

NEWS TODAY

3RD TRANCHE OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE UNDER ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN

- **Measures aim to** strengthen Infrastructure Logistics, Capacity Building, Governance and Administrative Reforms for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors.
- It is aimed largely at **increasing pricing power of farmers** by proposing to dismantle domestic trade barriers, bring new laws for freer food and commodities markets, and better infrastructure.

MEASURES FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL, FISHERIES, DAIRY INFRASTRUCTURE

Measures	Fund	Features
Agriculture Infrastructure Fund	Rs 1 lakh crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ To be created for funding Agriculture Infrastructure Projects at farm-gate & aggregation points (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), Agriculture entrepreneurs, Start-ups, etc.).
Scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE)	Rs 10,000 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ This scheme promoting "Vocal for Local with Global outreach" will be launched to help 2 lakh MFEs who need technical upgradation to attain FSSAI food standards, build brands and marketing. ▸ Existing MFEs, FPOs, Self Help Groups and Cooperatives to be supported.
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	Rs 20,000 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ It will be launched to provide additional Fish Production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years, Employment to over 55 lakh persons and double the exports to Rs 1,00,000 crore. ▸ The focus will be on Islands, Himalayan States, North-east and Aspirational Districts. ▸ This scheme was earlier announced in 2019 for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture.
National Animal Disease Control Programme	Rs. 13,343 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Launched to ensure 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and for brucellosis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The programme aims to control both diseases by 2025 with vaccination and eventual eradication by 2030.
Promotion of Herbal Cultivation	Rs. 4,000 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Allocation aims to employ 1 million hectare land for herbal cultivation in two years; will generate Rs 5000 crore in income. ▸ Since 2008-2009 National Medicinal Plants Board is promoting cultivation of medicinal plants under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants and now under National AYUSH Mission.
Beekeeping initiatives	Rs 500 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Government will implement a scheme to develop infrastructure related to beekeeping. ▸ It will help 200,000 people.
Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund	Rs 15,000 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ To "support private investment in dairy processing, value addition and cattle feed infrastructure".
From 'TOP' to TOTAL: Operation Greens	Rs 500 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Operation Greens run by Ministry of Food Processing Industries will be extended from tomatoes, onion and potatoes (TOP) to all fruit and vegetables. ▸ Scheme would provide 50% subsidy on transportation from surplus to deficient markets, 50% subsidy on storage, including cold storages and will be launched as pilot for the next 6 months and will be extended and expanded. ▸ This will lead to better price realisation to farmers, reduced wastages, affordability of products for consumers.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

- **Amendments to Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955:** ECA allows Central Government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of a commodities it declares 'essential' and notify stock limits. Amendments include:
 - Agriculture food stuffs including cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, pulses, etc. shall be deregulated.
 - **Stock limits** only under very exceptional circumstances like national calamities, famine.
 - **Stock limits not to apply** to processors or value chain participant.
- **Agriculture Marketing Reforms:** Central law will be formulated to provide:
 - Adequate choices to farmer to sell their produce at remunerative price;
 - Barrier free Inter-State Trade
 - Framework for e-trading of agriculture produce
- **Agriculture Produce Pricing and Quality Assurance:** Facilitative legal framework to enable farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters etc. in a fair and transparent manner.

DEFENCE TESTING INFRASTRUCTURE (DTI) SCHEME WITH OUTLAY OF RS 400 CRORE APPROVED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- Scheme aims at **setting up of Greenfield DTI** (required for defence and aerospace related production), as a common facility **under private sector with Government assistance** mainly in Defence Industrial Corridors (in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh).
 - > It envisages to **setup six to eight new test facilities**. The scheme will be operational for a **period of five years**.
- **Objective:** to **promote indigenous defence production**, with special focus on participation of **MSMEs and Start Ups** by bridging gaps in DTI in country.
 - > Setting up of DTI will **provide easy access and thus meet the testing needs** of domestic defence industry.
 - ⇒ DTI is capital intensive requiring continuous upgradation and it is not economically viable for individual defence industrial units to set up in-house testing facilities.
- Each DTI will be setup through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which will be Implementation Agency**.
 - > **Up to 75% government funding** to projects via 'Grant-in-Aid'.
 - > Remaining 25% to be borne by SPV (constituting Indian private entities and State Governments).

GOVERNMENT PREPARES LIST OF 10 MEGA CLUSTERS ACROSS NINE STATES TO ATTRACT GLOBAL COMPANIES

- Clusters will act as **attractive destinations** for companies to **set shop based on sectoral requirements and tax incentives**.
 - > **Identified clusters:** Noida-Greater Noida (for electronics hub), Hyderabad (for pharma and vaccine), Ahmedabad, Vadodara (Bharuch-Ankleshwar Cluster), Mumbai-Aurangabad, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Tirupati-Nellore.
 - > These clusters **cover about 100 popular industrial parks** and house **over 600 Indian and foreign multinational companies**.
- This is **part of exercise by Invest India** to create a **guide for potential investors** to invest in India.
 - > **Invest India** is **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency** and acts as **first point of reference for investors in India**.
 - > It was set up in 2009 **under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It highlighted **India's three distinct advantages:**
 - > Recent reduction of corporate taxes for setting up of new industries
 - > Host to Global In-house Centres and Global Centre of Excellence (GCo- Es) for several manufacturing companies
 - > Large domestic market.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident Indians remitted \$18.75 billion under LRS in financial year 2019-20. • Under the LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. • LRS is not available to corporates, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts etc. • Scheme was introduced in 2004 by RBI, with a limit of USD 25,000.
<p>World Bank (WB) approves \$1 billion to support India's fight against COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is for Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to poor and vulnerable households. • It will be funded in two phases: an immediate allocation of \$750 million for fiscal year 2020 and \$250 million for fiscal year 2021. • Earlier WB announced \$1 billion support towards immediate support to India's health sector. • WB group established in 1944, is headquartered in Washington, D.C. is vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world.
<p>Damodar River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of India, West Bengal Government and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank signed a loan agreement to improve irrigation services and flood management in Damodar Valley Command Area in West Bengal. • Damodar River flows through West Bengal and Jharkhand. Due to frequent and immense flood damages, it is also called sorrow of Bengal. • Source: Palamau hills, Jharkhand. • Tributaries/subtributaries: Konar, Barakar, Haharo, Bokaro, Ghari, Jamunia, Khadia, Guaia and Bhera.
<p>EventBot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CERT-In has issued a caution, saying Trojan virus named EventBot is spreading, which steals personal financial information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Trojan is malware that cheats a victim to stealthily attack its computer or phone-operating system. • Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is nodal agency to raise security awareness among Indian cyber community and to provide technical assistance and advise them to help them recover from computer security incidents.
<p>GOAL (Going Online As Leaders) programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is joint initiative of Facebook India with Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode. • Programme intends to upskill and empower 5,000 tribal youths in current phase to harness full potential of digital platforms to learn new ways of doing business, explore and connect with domestic and international markets.
<p>Yakshagana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a traditional Indian theatre form of Karnataka based on mythological stories and Puranas. Most popular episodes are from Mahabharata and Ramayana. • It combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form. • Yaksha means Demi-God, and gana means song. • It is believed to be originated during Bhakti movement in between 11th and 15th century.

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