

3210 children placed in In-country Adoption during the year 2016-2017

As reported by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a total number of 3210 children were placed in In-country Adoption during the year 2016-2017. Adoption Policy has been simplified through the Adoption Regulations, 2017. These Regulations have been made keeping in mind the best interests of the child and streamlining the adoption process further as well as for bringing greater transparency in the adoption system. The entire process has been streamlined and made transparent with fully automated online system with central database.

CARA through CARINGS has further simplified adoption process and has brought in greater transparency through e-governance, where all stakeholders including the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) can monitor the status and progress of their case. The Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) are directly registering on CARINGS w.e.f. 1st August, 2015. All the stakeholders viz - Specialised Adoption Agencies

(SAAs), Authorised Foreign Adoption Agencies (AFAAs), State Adoptions Resource Agencies (SARAs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), NOC Committee and Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) are utilizing this common online application which acts as Central Registry for Adoption under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The Guidelines Governing Adoption of Children, 2015 has been replaced by the Adoption Regulations, 2017. This has been framed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and notified by the Government of India under Section 68(c) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 on 4th January, 2017 under Section 2(3) of the said Act and has come to force in the country w.e.f. 16th January, 2017. One of the key features of the new regulations is that time-lines have been stipulated for each process and the responsibilities of different agencies have been fixed.

PM addresses the National Legislators Conference in Central Hall of Parliament

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today addressed the National Legislators Conference in Central Hall of Parliament. The Prime Minister said, "In every state there are a few districts where development parameters are strong. We can learn from them and work on weaker districts. A spirit of competitiveness and cooperative federalism is very good for country. Public participation always helps. Wherever officials have

worked with people and involved them with the development process, the results are transformative. Essential to identify the areas where districts need improvement and then address the shortcomings. Once we decide to change even one aspect in the districts, we will get the momentum to work on the other shortcomings. We have the manpower, we have the skills and the resources.

Indian Oil Corporation to invest Rs 25,000 crore in Gujarat Refinery

VADODARA: The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest nearly Rs 25,000 crore at its Gujarat Refinery over the next five years. While Rs 1,315 crore will be invested in BS IV fuel project, Rs 3,569 crore will be pumped in BS VI fuel, Rs 15,034 crore will go for capacity expansion from processing 13.7 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTA) to 18 MMTA, Rs 4,517 crore for Oxco-alcohol and Rs 345 crore for revamping Liner Benzene Alkyl (LAB) plant.

Gujarat Refinery executive director (ED), Sudhir Kumar said that the government has given them a deadline of April 2020 for supplying BS VI fuel. "We are investing in the refinery to upgrade the fuel supply but we will also keep

flexibility and adjust according to the demand." The Gujarat Refinery has also planned to sign a MOU with the V Muni. Co. for buying the treated water from its sewage treatment plant. "We plan to buy the treated water from the Chhani STP. Currently they release the water in Mahi River. We can buy the water and use it for industrial purpose. We may need more water after the expansion plans. This will help us in saving water and also benefit the environment. Other industries too can follow the same model," Kumar said. The VMC will have to lay a 9-km pipeline to supply the water to the refinery. IOC will invest nearly Rs 25,000 crore at its Gujarat Refinery over the next five years.

Sizzle This Summer With Caprese

Caprese, the premium ladies handbag brand from VIP Industries, launches its Spring Summer '18 collection. True to the international lineage of Caprese, the latest Spring Summer '18 collection offers a brilliant mix of international high-fashion and functionality.

The new range sees bags in fresh summer hues, and contemporary silhouettes for the modern trendsetter. The collection has a handbag for every occasion.

Four major styles dominate the Spring Summer '18 collection - Cuba, Bruno, Tyler, and Porsche. Each with a personality of their own, making the collection truly versatile.

This new collection from Caprese comprises a wide array of handbags like elegant totes, timeless satchels, sophisticated hobos, smart slingbags, functional laptopbags, and trend-setting backpacks along with awe-inspiring small accessories like



chic wallets and clutches. CUBA range from Caprese is crafted in modern silhouettes with a distinct metal logo plate, easy to grab handles, top zip closure with multiple compartments and detachable sling for all the modern urban women. The CUBA also comprises of an easy access to a back pocket and is available in colors in the price range of INR 1699-3199. (19-10)

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NITI Aayog to work on mechanism for implementation of Minimum Support Price

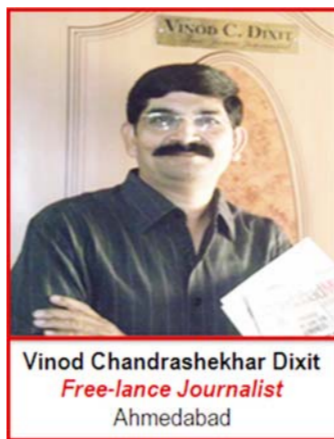
In light of the Finance Minister's budget announcement that NITI Aayog will develop and put in place a fool-proof mechanism, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog presided over a consultation meeting today at NITI Aayog on mechanism for implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different agricultural crops. Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat along with senior Officers of Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, NITI Aayog and Food and Public Distribution, Prime Minister Office and various State Governments participated in the meeting.

In our country, MSP for 24 agricultural commodities of Kharif and Rabi season are announced by the Government based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Prices (CACPC). However, procurement by Central and State Agencies is limited to rice and wheat and some amount of coarse cereals. The Government also procures limited quantity of oil seed and pulses through NAFED, SFAC and some other agencies. The market intervention scheme (MIS) is implemented in case of the prices falling below the threshold level in perishable crops. Three concepts were discussed at the meeting. The first option related to Market Assurance Scheme, which proposes procurement by States and compensation of losses upto certain extent of MSP after the procurement and price realization out of sale of the procured produce. Second option related to price deficiency procurement

scheme. Under this scheme, if the sale price is below a modal price then the farmers may be compensated to the difference between MSP and actual price subject to a ceiling which may not exceed 25% of the MSP. No compensation would be due if modal price in neighboring States is above the MSP. Third option related to Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme, which relates to procurement by private entrepreneurs at MSP and Government providing some policy and tax incentives and a commission to such private entities which may be decided on the basis of transparent criteria and bidding for the panelment of private players by the State Government to do the procurement operations.

The States overwhelmingly welcomed efforts of NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Agriculture for providing a cafeteria of options. They deliberated extensively and gave their inputs on the three options and presented the views of the respective Governments. MOS (Agriculture) stated that more than one options may be adopted by the States depending upon their conditions. Third option of private procurement and stockist scheme offered great promise as it reduces the fiscal implications for the government, involves private entities as partners in agriculture marketing and improves the competition in the market. The Governments liabilities for storage and post procurement management and disposal are also avoided. However, all the three options may not be implemented for the same crop.

Fighting Dengue, Chikangunya & Malaria



The death of several people in all the parts of India linked to an outbreak of dengue, chikangunya and Malaria has once again exposed the inadequacy of national public health programmes that aim to eliminate vector-borne diseases. Chikungunya and dengue have wreaked havoc. Surveillance for dengue and chikungunya in India presently captures only those patients that are laboratory confirmed at government identified sentinel hospitals, most of these are in the public sector.

prove fatal, especially in children and old persons.

Dengue is clearly the disease which has eclipsed in malaria in terms of morbidity and mortality. Dengue fever affects close to 400 million people worldwide each year, with about 40% of the world's population being at risk of exposure and infection.

Malaria, Chikungunya and Dengue which cause lives. The fiasco in mosquito control is the key reason for the diseases and the governments' failure to take the controlling and eradication measures as year through process and only instant specific.

For India to achieve its goal of eliminating malaria by 2030, and curb other vector-



borne diseases, there has to be sustained effort and political will.

The preventive plan should be for bio-environment control, fogging, distribution of bednets, besides quick and effective treatment. The effort should be to control the vector (mosquito), or the disease causing agent, and the host (human).

Malaria disease is one of the worst public health crises



the country has ever faced, endangering one in every six Indians. Death can occur in as little as three days if an FP infection is not properly treated. Nearly 50,000 people die in the country every year due to complications of the disease. While travelling to a malaria endemic zone, anti-malarial tablets may be prescribed to prevent contracting malaria. Immediate diagnosis and treatment can help prevent complications and death. Every time a case of malaria is reported, a mapping exercise is undertaken to intensively fog and spray the pesticides in all surrounding areas. Though an infectious disease, whether a person contracts malaria or not, also depends substantially on how clean the surrounding environments are. One of the major causes of mosquito breeding is water stagnation. Its rather shocking that Indians having knowledge about the excellent benefits of Neem and cowdung, has not

done any research towards the same, in the prevention of malaria. Eliminating malaria is, and should be, a priority for the country, but grand pronouncements are meaningless as long as manipulated data distort our knowledge and bad governance impedes genuine attempts to fight the disease.

Recognition of mosquito breeding should be known to every adult & be taught in schools. Use of mosquito nets should be universalized. The present emphasis on mosquito repellents has done little to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Instead of focusing on the cause we should try to prevent the mosquito from biting us!

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India has huge potential to become the leader in Solar Energy sector: Vice President

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that India has huge potential to become the leader in solar energy sector. He was addressing the inaugural session of ELECRAMA 2018, organized by the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing Association, in Noida, UP today. The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhakar and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Vice President said that the Indian Electrical Equipment Industry consists of generation, transmission, distribution and allied equipment and this industry provides direct employment to 5 lakh persons, indirect to 10 lakh others and over 50 lakhs across the entire value chain. He further said that this industry is facing stiff competition from imports and is seeking the creation of a level playing field for the domestic industry. I am sure the power sector will rise to occasion and ensure that the quality of international standards, he added.

The Vice President said that various initiatives taken by the government have improved India's rank in World Bank's Ease of Getting Electricity Index from 99 to 26. At the end of December 2017, only 1370 villages remained to be electrified out of 18, 452 un-electrified villages, he added.

The Vice President said that global warming and climate change are affecting every aspect of our life and any new policy has to factor in the urgent need to protect environment and ensure sustainable development. He further said that with India ranking second in Renewable Energy Attractive Index 2017, this sector is bound to play a major role in the years ahead. Energy storage technologies are needed not only to create more resilient infrastructure but also to bring down costs, he added.

The Vice President said that electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles will be driving the automobile industry in the coming years. He further said that the government had already unveiled the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan and set a target of 6-7 million units of Electric Vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles by 2020. In a bid to

reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a major thrust is being given to e-vehicles, he added.

Following is the text of Vice President's address:

"I am delighted to inaugurate ELECRAMA-2018, the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing Association's flagship event showcasing the electricity industry's ecosystem. I thank IEEMA and those seated on the dais for the warm welcome extended to me.

I compliment IEEMA for organizing this five-day event to showcase not only the existing technology but also to focus on future solutions for the power sector. That is the way forward as rapid advancements in various technologies and the digital revolution are changing our lives like never before. With IEEMA members representing a combined annual turnover in excess of USD 42 billion and having contributed to more than 95 per cent of the power equipment in India, I am sure you are all geared up to meet the future needs of the country.

The Indian Electrical Equipment Industry consists of generation, transmission, distribution and allied equipment. The industry production for 2016-17 has been estimated to be at Rs.1,52,000 crore, exports at Rs.39, 280 crore (about US\$ 6 Billion) and imports at Rs. 55,290 crore (US \$ 8.5 billion). I am told that the industry provides direct employment to 5 lakh persons, indirect to 10 lakh others and over 50 lakhs across the entire value chain.

I am aware that the Indian electrical industry is facing stiff competition from imports and is seeking the creation of a level playing field for the domestic industry. I am told that a holistic Mission Plan launched by the Government with the support of IEEMA lays down a clear roadmap for enhancing the competitiveness of the domestic electrical equipment industry. At the same time, I am sure the power sector will rise to occasion and ensure that the quality of international standards is maintained for providing uninterrupted power at affordable prices.

Various initiatives taken by the government have improved India's rank in World

Bank's Ease of Getting Electricity Index from 99 to 26. At the end of December 2017, only 1370 villages remained to be electrified out of 18, 452 un-electrified villages.

As envisaged in 'Vision 2022', I urge upon all stakeholders to strive towards making India the country of choice for the production of electrical equipment and reach an output of US \$ 100 billion by balancing exports and imports.

As you all are aware, India has regained the economic momentum and became the fastest growing economy by registering a GDP growth rate of 7.2 per cent in the last quarter. India is projected to become the third largest economy in the world in the next 15 years and the need of the hour is to not only keep up the momentum but to accelerate the growth rate as well. The electrical and electronics industry has a vital role to play in the overall growth architecture of the economy.

Today global warming and climate change are affecting every aspect of our life and any new policy has to factor in the urgent need to protect environment and ensure sustainable development. With India becoming an attractive renewable energy market in the world, promoting clean energy is the way forward. The total installed renewable energy in India touched 62.846 GW by December 2017, around 18.8 per cent of the total energy capacity in the country.

With India ranking second in Renewable Energy Attractive Index 2017, this sector is bound to play a major role in the years ahead as the country looks to meet its energy needs.

According to data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), FDI inflows in the Indian non-conventional energy sector between April 2000 and September 2017

stood at US\$ 6.01 billion.

Friends as you know, energy storage technologies hold the key to meet future energy needs. These technologies are needed not only to create more resilient infrastructure but also to bring down costs. Greater research is needed on energy storage systems. Various energy storage technologies include solid state batteries, flow batteries, compressed air energy, thermal and pumped hydro power.

As far as solar energy is concerned, the national solar mission has been launched to harness its full potential as part of meeting the country's energy security. India has huge potential to become the leader in this area. Solar parks and solar plants have to be established to ensure that solar energy reaches even the remotest corners in the country.

As you all are aware, electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles will be driving the automobile industry in the coming years. The government had already unveiled the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) and set a target of 6-7 million units of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and hybrid electric vehicles by 2020. In a bid to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a major thrust is being given to e-vehicles. The potential for use of environmental-friendly electric vehicles, including hybrid technologies in the country, is vast and has to be fully tapped. The other advantages of e-vehicles, include lower operating costs and reduced dependence on fossil energy. Of course, a major thrust has to be given for vehicle-charging infrastructure. The ensuing demand for EV battery production will provide a huge opportunity for the domestic manufacturing industry. The demand for EV batteries manufacturing domestically will also create several jobs within the country.

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