



C.A Dated On 25-06-2019

GS-2

NGOs for promotion of road safety

Context:

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched a scheme for grant of financial assistance to NGOs for administering "Road Safety Advocacy" in the last FY 2017-18.

About the Scheme:

- Under this Scheme, proposals for road safety advocacy programmes through 203 different Non-Governmental Organisations(NGOs) / Trusts / Cooperative Societies have been sanctioned in FY 2017-18.
- As per the scheme provisions, financial assistance for a road safety programme is Rs.five lakh.
- The scheme does not provide for any advance payment and financial assistance is reimbursement only after the successful completion of the programme.
- There are adequate safeguard in the scheme to ensure proper utilization of funds, such as:-
- No advance payment is released to any agency.
- Registration of the NGO on Darpan Portal.

Who will run the Scheme?

- The scheme is administered through a Project Management Unit (PMU) for scrutiny of proposals and further physical verification of the road safety programme conducted by agencies is also made by PMU.

"Healthy States, Progressive India" Report

Why in News?



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NITI Aayog will release the second edition of "Healthy States, Progressive India" in the capital tomorrow on 25.6.2019.

Focus of Report:

- The Round-II report focuses on measuring and highlighting the overall performance and incremental improvement over a two-year period (2016-17 and 2017-18) in the States and UTs.
- It takes a comprehensive look at health in terms of Health Outcomes, Governance and Processes and impact of policy interventions.
- The report has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and with technical assistance from the World Bank.

First round of the Health Index:

- In February 2018, the first round of the Health Index (referred to as 2017 Health Index) was released, which measured the annual and incremental performance of the States and UTs over the period of 2014-15 (base year) to 2015-16 (reference year).
- Among the Larger States, Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance, while Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh were the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance.
- Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh showed the maximum gains in improvement of health outcomes from base to reference year in indicators such as Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR), Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR), full immunization coverage, institutional deliveries, and People Living with HIV (PLHIV) on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).
- Among Smaller States, Mizoram ranked first followed by Manipur on overall performance, while Manipur followed by Goa were the top ranked States in terms of annual incremental performance.
- Among UTs, Lakshadweep showed both the best overall performance as well as the highest annual incremental performance.
- Lakshadweep showed the highest improvement in indicators such as institutional deliveries, tuberculosis (TB) treatment success rate, and transfer of National Health Mission (NHM) funds from State Treasury to implementation agency.

Draft National Policy on Domestic Workers

Context:



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A draft National Policy on domestic workers is under consideration of the Central Government.

Salient features of the draft policy:

- i. Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the existing legislations
- ii. Domestic workers will have the right to register as workers. Such registration will facilitate their access to rights & benefits accruing to them as workers.
- iii. Right to form their own associations , trade unions
- iv. Right to have minimum wages, access to social security, protection from abuse, harassment, violence
- v. Right to enhance their professional skills
- vi. Protection of Domestic Workers from abuse and exploitation
- vii. Domestic Workers to have access to courts, tribunals, etc.
- viii. Establishment of a mechanism for regulation of concerned placement agencies

Background:

- The Central Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for providing social security to all unorganized workers including domestic workers.
- The Act provides formulation of social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits & old age protection by the central Government.
- The state Government are mandated under the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganized sector workers including domestic workers relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits housing, education schemes for children, skill up gradation of workers, financial assistance & old age homes.

Child Labour :

Steps Taken by the Govt.

Child Labour is an outcome of various social-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. Government is following a holistic and multi-pronged strategy for elimination of child labour completely.



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- The Government has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and enacted Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which inter-alia covers:
 1. complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes;
 2. linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under Right to Education Act, 2009;
 3. prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes and making stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act.
- Subsequent to the amendment in Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, Government has framed Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017.
- The Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour.

About the Scheme:

- Under the NCLP Scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued/withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

GS-3

Make in India' Initiative

Context:

'Make in India' programme is being used by the Government for defence procurements by categorising the capital acquisition proposals under 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)', 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy and Make (Indian)', 'Make' and 'Strategic Partnership Model' categories of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016.

Focus of DPP:



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- DPP -2016 focuses on institutionalising, streamlining and simplifying defence procurement procedure to give a boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India.

In pursuance of 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, following measures have been taken to achieve substantive self-reliance in defence production: -

- Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) has been revised in 2016 wherein specific provisions have been introduced for stimulating growth of the domestic defence industry.
- A new category of procurement '**Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)}**' has been introduced in DPP-2016 to promote indigenous design and development of defence equipment.
- Government has notified the '**Strategic Partnership (SP)**' Model which envisages establishment of long-term strategic partnerships with Indian entities through a transparent and competitive process, wherein they would tie up with global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to seek technology transfers to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains.
- Government has decided to establish two **defence industrial corridors** to serve as an engine of economic development and growth of defence industrial base in the country.
- These are spanning across Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and spanning across Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- An innovation ecosystem for **Defence titled Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** has been launched in April 2018.
- **iDEX** is aimed at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, Start-ups, Individual Innovators, R&D institutes and Academia and provide them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- The Ministry has instituted a new framework titled '**Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti**' which aims to provide boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry.
- **FDI Policy** has been revised and under the revised policy, FDI is allowed under automatic route upto 49% and beyond 49% through Government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.



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- Government has set up the **Technology Development Fund (TDF)** to encourage participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs, through provision of grants, so as to create an eco-system for enhancing cutting edge technology capability for defence applications.

National Policy on Bio-Fuel

Background:

- The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 notified on 8.6.2018, *inter-alia*, allows production of ethanol from damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice etc. which are unfit for human consumption.
- The policy also allows conversion of surplus quantities of food grains to ethanol, based on the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- Use of damaged foodgrains and surplus foodgrains for production of ethanol will increase its availability for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

Target of the Policy:

- The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 approved by the Government envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.
- Under EBP programme, ethanol blending in petrol is being undertaken by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in whole country except island Union Territory (UT) of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep wherein, OMCs blend up to 10 % ethanol in petrol under the EBP Programme.
- Further, Government has approved Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana to provide Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to Second Generation bio-ethanol manufacturing projects to increase availability of ethanol for EBP programme.

Government has decided to leapfrog directly to BS-VI quality w.e.f. 1st April, 2020 in the entire country.

Considering the rise in environmental pollution in National Capital Region, Government has started supply of BS-VI auto fuel in National Capital Territory of Delhi from 1st April, 2018.



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GST EVASION

Why in News?

The Government proposes to integrate a FASTag Bank Mechanism with e-way bill and Logistic Data Services to track movement of goods and check GST evasion.

How will this be done?

- The Government is contemplating integration of E-Way Bill mechanism of GST with FASTag System of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).
- The aspect of Logistic Databank integration with FASTag System is being examined.
- A Committee of Officers comprising of officers from Central Government, State Governments, GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network), NIC (National Informatics Centre), GST Council, to examine the issue of use of RFID data for strengthening of E-Way Bill mechanism under GST, was formed by GST Council.

Further, with regard to integration of FASTag with LDB, a committee comprising of Central Board and Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), NHAI & its associates, NPCI, GSTN, NIC, Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) & its associates was formed to examine the feasibility of the same.