

Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

- **Cabinet approves National Policy on Software Products – 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.

Major impact: The Software product ecosystem is characterized by innovations, Intellectual Property (IP) creation and large value addition increase in productivity, which has the potential to significantly boost revenues and exports in the sector, create substantive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in emerging technologies and leverage opportunities available under the Digital India Programme, thus, leading to a boost in inclusive and sustainable growth.

Expenditure involved: 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.

Implementation strategy and targets: The Policy will lead to the formulation of several schemes, initiatives, projects and measures for the development of Software products sector in the country as per the roadmap envisaged therein. To achieve the vision of NPSP-2019, the Policy has the following five Missions:

- To promote the creation of a sustainable Indian software product industry, driven by intellectual property (IP), leading to a ten-fold increase in India share of the Global Software product market by 2025.
- To nurture 10,000 technology startups in software product industry, including 1000 such technology startups in Tier-II and Tier-III towns & cities and generating direct and in-direct employment for 3.5 million people by 2025.
- To create a talent pool for software product industry through (i) up-skilling of 1,000,000 IT

professionals, (ii) motivating 100,000 school and college students and (iii) generating 10,000 specialized professionals that can provide leadership.

- IV. To build a cluster-based innovation driven ecosystem by developing 20 sectoral and strategically located software product development clusters having integrated ICT infrastructure, marketing, incubation, R&D/test beds and mentoring support.
- In order to evolve and monitor scheme & programmes for the implementation of this policy, National Software Products Mission will be set up with participation from Government, Academia and Industry.

- **National Mineral Policy, 2019 approved by Union Cabinet**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved National Mineral Policy 2019.

Benefits: The New National Mineral Policy will ensure more effective regulation. It will lead to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas

Objective:- The aim of National Mineral Policy 2019 is to have a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.

Details: The National Mineral Policy 2019 includes provisions which will give boost to mining sector such as

- introduction of Right of First Refusal for RP/PL holders,
- encouraging the private sector to take up exploration,
- auctioning in virgin areas for composite RP cum PL cum ML on revenue share basis,
- encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities and
- transfer of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.
- The 2019 Policy proposes to grant status of industry to mining activity to boost financing of mining for private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector
- It also mentions that Long term import export policy for mineral will help private sector in better planning and stability in business

- The Policy also mentions rationalize reserved areas given to PSUs which have not been used and to put these areas to auction, which will give more opportunity to private sector for participation
- The Policy also mentions to make efforts to harmonize taxes, levies & royalty with world benchmarks to help private sector

Among the changes introduced in the National Mineral Policy, 2019 include the focus on make in India initiative and Gender sensitivity in terms of the vision. In so far as the regulation in Minerals is concerned, E-Governance, IT enabled systems, awareness and Information campaigns have been incorporated.

- **Cabinet approves to the MoU between India and Argentina on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation**

The Union cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble 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.

Benefits: The approval would facilitate better understanding of the regulatory aspects between the two sides and help in increasing India's export of medical products to Argentina and better coordination in the international fora.

- **Cabinet approves inclusion of Common Services Centres under MEITY as Enrolment Agency for PM-SYM**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri 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.

Benefits: 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.

- **Cabinet approves setting up of a Railway Zone at Vishakhapatnam**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 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.

Benefits: Setting up of the new Railway Zone will bring optimality with regard to size and scale of railway operations and also to meet the persistent demand and aspirations of the people of the area.

- **Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Kisan SammanNidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri KisanSAMmanNidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, seeking to provide income support to all Small and Marginal landholder farmers' families with cultivable land holding upto 2 hectare across the country, by way of payment of Rs.6000/- per year, subject to certain exclusions, has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the 24th February, 2019. The amount is being released in three 4-monthly installments of Rs.2000 /- each over the year, to be credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries held in destination banks through Direct Benefit Transfer mode. A total amount of more than Rs.2000 crores has already been released to more than one crore farmers' families across the country in the first lot of 1st installment. Further releases for the 1st installment to the remaining beneficiaries are being made.

The 2nd instalment under the scheme would be admissible after the 1st of April, 2019. In this connection, it is stated that the Union Cabinet, while approving the scheme on 1.2.2019, made Aadhaar seeding of the beneficiaries' data compulsory for release of 2nd installment onwards.

- **Cabinet approves joining of IEA Bioenergy TCP by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a Member**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised about Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India joining IEA Bioenergy TCP as its 25th member on 25th January, 2019. The other members are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Commission.

The primary goal of joining IEA Bioenergy TCP by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) is to facilitate the market introduction of advanced biofuels with an aim to bring down emissions and reduce

crude imports. IEA Bioenergy TCP also provides a platform for international collaboration and information exchange in bioenergy research, technology development, demonstration, and policy analysis with a focus on overcoming the environmental, institutional, technological, social, and market barriers to the near-and long-term deployment of bioenergy technologies.

The R&D work in IEA Bioenergy TCP is carried out within well-defined 3-years programmes called "Tasks". Each year the progress of the Tasks is evaluated and scrutinized and each 3 years the content of the Tasks is reformulated and new Tasks can be initiated. Technical persons from Public sector Oil Marketing companies will also be contributor in the Tasks participated by MoP&NG.

The benefits of participation in IEA Bioenergy TCP are shared costs and pooled technical resources. The duplication of efforts is avoided and national Research and Development capabilities are strengthened.

- **Cabinet approves Kanpur Metro Rail Project: Boost to Urban Public Transport connectivity in Kanpur**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Kanpur Metro Rail Project having two corridors, which will connect major public nodes and city cluster areas of Kanpur. Implementation of Metro Rail System will result in less vehicular traffic and better movement on the roads leading to reduction in congestion, travel time, cost of journey and pollution. The Metro Rail System will also promote transit oriented development which will lead to development of more residential and commercial complexes along the corridors.

Salient Features: Highlights of Kanpur Metro Rail Project include-

- The length of ITT to Naubasta corridor is 23.785 km, which is partly elevated and partly underground and comprises of 22 Stations (14-Elevated and 8-Underground).
- The length of Agriculture University to Barra-8 corridor is 8.60 km comprising of 4 Elevated & 4 Underground stations.
- Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 11,076.48 Cr. and project will be completed in 5 years.

Impact: This project will provide continuous availability of affordable, reliable, safe, secure and seamless transport system in the urban agglomeration of the city, which will reduce the accidents, pollution, travel time, energy consumption, anti-social incidents as well as regulate urban expansion and land use for sustainable development.

- **Cabinet approves Promulgation of an Ordinance for Amendment to the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the definition of "person", as defined in sub-section (v) of section 2 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 (28 of 2005) to include a trust, to enable the setting up of a unit in a Special Economic Zone by a trust, as also to provide flexibility to the Central Government to include in this definition of a person, any entity that the Central Government may notify from time to time.

Impact: The present provision of the SEZs Act, 2005 do not permit 'trusts' to set up units in SEZs. The amendment will enable a trust to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in SEZs. The amendment will also provide flexibility to the Central Government to include in this definition of a person, any entity that the Central Government may notify from time to time. This will facilitate investments in Special Economic Zones.

- **Cabinet approves promulgation of Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the promulgation of an Ordinance to make amendments to the Aadhaar Act 2016, Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2005 & Indian Telegraph Act 1885. The amendments proposed are the same as those contained in the Bill passed by the Lok Sabha on 4th January 2019.

Impact: The amendments would enable UIDAI to have a more robust mechanism to serve the public interest and restrain the misuse of Aadhaar. Subsequent to this amendment, no individual shall be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless it is so provided by a law made by Parliament.

Salient Features: The salient features of the amendments are as follows—

- Provides for voluntary use of Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form by authentication or offline verification with the consent of Aadhaar number holder;
- Provides for use of twelve-digit Aadhaar number and its alternative virtual identity to conceal the actual Aadhaar number of an individual;
- Gives an option to children who are Aadhaar number holders to cancel their Aadhaar number on

attaining the age of eighteen years; among others.

- **Cabinet approves Agra Metro Rail Project: Boost to Urban Public transport connectivity in Agra**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Agra Metro Rail Project having two corridors. These corridors will connect major public nodes, tourist places and city cluster areas of Agra. Implementation of Metro Rail System will result in less vehicular traffic and better movement on the roads leading to reduction in congestion, travel time, cost of journey and pollution. The Metro Rail System will also promote transit oriented development which will lead to development of more residential and commercial complexes along the corridors.

Salient Features: Agra Metro Rail Project will have 2 corridors which will pass through heart of the city and will connect prominent tourist places including Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Sikandra as well as ISBT, Raja Ki Mandi Railway Station, Medical College, Agra Cant Railway Station, Collectorate, Sanjay Place and surrounding densely populated residential areas.

Highlights of these corridors include:

- The length of Sikandra to Taj East Gate corridor 14.00 km, which is partly elevated and partly underground comprises of 13 Stations (6-Elevated and 7-Underground).
- The length of Agra Cantt to KalindiVihar corridor is 15.40 km comprising of 14 stations all elevated.
- Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 8,379.62Cr. and project will be completed in 5 years

Impact: This project will provide continuous availability of affordable, reliable, safe, secure and seamless transport system in the urban agglomeration of the city, which will reduce the accidents, pollution, travel time, energy consumption, anti-social incidents as well as regulate urban expansion and land use for sustainable development.

- **Cabinet approves Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the draft Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 which seeks to extend the period for reconstitution of the Central Council from existing period of one year to two years so that the tenure of the Board of Governors may be extended for a further period of one year with affect from 17th May, 2019 for exercising the powers and performing the functions of the Central Council of Homoeopathy.

- **Cabinet approves the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi 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).

Impact: Once the Ordinance is issued, it would pave the way would pave the way for 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.

- **Cabinet approves Rs. 1450 crore for the share capital of RBI in National Housing Bank, NHB**

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.

Impact: NHB is an apex agency established to operate as the principal agency to promote housing finance institutions in India. The wholesale financing role of NHB will get strengthened with the transfer of ownership to Government, thereby making possible augmented funding support to housing finance companies. The change in ownership from RBI to Gol will also segregate RBI's role as banking regulator and as owner of NHB.

Financial Implication: The expenditure of Rs.1,450 crore is to be met out of Gross Budgetary Support 2018-19. The beneficiaries are the Reserve Bank of India and the Housing Sector.

- **Cabinet approves Laying Down Procedure and Mechanism for Asset Monetization of CPSEs/PSUs/other Government Organizations and Immovable Enemy Properties**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved laying down of institutional framework for monetization of identified non-core assets of the CPSEs under Strategic Disinvestment and assets relating to immovable enemy property under the custody of Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), MHA as per Section IV of Section 8-A of the Enemy Property Act, 1968.

The institutional framework for monetization of the assets is also available for use to monetize other CPSEs, PSUs, other Government organizations and loss making/sick CPSEs.

The multi-layer institutional mechanism envisages constituting of Alternative Mechanism, Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetization and Inter-Ministerial Group as main decision bodies.

The exact model for monetization of any particular asset and model contract documents shall be approved by the competent authority based on the recommendations of the technical consultants, respective Administrative Ministry, CPSEs, NITI Ayog etc.

The independent External Monitor set up for Strategic Disinvestment shall oversee the process of asset monetization as well. The approved framework shall be reviewed after a period of two years for instituting any change including delegations on financial limits, if required.

- **Cabinet approves Implementation of Master Plan of AIIMS, New Delhi**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given 'in principle' approval to the Implementation of Master Plan to convert All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi into a world class Medical University.

Details: The Master Plan envisages freeing up adequate space through redevelopment, vertical expansion and reorganizing the land usage, thus optimizing the infrastructure of the Institute for the next 20 years. It is proposed to re-develop the infrastructure of AIIMS, New Delhi by consolidating the Patient Care, Teaching, Research, Administration and support services in areas in the East Ansari Nagar (Main) Campus and residential facilities from East Ansari Nagar (Main Campus) to Trauma Centre Extension (New Rajnagar) Campus.

Benefits:

The project would provide highly specialized state-of-the-art healthcare to the patients and an integrated 'One Campus' answer to all the investigative, physiotherapeutic, operative, rehabilitative and vocational needs of the patients. It would ensure smart mobility and accessibility for the patients and become an apex tertiary care centre for advancement of research, clinical applications and management of patients.

- **Cabinet approves the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of Jammu & Kashmir Government regarding amendment to the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954 by way of the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2019. It will serve the purpose of application of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India, as amended through the Constitution (Seventy Seventh Amendment) Act, 1995 and Constitution (One Hundred and third Amendment) Act, 2019 for Jammu and Kashmir, by issuing the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2019 by the President under clause (1) of Article 370.

Impact: Once notified, this will pave the way for giving benefit of promotion in service to the Scheduled Castes, the Schedule Tribes and also extend the reservation of up to 10% for "economically weaker sections" in educational institutions and public employment in addition to the existing reservation in Jammu and Kashmir.

- **Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and the UK on Cooperation in Weather and Climate Sciences**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Kingdom (UK) on Cooperation in Weather and Climate Sciences. The MoU was signed on 28th January 2019, under which, an Implementation Agreement on Weather and climate science for service partnership will also be signed between India and the UK.

Benefits: The proposal, which entails signing of an MoU with the Met Office, UK (UKMO) will benefit India, as it is an enabling mechanism to work on scientific challenges in the Indian context, namely Climate Science and Services, capacity building including exchange programmes, technology development, severe weather, air pollution studies, hydrometeorology etc. The MoU reinforces the spirit of equity and inclusiveness through sharing of best practice and lessons in areas of common interest in the two countries, and identifying opportunities for joint activities in weather and climate science across the region. It will also be the best environment for research and innovation for delivery of high-end research for societal benefit.

- **Cabinet approves Setting up of New AIIMS at Manethi, Haryana**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to

the following proposals:

- Establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Manethi, District Rewari, Haryana at a cost of Rs. 1299 crore; and
- Creation of one post of Director in the basic pay of Rs. 2,25,000/- (fixed) plus NPA (however, pay + NPA would not exceed Rs. 2,37,500/-) for for the above AIIMS.

Salient features:

- New AIIMS will add 100 UG (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats.
- New AIIMS will have 15-20 Super Specialty Departments.
- New AIIMS will add around 750 hospital beds.

As per data of current functional AIIMS, it is expected that each new AIIMS would cater to around 1500 OPD patients per day and around 1000 IPD patients per month

- **Cabinet approves the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Ordinance, 2019**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved promulgation of an Ordinance for establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.

Benefits: The benefits of institutionalized arbitration will accrue to Government and its agency and to the parties to a dispute. This shall be to the advantage of the public and the public institutions in terms of quality of expertise and costs incurred and will facilitate India becoming a hub for Institutional Arbitration.

Objective: The NDAIC shall be established with an aim to:-

- to bring targeted reforms to develop itself as a flagship institution for conducting international and domestic arbitration
- provide facilities and administrative assistance for conciliation mediation and arbitral proceedings;
- maintain panels of accredited arbitrators, conciliators and mediators both at national and international level or specialists such as surveyors and investigators;

- facilitate conducting of international and domestic arbitrations and conciliation in the most professional manner;
- provide cost effective and timely services for the conduct of arbitrations and conciliations at Domestic and International level;
- promote studies in the field of alternative dispute resolution and related matters, and to promote reforms in the system of settlement of disputes; and
- co-operate with other societies, institutions and organisations, national or international for promoting alternative dispute resolution.

- **Cabinet approves Scheme for FAME India Phase II**

The Union cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble 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.

Financial Implications: Total fund requirement for this scheme is Rs. 10,000 crores over three years from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Impact: The main objective of the scheme is to encourage Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles and also by way of establishing a necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles. The scheme will help in addressing the issue of environmental pollution and fuel security.

- **Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. The MoU was signed on 8th October, 2018.

Benefits: The MoU will enable establishment of a basis for a cooperative institutional relationship

between India and Tajikistan to encourage and promote bilateral technical cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity. It will focus on development and deployment of new and renewable energy, and storage technologies. It will further cooperation between the two countries through exchange and training of scientific and technical personnel, exchange of scientific and technological information and data, organization of workshops, seminars and working groups, transfer of equipment, know-how and technology on non-commercial basis, development of joint research or technical projects on subjects of mutual interest; and other modalities as may be decided by the two countries.

- **Cabinet approves construction of four lane bridge including approaches over River Brahmaputra between Dhubri (on North Bank, Assam) and Phulbari (On South Bank, Meghalaya) on NH-127B with loan assistance from JICA**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved construction of four lane bridge including approaches over river Brahmaputra between Dhubri on North Bank and Phulbari on South Bank on NH-127 B in the State of Assam/Meghalaya. The total length of the bridge will be 19.282 km.

The bridge will be built under the scheme of North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase-03' under loan assistance with JICA at the civil construction cost of Rs.3548 crore and total capital cost of Rs.4997.04 crore including the cost of Rs.55.68 crore towards the cost of land acquisition, resettlement & rehabilitation and other pre construction activities. The completion of the project will take approximately six years' period.

- **Cabinet approves soft loan to sugar mills to facilitate payment of cane dues of the farmers for the current sugar season**

To help the sugar industry to clear its cane dues arrears, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal to provide soft loans to the extent of about Rs. 7900-10540 crore to the sugar industry. Government will bear the interest subvention cost @ 7 - 10% to the extent of Rs. 553 crore to Rs 1054 crore for one year.

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 percent of their outstanding dues in the sugar season 2018-19.

- **Cabinet approves financial support for Tertiary Care Programmes for non-communicable diseases and e-Health**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for continuation of implementation of the following Tertiary healthcare programmes for non-communicable diseases and E-Health upto 2020 with an outlay of Rs.2551.15 crore:

- a) Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer facilities Scheme
- b) National Program for Health Care of the Elderly
- c) National Program for Prevention & Management of Trauma and Burn Injuries
- d) National Program for Tobacco Control and Drug Addiction Treatment
- e) National Mental Health Program
- f) National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment
- g) Program for Strengthening of e-Health and Telemedicine Services

Impact: The focus under these Programs is:-

- to create required infrastructure at tertiary level for these Programs, creation of Centre of Excellences which shall serve as Institutes to set standards and undertake research in these fields besides
- to help in creation of trained manpower in these Programs for the country.

Benefits: Under these programmes, Tertiary care treatment will be further strengthened to meet the ever increasing patient load.

Employment Generation: The Programs are aimed at strengthening of tertiary level healthcare facilities for treatment through capacity building in terms of both infrastructure and human resources. There would be considerable direct and indirect employment generation both for technical and non-technical professionals in the country.

- **Cabinet approves development of New Greenfield Airport at Hirasar, Rajkot, Gujarat**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given

its approval for development of New Greenfield Airport at Hirasar, Rajkot, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs.1405 crore.

This Airport suffers from considerable capacity restraints due to presence of residential & commercial buildings around it. Considering the constraints and compulsions with respect to existing airport, State Government desires to develop a new Greenfield Airport in Rajkot. Government of Gujarat has identified required land for the new airport and requested Airports Authority of India to develop, operate and maintain the new airport.

- **Cabinet gives 'In Principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 100% Gol's equity shares in Kamarajar Port Limited to Chennai Port Trust in a single process through strategic sale**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi 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. •

This would help to avoid duplication of capacity creation in the ports. Better human resource management in between the two ports will increase the efficiency of both Ports.

- **Cabinet approves revised cost for the Asian Development Bank assisted North Eastern State Roads Investment Programme now called the North East Road Sector Development Scheme**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region(MDoNER) for revised cost of project proposal titled "ADB assisted North Eastern State Roads Investment Programme (NESRIP)", a centrally sponsored scheme implemented over a period of 5 years at a Revised Cost of Rs.2144.56 crore from the earlier approved cost of Rs. 1353.83 crore for construction/upgradation/improvement of 433.7 Km long State roads in the North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura along with extension of project period upto August 2022. ADB is providing loan assistance of US\$ 200 Million in two tranches.

Taking of this Project to its logical conclusion will lead to the following:

- I. Improved road connectivity in the NER, which would be measured in terms of the number of

- District/Block Headquarters accessible by improved State highways or District roads
- II. Reduced travel time on the Project roads
 - III. Reduced transport cost along the Project roads, which would be measured in terms of the passenger fares of public transport and freight charges.
 - IV. Provide connectivity to remote areas of North East thus opening new potential avenues of business in horticulture, forest products and tourism.
 - V. Socio economic improvement of the people of the project area in particular and the country as a whole.

An estimated 4.8 million people living adjacent (within 10 km) to the Project Roads will be directly benefitted. Other people will benefit from lower transport costs, faster transit time etc.

- **Cabinet approves foreign investment of more than Rs.5000 crore and up to Rs.25,000 crore by way of a Rights issue of M/s. Vodafone Idea Limited**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi 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. It also approved to take on record the proposed changes in the indirect foreign investment in the subsidiaries of VIL, which will take place on account of non-residents subscribing to the equity shares in the Fund Raise.

Point-wise details:

- I. M/s Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) is a public listed company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.
- II. The equity shares of the company are listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and the Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.
- III. The Company is engaged in the business of providing telecommunication services pursuant to various licenses granted to it by the DoT.
- IV. The company has existing FDI approval for up to 100% Foreign Equity participation.
- V. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) would be more than Rs.5000 crore and upto Rs. 25000 crore as part of a proposed equity fund raise by way of a rights issue of equity shares and/or other equity-linked securities (including but not limited to compulsorily convertible debentures).

VI. The approval will also result in the change in the indirect foreign investment in the subsidiaries of VIL which will take place on account of non-residents subscribing to the equity shares in the Fund Raise.

Impact: The inflow of foreign investment to India will spur economic growth as well as foster innovation.

- **Cabinet approves investment proposal for transmission component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project (Nepal portion) by Sutej Jal Vikas Nigam(SJVN) Limited**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved investment for Transmission Component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project(Nepal portion) for an estimated cost of Rs. 1236.13 crore at June 2017 Price level.

The current approval is for Investment approval of 400 kV D/C Diding (In Nepal) - Bathnaha (International Border) via Dhalkebar (In Nepal) Transmission Line of approximately 217 KM falling within the territory of Nepal to evacuate power from Arun-3 HEP in Nepal.

Employment generation of around 400 persons is envisaged in construction of transmission component of the project.

Impact: The project will provide surplus power to India strengthening economic linkages with Nepal. The power from the project shall be exported from Dhalkebar in Nepal to Muzaffarpur in India.

- **Cabinet approves "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana"**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi 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.

Financial Implications: The JI-VAN Yojana will be supported with total financial outlay of Rs.1969.50 crore for the period from 2018-19 to 2023-24. Out of scheme fund of Rs.1969.50 crore, Rs.1800 crore has been allocated for supporting 12 Commercial projects, Rs.150 crore has been allocated for supporting 10 demonstration Projects and remaining Rs.9.50 crore will be provided to Centre for High Technology (CHT) as administrative charges.

Details: Under this Yojana, 12 Commercial Scale and 10 demonstration scale Second Generation (2G) ethanol Projects will be provided a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support in two phases:

1. Phase-I (2018-19 to 2022-23): wherein six commercial projects and five demonstration projects will be supported.
2. Phase-II (2020-21 to 2023-24): wherein remaining six commercial projects and five demonstration projects will be supported.

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