

FEBRUARY 2019

PIB SUMMARY

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 in the presence of the Prime Minister and other dignitaries, at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari	2015
Akshaya Patra Foundation and the Sulabh International	2016
Ekal Abhiyan Trust	2017
<i>Shri Yohei Sasakawa</i>	2018

- The President of India inaugurated the International Conference and Exhibition on Energy and Environment: Challenges and Opportunities (ENCO 2019) on February 20, 2019) in New Delhi. This Conference is being organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book "***Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice PN Bhagwati's Approach***" from Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice Ranjan Gogoi. The book is authored by ***Mool Chand Sharma***

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended the closing ceremony of National Youth Parliament Festival Awards 2019, at VigyanBhawan, in New Delhi. National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 has been jointly organised by National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on the theme of 'Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and Contribute to Policy'.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched PN-KISAN scheme during his visit to **Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh**. At Fertilizer Corporation of India ground in Gorakhpur, Prime Minister marked the launch of the **PM-KISAN scheme**, through press of button, to electronically transfer the first instalment of **Rs 2,000** to selected farmers.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a **bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Yonsei University in Seoul**.

CABINET

- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Argentina on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation.
- The Union Cabinet has approved inclusion of Common Service Centres (CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd.) under MeitY as an enrolment agency, and permitting bulk deposits by other Ministries / Departments / Welfare Boards / other agencies of Central and State Governments in lieu subscriber's share.
 - ✓ The approval will enable workers in the Unorganized Sector, to get social security in the form of monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The Union Cabinet, has approved setting up of a Railway Zone at Vishakhapatnam and a new division with headquarter at Rayagada by reorganizing the existing South Central Railway and East Coast Railway.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.
 - ✓ Initially, an outlay of Rs.1500 Crore is involved to implement the programmes/ schemes envisaged under this policy over the period of 7 years. Rs1500 Crore is divided into Software Product Development Fund (SPDF) and Research & Innovation fund.
- The Union has approved the proposal of Jammu & Kashmir Government to issue "**The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019**" by the President of India. It provides for amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 to bringing persons residing in the areas adjoining International Border within the ambit of reservation at par with persons living in areas adjoining Actual Line of Control (ALoC).
- The Cabinet today approved payment of the face value of the subscribed share capital of **Rs.1450** crore in National Housing Bank(NHB) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) consequent to amendments made to the NHB Act, 1987 in 2018.
- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for implementation of scheme titled 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country. The scheme with total outlay of Rs 10000 Crores over the period of three years will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, to be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It will function under the name of Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) beyond March, 2019 (PMAY-G) Phase-II as follows:
 - ✓ Total target for construction of 1.95 crore houses under PMAY-G Phase-II upto 2022.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Implementation of an Externally Aided Project namely “**National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)** under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) **through loan assistance (IBRD Credit) from World Bank.**
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **the introduction of Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Bill, 2019**, for creating more accountability and offering more protection against exploitation of Indian citizens, mostly women by their NRI spouses.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for Abolition of Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and Indirect Tax Ombudsman.
- The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of a unified authority for **regulating all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India** through International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019.
 - ✓ **The first IFSC in India has been set up at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
 - ✓ An IFSC enables bringing back the financial services and transactions that are currently carried out in offshore financial centers by Indian corporate entities and overseas branches / subsidiaries of financial institutions (FIs) to India by offering business and regulatory environment that is comparable to other leading international financial centers in the world
- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for establishment of **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog** for Conservation protection and development of cows and their progeny.
 - ✓ It will result in increased growth of livestock sector which is more inclusive, benefitting women, and small and marginal farmers.

MOUS SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND OTHER NATIONS

India signed MoU with	Purpose
Brazil	cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy
Saudi Arabia	Cooperation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters
Argentina	Field of Tourism
Vietnam	Cooperation in the field of Communications.
Tajikistan	Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.
Norway	Undertaking non-intrusive Geological Surveys and Investigations

National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA	Access tipline reports on Missing and Exploited Children
United Kingdom	Cooperation in Weather and Climate Sciences
Argentina	Cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation
Maldives	Establishing Mutual Cooperation to Improve the Ecosystems for Agribusiness
Ukraine	Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Industry
UAE	Development Cooperation in Africa
Finland	Collaborating based on mutual interest in the field of Biotechnology,
Uzbekistan	For promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of e-Governance.

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal to provide **soft loans to the extent of about Rs 7900-10540 crore to the sugar industry** to help the sugar industry to clear its cane dues arrears.
 - ✓ Government will bear the **interest subvention cost of 7 - 10% to the extent of Rs 553 crore to Rs 1054 crore for one year.**
 - ✓ Government has mandated that banks will obtain from the sugar mill, the list of farmers with bank account details to the extent cane dues are to be paid, so that the same are directly paid into the accounts of the farmers on behalf of the sugar mills. Subsequent balance if any, will then be credited into the mill's account.
 - ✓ Furthermore, in order to incentivize the mills to clear their dues, CCEA has also decided that the **approved soft loans will be provided to those units which have already cleared at least 25% of their outstanding dues in the sugar season 2018-19.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for development of **New Greenfield Airport at Hirasar, Rajkot, Gujarat** at an estimated cost of Rs.1405 crore.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has approved the **FDI Proposal for Foreign Direct Investment of more than Rs. 5000 crore and up to Rs. 25000 crore in M/s Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL)** as part of a proposed equity fund raise by way of a Rights issue of equity shares and/or other equity linked securities to eligible shareholders of the company.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the "**Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana**" for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved launch of **Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan** with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the increase in the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2019-20 season**
 - ✓ The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Raw Jute has been increased to **Rs.3950/- per quintal for 2019-20 season from Rs. 3700/- per quintal** in 2018-19 season.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today gave its approval to the Proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding PrasarBharati's "**Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development**" **scheme at a cost of Rs.1054.52 crore** for 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs gave its approval for the **creation of a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore for Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) to be created with NABARD** for development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure in Gramin Agricultural Markets and Regulated Wholesale Markets.

AYUSH

- Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid foundation stone for **National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad**.
 - ✓ The NIUM, Ghaziabad, an extension of the existing NIUM, Bangalore, would be developed in 10 acres with an approximate cost of Rs. 300.00 crore.
- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.
 - ✓ e-AUSHADHI portal is intended for increased transparency, improved information management facility, improved data usability and increased accountability.

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

- India's latest communication satellite, GSAT-31 was successfully launched from the Spaceport in French Guiana
 - ✓ GSAT-31 has a unique configuration of providing flexible frequency segments and flexible coverage. The satellite will provide communication services to Indian mainland and islands

ELECTION COMMISSION

- In view of the impending General Elections, the Election Commission of India has strengthened its Voter Helpline to make it easy for the Voters to get authentic information pertaining to their voter registration. The range of services provided by the **Helpline Number 1950** have been refurbished and made easily accessible.
- Shri Sushil Chandra has assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner (EC) of India and joins the Commission with Chief Election Commissioner Shri Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Shri Ashok Lavasa.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- The 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2018-19 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on 28th February, 2019.
 - ✓ As per Second Advance Estimates for 2018-19, **total Foodgrain production** in the country is estimated at **281.37 million tonnes**
 - ✓ Total production of Rice during 2018-19 is estimated at record 115.60 million tonnes
 - ✓ Production of Wheat, estimated at 99.12 million tonnes
 - ✓ Production of Nutri / Coarse Cereals estimated at 42.64 million tonnes
 - ✓ Total Pulses production during 2018-19 is estimated at 24.02 million tonnes
 - ✓ Total Oilseeds production in the country during 2018-19 is estimated at 31.50 million tonnes
 - ✓ Total production of Sugarcane in the country during 2018-19 is estimated at 380.83 million tonnes
 - ✓ Production of Cotton estimated at 30.09 million bales
- National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) new scheme 'Yuva Sahakar', launched in November 2018 is giving wings to young entrepreneurs in cooperatives
 - ✓ Newly formed cooperatives will be able to take advantage of the 'Cooperative Start up and Innovation Fund' created by NCDC with liberalized assistance for cooperatives in the North Eastern Region, Cooperatives registered and operating in Aspirational Districts, cooperatives with 100% women/SC/ST/Person with Disability (PwD) members.
- The **Agriculture Credit Flow Target for 2018-19 has been fixed at Rs, 11,00,000 crore** and against this target, as reported by NABARD, the disbursement by Banks till September, 2018 is Rs. 6,45,205 crore.

In agriculture Census, the operational holdings are categorised in five size classes as follows:

Category	Size-Class
Marginal	Below 1.00 hectare
Small	1.00-2.00 hectare

Semi- Medium	2.00-4.00 hectare
Medium	4.00-10.00 hectare
Large	10.0 hectare and above

- “India Rural Development Report 2012-13” prepared by the IDFC Rural Development Network observed that Small farms are more efficient, especially in cultivating labour-intensive crops or tending livestock, but land holdings are too small to generate sufficient household income.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval for the creation of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and associated activities for the disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries/JV.
- Suresh Prabhu inaugurated ‘Aviation Conclave 2019’ with theme of “Flying for All” in New Delhi

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched SWAYATT in New Delhi. SWAYATT is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM). This will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace the national procurement portal.
- Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace.
- In order to ensure due compliance of the FDI policy on e-Commerce, Press Note 2 (2018) has been issued. It puts in place certain conditions. These conditions include:
 - ✓ An entity having equity participation by e-commerce marketplace entity or its group companies, or having control on its inventory by e-commerce marketplace entity or its group companies, will not be permitted to sell its products on the platform run by such marketplace entity.
 - ✓ e-Commerce marketplace entity will not mandate any seller to sell any product exclusively on its platform only.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- The Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly established **Virtual Experiential Museum (VEM) in a Centrally Protected Monument under Archeological Survey of India, Man – Mahal**, situated on the bank of the Ganges near holy Dashashwamedh Ghat at **Varanasi**
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

2014	Rajkumar Singhajit Singh
2015	Chhayanaut (a cultural organisation of Bangladesh)
2016	Ram Vanji Sutar

- The Government is implementing a Scheme namely “Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes”.
 - ✓ The objective of the Scheme is to improve financial and socio-economic status of the old aged artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. but leading a miserable life or are in penury condition.
 - ✓ The Scheme has also provision to provide medical aid facility to such Artistes and his/her spouse by covering them under a convenient and affordable Health Insurance Scheme of the Government.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- A joint military exercise Sampriti-2019 was conducted at Tangail, Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 March 2019. Exercise Sampriti-2019 is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and Bangladesh and this will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
- INS Trikand, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multinational training exercise ‘CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19’ held from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 19.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.
- Initially, an outlay **of Rs.1500 Crore** is involved to implement the programmes/ schemes envisaged under this policy over the period of 7 years. Rs1500 Crore is divided into Software Product Development Fund (SPDF) and Research & Innovation fund.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada for next 10 years in New Delhi. Both the institutions shall explore opportunities for future collaborations in the field of forestry science.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has given 'in principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 100% equity shares of Government of India in Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) to Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) in a single stage process, by following 'Arm's length' principles.
- The Cabinet approved payment of the face value of the subscribed share capital of Rs.1450 crore in National Housing Bank(NHB) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) consequent to amendments made to the NHB Act, 1987 in 2018.
- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Government of India signed a **USD 455 million loan** in New Delhi to **finance the Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads Project**, which will connect some 3,300 habitations with a population of more than 250, and benefit around two Million people.
- Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan have completed signing of the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan. This BSA provides for India to access 75 billion in US dollars whereas the earlier BSA had provided for US \$50 billion.
- As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2017-18, the proportion of persons joining the formal financial system in terms of an account at financial institutions has more than doubled since 2011 and by 2017, it had reached 80 per cent of the Indian population – comparable with China and better than other BRICS peers.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has rationalized the framework for External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) and Rupee Denominated Bonds and notified a new Policy
 - ✓ Under the New Policy, all entities eligible to receive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are permitted to raise ECBs up to USD 750 million or equivalent per financial year under automatic route
 - ✓ The Minimum Average Maturity Period (MAMP) has been kept at 3 years for all ECBs
- Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19 (Series VI) will be opened for the period from 4th February to 8th February, 2019. The Issue Price of the Bond during this subscription period shall be Rs.3,326 per gram with Settlement date February 12, 2019, The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount of Rs.50 (Rupees Fifty only) per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala. This is the first Mega Food Park in the state of Tripura.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the introduction of National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019.
- The objective of the bill is to confer the status of Institutions of National Importance to National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Haryana, and the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for implementation of scheme titled 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country.
 - ✓ The scheme with total outlay of Rs 10000 Crores over the period of three years will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.
 - ✓ This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled 'FAME India1 which was launched on 1st April 2015, with total outlay of Rs. 895 crores.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has instituted a challenge for States/ UTs to select six sites across the country for constructing the Lighthouse projects under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)
 - ✓ The selected sites for lighthouse projects will be used as an 'open laboratory' for live demonstration and will receive due attention from academia (Civil Engineering, Planning, Architecture), practitioners (Public/ Private), policy makers (Central/ State) and media apart from felicitation/ recognition in Grand Expo-cum-Conference.
- Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), to the most vulnerable, showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- The Minister for Human Resources Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar has launched the **Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)** for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched Operation Digital Board to leverage technology in order to boost quality education in the country. Digital board will be introduced all over the country in government and government aided schools from class 9th onwards as well as in higher education institutions.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the revision of norms under Mid Day Meal Scheme with an outlay of Rs.12,054 Crore for 2019-20 in addition to the subsidy of about **Rs. 8,000 crore borne by Department of Food & Public Distribution.**
 - ✓ Cooking cost is enhanced by Rs 361 crore.
 - ✓ Revision of the transportation rate from Rs 75 per quintal
 - ✓ Revision of Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) rate from 2% to 3% of the total admissible recurring Central Assistance.
 - ✓ A new component of Rs 10,000 per kitchen for repair of more than 10 year old kitchen
 - ✓ Rs 50 crore have been allocated for fortification of food items in a systematic manner.
- A proposal received from the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) for increasing the intake of students at Class VI level in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) by 10% from the academic session 2019-20 leading to addition of about 5000 seats has been approved 'in-principle' and is at advanced stage of approval.
 - ✓ To complement the activities under Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat and to inculcate reading habits among students, an annual grant of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000 per school has been provisioned under Samagra Siksha for strengthening of school libraries.
 - ✓ The Rashtriya Avaishkar Abhiyan (RAA) has been launched to motivate and engage children of the age-group of 6-18 years in science, maths and technology through observation, experimentation, both through inside and outside classroom activities.
 - ✓ The Atal Tinkering labs have been established in many schools across the country with the objective of fostering curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds.
- Government has reconstituted the Council of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi for a period of three years
- In pursuance of the proposal of the Union Budget, 2018-19, to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-school to Class XII, the Department of School Education and Literacy has launched the

Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched DD Arunprabha at Arunachal Pradesh. The channel will act as an ambassador of the culture of the state and will familiarize people across India with the beauty and the culture of the State.
- National Film Development Corporation of India has been selected as Winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved inclusion of Common Service Centres (CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd.) under MeitY as an enrolment agency, and permitting bulk deposits by other Ministries / Departments / Welfare Boards / other agencies of Central and State Governments in lieu subscriber's share.
 - ✓ The approval will enable workers in the Unorganized Sector, to get social security in the form of monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment had constituted an expert committee on 17th January 2017, under the Chairmanship Dr. Anoop Satpathy, Fellow, V. V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) to review and recommend methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage (NMW). The Expert Committee has submitted its report on "Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage" to the Government of India

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- With a view to enhance awareness among MSMEs about latest technological innovations available, and sensitize them on the role of technology in creating competitiveness and opportunities, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) organized a programme on Technology Support and Outreach (TECH-SOP 2019)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Up-gradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) with a total outlay of Rs.2900 crore.
- This scheme aims at improving the competitiveness of MSMEs by integrating various ongoing schematic interventions aimed at up-grading technology through Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS), hand holding for zero defect zero effect manufacturing (ZED), increasing productivity through waste reduction (Lean), design intervention (Design), cloud computing (Digital MSMEs), facilitation of intellectual property (IPR) and nurturing new ideas (Incubation).
- Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal presented the Interim Budget 2019-20 in Parliament. The Government has taken several measures to strengthen the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs). Highlights of the Union Budget 2018 for the Ministry of MSME are as under:
 - ✓ An all-time high allocation of Rs.7011.29 crore has been made in the Budget of 2019-20.
 - ✓ To provide funding for the 2% interest rebate on incremental loan up to Rs.1 Crore for GST-registered MSME units, Rs. 350 crore has been provided under 'Interest Subvention Scheme for Incremental Credit to MSMEs'.
 - ✓ Mission Solar Charkha has been launched in the current financial year, for which Rs.143 crore has been allocated under the BE 2019-20. The scheme envisages setting up production clusters, each employing 2000 youth in the rural area, at least 50% of which would be women.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Oil industry observed Ujjwala Utsav, celebrating the stellar role played by all stakeholders – District Nodal Officers, Policy makers, Distributors, and beneficiaries – in making Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) a resounding success.
- Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal has launched Rail Drishti dashboard, encompassing all the digitisation efforts in Indian Railways and promoting transparency and accountability. It brings information from various sources on a single platform and gives access to key statistics and parameters to every citizen of the country.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) beyond March, 2019 (PMAY-G) Phase-II as follows:
 - ✓ Total target for construction of 1.95 crore houses under PMAY-G Phase-II upto 2022
- Shri Nitin Gadkari Launched PCS1X Maritime-Commerce Portal at the Regional Maritime Safety Conference in Mumbai. . PCS1x is an upgraded version of the e-commerce portalPort Community System(PCS)

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Adobe signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all Atal Tinkering Labs in India. Adobe shall be adopting 100 schools under Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) initiative. Further, Adobe shall be implementing its Digital Disha Program in ATLS , under which free licenses of Adobe Spark premium shall be offered to ATLS.