences are to be tried in a summary manner in accordance with Chapter XXI of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- The Act allows plea bargaining in accordance with Chapter XXIA of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Gram Nyayalayas can follow special procedures in civil matters, in a manner it deem just and reasonable in the interest of justice.
- Civil suits are proceeded on a day-to-day basis, with limited adjournments and are to be disposed of within a period of six months from the date of institution of the suit.
- In execution of a decree, the Court can allow special procedures following rules of natural justice.
- Gram Nyayalayas allow for conciliation of the dispute and settlement of the same in the first instance.
- Gram Nyayalayas has been given power to accept certain evidences which would otherwise not be acceptable under Indian Evidence Act.
- Appeals in criminal matter can be made to the Sessions Court in the respective jurisdiction and in civil matters to the District Court within a period of one month from the date of judgment.

THEYYAM ART

Theyyam (Teyyam, Theyam, Theyattam) is a popular ritual form of worship in Kerala, India, predominantly in the Kolathunadu area (consisting of present-day Kasargod, Kannur Districts, Mananthavady Taluk of Wayanad and Vatakara and Koyilandy Taluks of Kozhikode of Kerala) and also in South

Canara and Kodagu of Karnataka as a living cult with several thousand-year-old traditions, rituals and customs. The performers of Theyyam belong to the lower caste community, and have an important position in Theyyam. The people of these districts consider Theyyam itself as a channel to a God and they thus seek blessings from Theyyam. A similar custom is followed in the Mangalore region of neighbouring Karnataka known as Bhuta Kola.