



**PIB**

**Press Information Bureau**

**Summary**  
**January 2019**

## PIB SUMMARY: JANUARY 2019

### PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with students, teachers and parents, as part of **Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0** at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi. The interaction, which lasted for over ninety minutes, saw students, teachers and parents relax, laugh, and repeatedly applaud the Prime Minister's observations, which included a touch of humour and wit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kochi. He inaugurated **Integrated Refinery Expansion Project Complex (IREP) at Kochi**. IREP will be a modern expansion complex and transform Kochi refinery into the largest PSU Refinery in India with world class standards.
- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated **National Museum of Indian Cinema** in Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit** at Mahatma Mandir Exhibition cum Convention Centre in **Gandhinagar**
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and **President of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev** held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the "Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2019"
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, received the **first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released today a **commemorative coin of Rs. 350** in the national capital to mark the birth anniversary celebrations of **Guru Gobind Singh jee**.
- The Prime Minister launched, **Gangajal project**, which will **provide Agra with better** and more assured **water supply**, at an estimated cost of Rs.2880 crores. Gangajal project aims to bring 140 cusecs of Ganga water to Agra. This will help meet the drinking water demands in the city.

### UNION CABINET

- **India and Japan** signed an MoC in the field of food processing sector. The MoC will lead to betterment of the food processing sector in the country by introducing innovative techniques and processes.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **extension of Delhi Metro corridor** from Dilshad Garden to New Bus Adda Ghaziabad. The total distance of the extended line will be 9.41 km.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing Memorandum of Understanding between **India and Kuwait for cooperation on the Recruitment of Domestic Workers**. The MOU will promote bilateral cooperation in domestic workers related matters between the two countries. The MOU is initially **valid for a period of five years** and incorporates provision for automatic renewal. Under this MOU, a **Joint Committee** will be set up to follow up the implementation of this MOU
- The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for **amendment to the 'Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Member Countries'** to incorporate a '**Standby Swap**' amounting to USD 400 million operated within the overall size of the Facility of USD 2 billion and build in flexibility with respect to modalities of its operation, such as period of swap, roll over, etc. after due consideration of conditions of requesting SAARC member countries and domestic requirements of India.
- Cabinet approves creation of the **National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**. The National Bench of the Appellate Tribunal shall be situated at New Delhi.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and Department of Natural Resource Mines and Energy **Australia** through the **Safety in Mines, Testing and Research Station (SIMTARS)**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **recapitalization of EXIM Bank**. The details are as follows:
  - Issuance of Recapitalization Bonds by Government of India to the tune of **Rs.6,000 crore for capital infusion** in Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
  - The equity will be infused in **two tranches of Rs. 4,500 crore** in FY 2018-19 and Rs.1,500 crore in FY 2019-20 respectively.
  - The Cabinet also approved an **increase in the authorized capital** of Exim Bank from Rs. 10,000 crore to **Rs. 20,000 crore**. The recapitalisation bonds will be on the lines issued to Public Sector Banks.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the **Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan on Development of Advanced Model Single Window** which ' is based on the best practices in and outside India, with measurable parameters and identify possible obstacles for establishment of the Single Window in India. It will thus, facilitate investments.
- The Union Cabinet has been approved the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **India and France** on technical bilateral cooperation in the **field of new and renewable energy**. The MoU will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between India and France.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for entering into an **Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan** and authorizing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to sign the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement between the RBI and the Bank of Japan for a maximum amount of **USD 75 billion**.
- Cabinet approves **setting up of 3 new AIIMS** to come up at Vijaynagar, Samba in Jammu, Awantipur, Pulwama, Kashmir and Rajkot, Gujarat
- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a **High Level Committee for implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord** and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **scheme of amalgamation for amalgamating Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, with Bank of Baroda** as the transferee bank and Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank as transferor banks. The amalgamation will be the first-ever three-way consolidation of banks in India, with the amalgamated bank being India's second largest Public Sector Bank.
- The Union Cabinet chaired has approved the **restructuring of existing National Health Agency as "National Health Authority"** for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **continuation of Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram** Scheme for the Period **2017-18 to 2019-2020** with budget outlay of **Rs.1160 crore**.

### CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA)

---

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to the project for **capacity expansion of Numaligarh Refinery** from 3 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum) to 9 MMTPA. The expansion of the refinery will meet the deficit of petroleum products in the North East.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for **continuation of five schemes under the "Umbrella Scheme for Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions"** during the Fourteenth Finance Commission period 2017-18 to 2019-20. All the five schemes are Central Sector Schemes with 100% funding from Central Government. These are **Swastha Nagrik Abhiyan, Free Supply of Contraceptive, MIS Scheme now proposed as Health Surveys and Health Research (HSHR), Social Marketing of Contraceptive, Population Research Centres (PRCs)**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to the proposal of the Department of Commerce **for including merchant exporters under the Interest**

**Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit** by allowing them interest **equalisation rate of 3%** on such credit for export of products covered under 416 tariff lines identified under the scheme. These products are largely in MSME/ labour intensive sectors such as Agriculture, Textiles, Leather, Handicraft, machinery, etc.

## DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

- India's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44)** successfully injected **Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2** satellites into their designated orbits.
- As part of the enhanced outreach programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a new platform named "**Samwad with Students**" (SwS) was launched in Bengaluru today. Through the SwS initiative, ISRO aims to constantly engage youngsters across India to capture their scientific temperament.
- Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **UNNATI-Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training programme** organized by ISRO in Bengaluru. UNNATI is an initiative by ISRO to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE-50). The programme provides opportunities to the participating developing countries to strengthen in assembling, integrating and testing of Nanosatellite

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has released the 2017-18 (Final) and 2018-19(1st Advance Est.) of Area and Production of Horticulture Crops. These estimates are based on the information received from different State/UTs in the country.

### Highlights of 2018-19(First Advance Estimates)

- The **Total Horticulture production** of the country is estimated to be **314.5 Million Tonnes** during 2018-19 (First Adv. Est) which would be 0.95% higher than the 2017-18 and 8% higher than the past 5 years' average production.
- **Onion production** in current year is likely to be around 23.62 Million Tonnes as against 23.26 Million Tonnes in 2017-18 (1.5% higher).
- **Potato production** in current year is estimated at 52.58 Million Tonnes as against 51.31 Million Tonnes in 2017-18 (6% higher).
- **Tomato production** in the current year is likely to be around 20.51 Million Tonnes as against 19.76 Million Tonnes in 2017-18 (2% higher).

- **National Conference on Agriculture for Zaid Campaign-2019** was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in New Delhi
- With a view to ensure better transparency, accountability and timely payment of claims to the farmers, Government has comprehensively **revised the Operational Guidelines** of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** which have become effective from Rabi 2018-19.
- The following provisions, have also been made in the revised Operational Guidelines:
  - **Provision of 12% interest rate** per annum to be paid by the Insurance Company to farmers for delay in settlement claims beyond 10 days of prescribed cut off date for payment of claims.
  - **State Government have to pay 12% interest rate** for delay in release of State share of Subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut off date/submission of requisition by Insurance Companies.
- With a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit {including loans taken against **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**} at a reasonable cost/at a reduced rate of 7% per annum to farmers, the **Government of India, is implementing an interest subvention scheme of 2% for short term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh.**
  - Currently, besides 2% interest subvention, the farmers, on prompt repayment of crop loans on or before the due date, are also provided 3% additional interest subvention.
  - Thus, **in case of prompt payee** farmers the short term crop loans are provided at an **effective interest rate of 4% per annum.**
  - The benefit of interest subvention is extended for a period of up to six months (post-harvest) to small and marginal farmers having KCC on loan against negotiable warehouse receipts with the purpose of preventing distress sale of produce.

### MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

---

- The **International Civil Aviation Organization** has predicted a **100 percent increase in global air travel by the year 2030**, creating a need for extensive efforts to bring the entire aviation ecosystem to pace.

### MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

---

- **Government e Marketplace [GeM]** has launched **“Womaniya on GeM”**, an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups [WSHG] to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories, jute and coir products, home décor and office furnishings, directly to various Government ministries, departments and institutions.



- The **25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019**, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India, was **held in Mumbai**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan on Development of Advanced Model Single Window**. The 'Advanced Model Single Window' is based on the best practices in and outside India, with measurable parameters and identify possible obstacles for establishment of the Single Window in India. It will thus, facilitate investments.
- **The Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP)**, an initiative to bring **Indian IT companies and Chinese enterprises closer** to each other on a single AI enabled platform was launched on 10th January 2019. This is a partnership by National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) with Municipal Governments of Guiyang and Dalian.

## MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- **Mauritius Prime Minister Mr Pravind Jugnauth** and Guests of 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas visited Prayagraj Kumbh.
- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015,2016,2017 and 2018 has been conferred on the following

Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari	2015
Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International	2016
Ekal Abhiyan Trust	2017
Ohei Sasakawa	2018

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)** the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama will launched the second phase of the Web Campaign '**SĀNJHI –MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR**' an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country by direct public-participation.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- Ministry of Defence had launched a **mobile app 'RDP India 2019'** on the Republic Day, with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event, not only to the spectators at Rajpath, but also to the general public all over the world.
- The first coastal defence **Exercise Sea Vigil**, conducted by the Navy and Coast Guard, in close coordination with State Governments and Union Territories concluded today, 23 Jan

2019. It was the largest such exercise the country had ever witnessed in recent times and saw participation by more than 100 ships, aircraft and patrol boats manned and operated by various security agencies.

- Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur was commissioned as **INS Kohassa** by Admiral Sunil Lanba. INS Kohassa has been named after a White-Bellied Sea Eagle, which is a large bird of prey, endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

---

- In an effort to promote ownership and sustained usage of toilets and also provide a facelift to the crores of toilets built under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched a month-long campaign, “**Swachh Sundar Shauchalaya**” that commenced on 1st January.
  - The campaign comprises a unique Contest, under which, households are being mobilised to paint and decorate their toilets. It will be spearheaded by Gram Panchayats and coordinated by district administrations.
  - The campaign will involve rural communities in the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country. Individual households, Gram Panchayats and Districts will be awarded on the basis of number of toilets painted and the quality and creativity of their work.

### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

---

- To tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner in the form of **National Clean Air Programme** (NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. The tentative national level target of **20%–30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2024** is proposed under the NCAP taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

### MINISTRY OF FINANCE

---

- Government has **allowed premature withdrawal from New Pension Scheme Fund**.
  - A subscriber is eligible for **three partial withdrawals** during the period of subscription under National Pension System (NPS), **each withdrawal not exceeding twenty-five percent of the contributions** made by the subscriber and excluding contributions made by the employer.



- The **National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA)** has been constituted under **Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017** to ensure that the reduction in rate of tax or the benefit of input tax credit is passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices.
- An online lending portal **www.psbloansin59minutes.com** with majority ownership of 6 Public Sector Banks (PSBs)/ Financial Institutions (FIs) along with their associated companies, **has been launched which facilitates in principle approval for loans to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) upto Rs.1 crore within 59 minutes from PSBs**

### MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

---

- The first ever National Conference on **“Prison Design”** was held in Visakhapatnam, **Andhra Pradesh**. The two-day conference is being hosted by the DG Prison, Andhra Pradesh on the behalf of State and is being sponsored by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D).
- Government has instituted an **annual award titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**. The award is to be announced every year on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. **For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) located at Ghaziabad** has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for its commendable work in Disaster Management. The Award recipient will receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh introduced the **Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabh**. The Bill seeks to facilitate acquisition of citizenship by six identified minority communities namely Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians and Parsis from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who came to India before 31st Dec., 2014.

### MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

---

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the approval an **increase of 5000 seats in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) for the Academic Year 2019-20**. At present the number of seats in JNVs, residential schools for talented rural children are 46600. The addition of 5000 seats will mean availability of 51000 seats from AY 2019-20.

## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Shri NitinGadkari launched travelogue program “**Rag Rag Mein Ganga**” and quiz show “**Meri Ganga**” on Doordarshan. The travelogue series “Rag Rag Mein Ganga” has been made by Doordarshan in collaboration with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has taken a decision to revise the advertisement rates for print media by announcing a **hike of 25%** over and above the existing rate structure for advertisement in print media by the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (erstwhile DAVP). The decision will be valid for a period of three years.
- **Indian Panorama Film Festival**, being organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of I&B, was inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Shri Amit Khare in the presence of Shri Shaji N Karun, the director of the opening feature film ‘Olu’, at Siri Fort Auditorium II, **New Delhi**.

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

- **Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana** (PMRPY), the flagship scheme of the Central Government for employment generation has **crossed the milestone of one crore** beneficiaries as on January 14, 2019
- Government is working on an **Incentive Scheme** wherein **seven weeks wages shall be reimbursed to employers** who employ women workers and provide the maternity benefit of 26 weeks paid leave, as provided for in the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017.
  - To enable an entity to avail of the incentive, **the women employees working in their entity should be a wage earner of less than Rs.15,000/- per month and a member of Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** for at least one year and not covered by Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

## MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- ‘**Saksham**’, an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was launched in New Delhi.
- Hon’ble Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu **handed over 6 croreth LPG connection** under **Pradhan MantriUjjwalaYojana** (PMUY) to Smt Jasmina Khatoon from Shivpark, Khanpur, Delhi.

## MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

- The Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design formally presented the fourth annual **Carnot Prize to Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal**, Minister of Railways & Coal and former Minister of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Government of India, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the report “**The Future of Rail**” of International Energy Agency (IEA). “The Future of Rail” the first-of-a-kind report analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved creation of the post of Vice Chancellor for **India's first rail and transportation university, National Rail & Transport Institute (NRTI) to be set up in Vadodara, Gujarat**

## MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

- **An MoU for sale of FASTags through petrol pumps of leading Oil Marketing Companies** was signed between Indian Highways Management Company Limited - IMHCL and leading Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) like BPCL, HPCL and IOCL. This will help expand the FASTag program’s distribution network which is presently active at selected bank branches.
- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has recently launched the **BhoomiRashi portal**. With the operation of this Portal, the land acquisition process has been expedited significantly, become error-free and more transparent and the notifications at every stage are being processed on real time basis.

## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- With effect from January 1, 2019, Central Government has **enhanced the fellowship of Ph.D students and other research personnel** enrolled in any area of science and technology, including Physical and Chemical Sciences, Engineering, Mathematical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Life Sciences, Pharmacy etc.
  - The hike in fellowship will directly benefit over 60,000 Research Fellows and also provide a template to the States to consider increase in their fellowship rates. Fellowship of the Junior Research Fellows in the first two years of Ph.D programme is increased from the current rate of **Rs.25,000/- to Rs.31,000/- per month**. Similarly, in the remaining tenure of Ph.D, Senior Research Fellow will get Rs. **35,000/- per month** instead of the present Rs.28,000/- per month.

- Further, there is substantial **30-35% enhancement** in the financial rewards for the scientists involved in the R&D projects as Research Associates.
- The top bracket of Research **Associateship is fixed at Rs.54,000/-**. All the research fellows are also entitled to HRA as per Central Government norms.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Doordarshan (DD), Prasar Bharati launched two science communication initiatives, **DD Science and India Science**
  - While **DD Science is an one-hour slot on Doordarshan** National channel, which will be telecast Monday to Saturday from 5 pm to 6pm
  - **India Science is a internet-based channel**, which is available on any internet-enabled device, and will offer live, scheduled play and video-on-demand services.

### MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

---

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust** becomes the **only Indian port** to be listed amongst the **world's top 30 container ports** as per the latest Lloyds Report. JNPT notched up five spots, to be 28th on the list.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime issues between India and Denmark**.

### MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

---

- In a bid to boost skill training and entrepreneurship in the remotest corners of the country, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Petroleum and Natural Gas (MSDE) announced **comprehensive reforms for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)**, to further strengthen the skills ecosystem benefiting those in the underprivileged sections of society.
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship attended the **Global Skill Summit 2019 held in Ranchi, Jharkhand**
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has approved the proposal to **set up Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) in 3 locations** viz. Kanpur, Mumbai and Ahmedabad in the country.
- Two new Skill Development Schemes have been approved namely (i) **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP)**; and (ii) **Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)**.

## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has introduced a Bill titled "**The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016**" in the Lok Sabha on 2.8.2016, having the provisions of recognition of identity of transgender person, prohibition against discrimination, welfare measures by government, obligation of establishments and other persons, educational, social security and health of transgender person and National Council for transgender persons etc. **A total of Rs.1.00 Crore has been allocated during 2018-19 under the Scheme for Transgender Persons.**

## MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

- To further strengthen the handlooms and textiles sector of India, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India presented "**Artisan Speak**", a unique event which showcased the rich handloom and textile tradition of India. The event was held at UNESCO World Heritage site, **Elephanta Caves** near Mumbai, on January 28, 2019.
- **Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme** (CHCDS) is implemented for development of mega handloom clusters, having atleast 15000 looms per cluster with Government of India share upto **Rs.40 crore in a period of 5 years.**
  - The scheme is under implementation in **eight mega handloom Clusters** i.e. Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhanagar (Tamil Nadu), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Prakasam & Guntur districts (Andhra Pradesh), Godda & neighbouring districts (Jharkhand), Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Trichy (Tamil Nadu).
  - Under the scheme, various projects like setting up of Common Facility Centre, Dye House, Garmenting Unit, Silk Spinning Unit, Automatic Silk Reeling Unit etc. have been taken up in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, which are functional.
- To avoid fluctuation in yarn price, government has launched a **Yarn Bank Scheme** as one of the component of PowerTex India with effect from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020.
  - The Scheme provides interest **free corpus fund up to Rs.2.00 crore** to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)/Consortium formed by powerloom weavers to enable them to purchase yarn at wholesale rate and give the yarn at reasonable price to the small weavers to avoid middleman and local supplier's brokerage charge on sales of yarn.
  - **There is a 1% increase in powerloom fabric production.**

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM

- The celebration of '**Bharat Parv**' concluded at Red Fort in the presence of Shri K J Alphons, Union Tourism Minister. The Parv was organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India at the Red Fort, New Delhi from 26th to 31st January, 2019.
- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **project "Development of Spiritual Circuit: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple-Aranmula-Sabarimala"** being implemented under the Swadesh Drashan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism in Kerala
- The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma, inaugurated the project **"Development of North East Circuit: Umiam (Lake View) - U Lum Sohpetbneng-Mawdiangdiang - Orchid Lake Resort"** implemented under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism

## MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, '#**www : Web- WonderWomen**'. The Campaign aims to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media.
- The Women & Child Development Ministry celebrated **National Girl Child Day (NGCD) today 24th January, 2019** at Pravasi Bharti Kendra, Chankyapuri, New Delhi. The celebrations also marked the anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme. The theme of this NGCD is **"Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow"** and celebrating with objectives of generating awareness on the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and create a positive environment around valuing the girl child