



C.A Dated On 10-01-2019

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National Culture Fund (NCF)

Why in News?

The Government had granted Rs.19.50 crore as one time corpus fund to National Culture Fund out of the planned budget.

Aim of Fund:

The aim of National Culture Fund (NCF) is to establish and nurture partnerships in the field of Culture and Heritage between private and public sectors, government, non-government agencies, private institutions and foundations and mobilize resources for the restoration, conservation, protection and development of India's rich, natural, tangible and intangible heritage.

Objectives of NCF:

- to administer and apply the Fund for conservation, maintenance, promotion, protection, preservation and up gradation of monuments protected or otherwise;
- for the training and development of a cadre of specialists and cultural administrators
- for innovations and experiments in arts
- for documentation of cultural expressions and forms that have lost their relevance in contemporary scenario and are either fading out or facing extinction.

How did it help?

- NCF helped in protecting, promoting and preserving India's culture by mobilizing resources by approaching various PSUs, Banks, Corporate/Companies for seeking their participation under the corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to preserve/protect India's cultural heritage.



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"Web- Wonder Women" Campaign

Why in News?

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, '#www : **Web- WonderWomen**'.

About the campaign:

- The Campaign aims to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media.
- Through the campaign, the Ministry and the Campaign's Partners aim to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of social media to run positive & niche campaigns to steer a change in society.
- This Campaign will recognize and acknowledge the efforts of these meritorious Women.
- The Campaign invites Entries via Nominations from across the world, as per the laid out criteria.

First Swadesh Darshan project in Meghalaya inaugurated

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, Government of India.

This is the first Swadesh Darshan project of Union Tourism Ministry in the state of Meghalaya.

Progress Made:



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- The efforts of Ministry have shown positive results and the Foreign tourist arrivals in the region has shown an upward trend over the years.
- The region received a total of 1.69 lakh foreign tourist visits during 2017 as against 1.45 lakh in 2016 registering a growth of 16.7% over 2016.
- The **Domestic Tourist Visits reached to 95.47 lakhs in the year 2017 against 77.71 lakhs registering impressive double digit growth of 22.8% over 2016.**
- The increased number of tourists in turn has created better employment opportunity for the local population in the region.

About Swadesh Darshan:

- Swadesh Darshan scheme is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.
- Under this scheme the Government is focussing on development of quality infrastructure in the country.
- It has objective of providing better experience and facilities to the visitors on one hand and on other hand fostering the economic growth.
- The scheme was launched in 2014 -15 and as on date the Ministry has sanctioned 74 projects worth projects for Rs. 5932.05 Crore to 30 States and UTs.
- 30 projects / major components of these projects are expected to be completed this year. 9 projects have been inaugurated as on date under the scheme.

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Citizenship Amendment Bill

Why in News?

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh introduced the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha today.

About the bill:



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- 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.
- The Bill will apply to all States and Union Territories of the country.
- The beneficiaries of Citizenship Amendment Bill can reside in any state of the country.
- The burden of these persecuted migrants will be shared by the whole country.
- Assam alone would not have to bear the entire burden and Government of India is committed to give all help to the State Government and people of Assam.

Proposed Amendment:

- The proposed amendment will make these persecuted migrants eligible to apply for citizenship.
- Citizenship will be given to them only after due scrutiny and recommendation of district authorities and the State Government.
- The minimum residency period for citizenship is being reduced from existing 12 years under the present law to 7 years.

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The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill - 2019"

In a landmark decision, the Lok Sabha today passed "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill - 2019".

Need for bill?

The Bill has been formulated recognizing the need for regulation of the use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology, for establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.

Purpose of the Bill:



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- The purpose of this Bill is to expand the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country.
- The utility of DNA based technologies for solving crimes, and to identify missing persons, is well recognized across the world.
- By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in this country.
- There is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable, and furthermore that the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.

Details of Bill:

The key components of this Bill include:

- establishment of a DNA Regulatory Board;
- accreditation of DNA laboratories undertaking DNA testing, analysing, etc.;
- establishment of the National and Regional DNA Data Banks, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations.

This will aid in scientific up-gradation and streamlining of the DNA testing activities in the country with appropriate inputs from the DNA Regulatory Board which would be set up for the purpose.

The Bill will add value in empowering the criminal justice delivery system by enabling the application of DNA evidence, which is considered the **gold standard** in crime investigations.

National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA)

Why in News?

A number of complaints regarding companies not passing on the full benefits of tax cuts to consumers have been received by the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA).

About NAA:



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The National Anti-Profiteering 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.

Further, the following steps have been taken by the NAA to ensure that customers get the full benefit of tax cuts:

- i. Holding regular meetings with the Zonal Screening Committees and the Chief Commissioners of Central Tax to stress upon consumer awareness programmes;
- ii. Launching a helpline to resolve the queries of citizens regarding registration of complaints against profiteering.
- iii. Receiving complaints through email and NAA portal.
- iv. Working with consumer welfare organizations in order to facilitate outreach activities.