

PIB SUMMARY

March 2019

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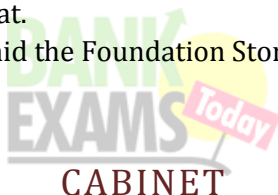
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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on March 15, 2019.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins, in New Delhi. Rs.1, Rs.2, Rs.5, Rs.10 and Rs.20 are the various denominations of coins released as part of the new series.
 - ✓ Various new features have been incorporated in the new series of circulation coins to make it more easy for the visually impaired to use them.
 - ✓ The coins are characterized by the increasing size and weight from lower to higher denominations. The newly included coin of Rs.20, will be a 12 sided coin with no serrations. The rest of the denominations would be of round shape.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone of Shikshan Bhavan and Vidhyarthi Bhavan at Annapurna Dham Trust in Adalaj, Gujarat.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation Stone of the Vishva Umiyadham Complex at Jaspur, Ahmedabad.



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the **Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP), and Wellcome Trust (WT) / DBT India Alliance** beyond its initial 10-year term (2008-09 to 2018-29) **to a new five year phase (2019-20 to 2023-24) with Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** increasing its commitment to two times that of WT. The total financial implication will be **Rs. 1092 crore** with DBT and WT contributing Rs.728 crore and Rs.364 crore respectively.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved.
 - ✓ Setting up of a **National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage**, to drive clean, connected, shared, sustainable and holistic mobility initiatives;
 - ✓ **Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)** valid for 5 years till 2024 to support setting up of a few large-scale, export-competitive integrated batteries and cell-manufacturing Giga plants in India.
 - ✓ Creation of a PMP valid for 5 years till 2024 to localize production across the entire Electric Vehicles value chain.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), and for incurring expenditure up to Rs. 1000 crore till 2019-20 by Atal Innovation Mission for expanding Atal Tinkering Labs to 10,000 schools in view of their huge success at school level.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)" for Flood Management Works in entire country and River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs.3342.00 crores.

MOUS OF INDIA

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| India and Croatia | It will help the two parties in creating an institutional mechanism for enhancing cooperation in the tourism sector. |
| India and Morocco | It aims at strengthening and encouraging cooperation between the two countries on youth matters through participation in events and activities, information and knowledge sharing and youth exchanges. |
| India and Morocco | To promote exchange of information and technical cooperation in the field of Housing and Human Settlement. |
| India and Argentine | To help scientific cooperation on projects in the fields of Earth sciences, as well as those related to the protection and conservation of the natural environment of Antarctica and the Southern Oceans. |
| India and Saudi Arabia | To promote technical cooperation in the field of Housing, including affordable/low income housing |
| India and Republic of Korea | To facilitate and promote bilateral cooperation between the startups of both countries |
| India and Indonesia | To combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors. |
| India and Germany | Cooperation in the field of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). |
| India and UK | On Cancer Research Initiative. |
| India and Belarus | On Mutual Legal Assistance (MLAT) in Civil and Commercial Matters. |
| Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India and the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Austria | To create an effective framework for bilateral cooperation in the field of Road Transportation, Roads/Highways infrastructure development, management and administration, Road safety and Intelligent Transport Systems |

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for continuation of National AIDS Control Programme-IV (NACP-IV) beyond 12th Five Year Plan for a period of three years from April, 2017 to March, 2020. The total outlay will be Rs.6434.76 crore.

AYUSH

Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) today at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KAryakram" (युविका) from this year. The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic

knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

ELECTION COMMISSION

- As part of Voter Awareness campaign for Lok Sabha Election 2019, Election Commission of India and Indian Railways have come together to utilize four long distance Trains to carry voter awareness and motivational messages.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- With a view to augment the income of farmers by providing income support to all Small and Marginal landholder farmers' families across the country and to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government had started a new Scheme on 01.02.2019 namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The Scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs.6000/- per year for the farmers' families with cultivable land holding upto 2 hectare, subject to certain exclusions.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

- Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, launched blockchain based coffee e-marketplace through video conferencing in New Delhi. The project will help integrate the farmers with markets in a transparent manner and lead to realisation of fair price for the coffee producer.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The IBBI and the SEBI seek effective implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) and its allied rules and regulations, which have redefined the debt-equity relationship and aims to promote entrepreneurship and debt market. They have agreed under the MoU to assist and co-operate with each other for the effective implementation of the Code, subject to limitations imposed by the applicable laws.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh. The state-of-the-art institute, built at an estimated cost of Rs. 289 crore is spread over 25 acres. The 3 star ultra modern green building of the Institute is equipped with all latest technologies. The Institute comprises of an auditorium with seating capacity of 1000 people, an open air theatre and an Archaeological Museum

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- The third edition of joint military training exercise between Indian Army and Royal Oman Army, Exercise AL NAGAH 2019 concluded at Jabel Al Akhdar training camp, Oman on 25 March 2019.

- Indian Navy's frontline ASW corvette, INS Kadmatt arrived at Langkawi, Malaysia on a seven days official visit on Monday 25 Mar 19. The ship is scheduled to participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19 during the visit.
- The Government have appointed Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, presently Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) Eastern Naval Command as next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from afternoon of May 31, 2019.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) in a function in New Delhi. The India Cooling Action seeks to (i) reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38, (ii) reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38, (iii) Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38, (iv) recognize "cooling and related areas" as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme, (v) training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission. These actions will have significant climate benefits.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The World Bank, the Government of India and representatives of 5 States of Government of India and Implementing Agencies signed the Loan Agreement for Additional Financing of \$137 Million for the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) that will help rehabilitate and modernize over 220 selected large dams in the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$26 Million Loan Agreement to provide additional financing for improving drainage infrastructure in Dibrugarh town of Assam under the ongoing Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program.

The World Bank and the Government of India signed here today in New Delhi a \$250 Million Agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) which will help women in rural households shift to a new generation of economic initiatives by developing viable enterprise for farm and non-farm products.

- ✓ A Key Focus of the Project will be to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across value chains; enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and generate employment.
- ✓ The National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) is an additional financing to the \$500 million National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) approved by the World Bank in July 2011. The NRLP which is currently being implemented across 13 states, 162 districts and 575 blocks, has so far mobilized more than 8.8 million women from poor rural households into 750,000 self-help groups (SHGs). These SHGs have been further federated into 48,700 Village Organizations and 2900 Cluster/Gram Panchayat-level Federations. While these 13 states will continue to be supported under the new project signed today, 125 new districts will be added from within these states.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

Ministry of Finance has enhanced the income tax exemption for gratuity under section 10 (10) (iii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to Rs. 20 lakhs. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Labour and Employment has expressed hope that this would benefit those employees of PSUs and other employees not covered by Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and has thanked the Finance Minister for enhancing the exemption limit.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Minister for Women and Child Development celebrated the first anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan on 8th March, 2019 by organising Poshan Pakhwada across the Country. Poshan Pakhwada was celebrated as part of Jan Andolan under POSHAN Abhiyaan from 08th to 22nd March, 2019. Secretary, WCD, Shri Rakesh Shrivastava was present at the briefing.

