



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 07 FEB 2019

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Public Procurement Policy in CPSEs

Why in News?

As per DPE MoU guidelines, negative mark is given to MoU evaluated CPSEs for non-compliance of Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises issued by Ministry of MSME.

About the Policy:

The Policy:

- Public Procurement Policy for MSEs Order, 2012 has been notified under section 11 of MSMED Act, 2006.
- The Policy is effective from 1st April 2012 (Gazette notification on 26th March 2012).
- The objective of Policy is promotion and development of Micro and Small Enterprises by supporting them in marketing of products produced and services rendered by them. However, the policy rests upon core principle of competitiveness, adhering to sound procurement practices and execution of supplies in accordance with a system which is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost effective.

Salient features of the Policy:

- Every Central Ministry /Department / PSUs shall set an annual target for 20% procurement from MSE Sector.
- A sub-target of 4% out of 20% target of annual procurement earmarked for procurement from MSEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Overall procurement goal of minimum 20% has become mandatory from 1st April 2015.
- Tender sets free of cost and exemption from payment of earnest money to registered MSEs.



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- MSEs quoting price within price band L-1 + 15%, when L1 is from someone other than MSE, shall be allowed to supply at least 20% of tendered value at L-1 subject to lowering of price by MSEs to L-1.
- 358 items are reserved for exclusive procurement from MSEs.
- Ministry /Department/CPSUs shall prepare their annual procurement plan to be uploaded on their official website.
- For enhancing participation of MSEs in government procurement, Ministry /Department/CPSUs shall conduct Vendor Development Programmes or Buyer Seller Meets for MSEs especially for SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Status of National Gas Grid

The Government has envisaged to develop the National Gas Grid.

At present about 16,788 Km natural gas pipeline is operational and about 14,239 Km gas pipelines are being developed to increase the availability of natural gas across the country.

Details:

- These pipelines have been authorized by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and are at various stages of execution viz. Pre-Project activities/laying/testing/commissioning etc.
- PNGRB has authorized GAIL to develop North East gas pipeline to develop approximately 750 km long Barauni - Guwahati pipeline as an integral part of Jagadishpur –Haldia –Bokaro Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL) project which will connect North East region with the National Gas Grid.
- Further, PNGRB has also authorized Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), a joint venture company of five Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) i.e. IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NRL for the development of North East Gas Grid to connect eight states of North Eastern India.



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Context:

Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) will organize the 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission (NPM) here tomorrow.

The two day Conference will discuss the issues of Skills and Competence at grass-root level, Attitudinal Changes in Police, Gender Sensitization, harnessing technology and Community Policing.

About National Police Mission:

- The National Police Mission (NPM) has so far developed 35 projects; some important among them are Transparent Recruitment Process, Police-Community Policing, Student Police Cadet Programme.
- The NPM is having knowledge based strength of 140 police officers from across the country from State/UTs/CAPFs/CPOs.
- The BPR&D will be giving NPM Awards to 09 officers for their contribution in Micro Missions and successful preparation of the implementable projects.
- The National Police Mission Division of BPR&D strives in the direction of transforming the Police Forces of the country into effective instrument for maintenance of Internal Security and meeting challenges of the next century.
- Since its inception, NPM has been working for empowering the Police Forces by enhancing the skills and competence at grass root level.
- To achieve the mandate of NPM, eight micro missions are working under BPR&D. BPR&D organizes Conference on National Police Mission annually.

About BPRD:

The Government of India formally established the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), under the Ministry of Home Affairs giving a new orientation to then existing Police Research and Advisory Council (1966) for the following reasons and with the primary objective of modernization of police force:

1. To take direct and active interest in the issues
2. To promote a speedy and systematic study of the police problems,



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3. To apply science and technology in the methods and techniques used by police.

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Employment Opportunities to Youth Under NCS Project

Why in News?

The Ministry has signed strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the private partners like job portals, placement organizations and reputed institutions for maximizing the reach of the National Career Service (NCS) project.

What is NCS?

The NCS portal provides a nation-wide online platform for jobseekers and employers for job matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner.

1. The NCS will make available a rich repository of career content on over 3000 occupations across 53 sectors.
 2. The services under NCS are available online and can be accessed directly, through career centres, Common Service Centres, mobile devices, cyber cafes etc.
 3. The NCS Portal will facilitate organisation of job fairs where both employers and job seekers can interact. A dedicated helpdesk (multi-lingual) is also available from Tuesday to Sunday on 1800-425-1514 for assisting users.
- The Government has also approved the establishment of 37 Model Career Centres which will be functional this year.
 - The NCS will establish a network of career counsellors where the career centres will become the hub of career counselling in their area.



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- The portal will offer a variety of other services like information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internship, career counselling, etc.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Power Projects

Why in News?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's proposal for implementation of the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II for setting up 12,000 MW grid-connected Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Power Projects.

Details of Project:

- The 12,000 MW or more capacity of grid connected solar power projects will be set up by the Government Producers in 4 years period, i.e. 2019-20 to 2022-23.
- The Scheme will mandate use of both solar photovoltaic (SPV) cells and modules manufactured domestically as per specifications and testing requirements fixed by MNRE.
- With the implementation of the above mentioned Scheme, 12,000 MW or more of grid connected solar PV power projects would be set up by Government Producers in 4 years i.e. 2019-20 to 2022-23, thereby creating investment of about Rs. 48,000 crores.

Benefits of Project:

- The Scheme will also help in giving a push to "Make-in-India" by encouraging Government Producers to procure solar cells and modules from domestic manufacturers.
- The Scheme will create sufficient demand for domestically produced solar PV cells and modules for next 3 to 4 years.
- The proposal for setting up 12,000 MW Solar Power Projects will provide direct employment to around 60,000 persons for about one year in pre-commissioning activities/ construction phase and around 18,000 persons for about 25 years in the operation and maintenance period.



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- In addition, more than 1,20,000 additional employment opportunities will be created for the local population by way of involvement in setting up of Solar Power Projects and also in manufacturing of domestically produced cells and modules.

Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog :

Context:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for Conservation protection and development of cows and their progeny.

Impact:

- The setting up of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will lead to conservation, protection and development of cattle population in the country including development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
- It will result in increased growth of livestock sector which is more inclusive, benefitting women, and small and marginal farmers.
- The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will work in collaboration with Veterinary, Animal Sciences or Agriculture University or departments or organizations of the Central/State Government engaged in the task of research in the field of breeding and rearing of cow, organic manure, biogas etc.

Background:

- The creation of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for the conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny will provide the policy framework and direction to the cow conservation and development programmes in the country and for ensuring proper implementation of laws with respect to the welfare of cows.
- It is in pursuance of the announcement of setting up of the Aayog in the Union Budget 2019-20.