

**“Discipline Your Mind to Think Positively: Discipline your mind to see the good in every situation and look on the best side of every event.” Roy T. Bennett**

**NATIONAL****CABINET APPROVES NEW BIOFUELS POLICY**

India, the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China, plans to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% from its 2005 levels by 2030.

This is being done as part of its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.

The Union Cabinet approved a national policy on biofuels that seeks to not only help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner but also reduce India’s oil-import dependence.

The policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing the use of sugarcane juice, sugar-containing materials like sugar beet, sweet sorghum, starch-containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, rotten potatoes that are unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.

The policy also provides for a viability gap funding scheme of Rs. 5,000 crore in six years for second generation (more advanced) ethanol bio-refineries in addition to tax incentives and a higher purchase price as compared to first-generation biofuels.

**Helping Double the Farmer’s Income:**

Farmers are at a risk of not getting appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase.

Taking this into account, the policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee

**Categorization of Bio-Fuels:**

The policy, which aims to provide financial and fiscal incentives specific to a biofuel type, categorized biofuels as first generation (1G),

second generation (2G) and third-generation (3G) fuels.

1st generation biofuels are also called conventional biofuels. They are made from things like sugar, starch, or vegetable oil. Note that these are all food products. Any biofuel made from a feedstock that can also be consumed as a human food is considered a first generation biofuel.

2nd generation biofuels are produced from sustainable feedstock. The sustainability of a feedstock is defined by its availability, its impact on greenhouse gas emissions, its impact on land use, and by its potential to threaten the food supply. No second generation biofuel is also a food crop, though certain food products can become second generation fuels when they are no longer useful for consumption. Second generation biofuels are often called “advanced biofuels.”

3rd generation biofuels are biofuel derived from algae. These biofuels are given their own separate class because of their unique production mechanism and their potential to mitigate most of the drawbacks of 1st and 2nd generation biofuels.

The first generation category of biofuels includes bioethanol and biodiesel. The second generation comprises ethanol and municipal solid waste. The third generation includes bio-compressed natural gas (CNG).

**Benefits of Biofuels:**

One crore litres of E10 [petrol with 9-10% ethanol blended in it saves Rs 28 crore of forex at current rates.

The ethanol supply year 2017-18 is likely to see a supply of around 150 crore litres of ethanol which will result in savings of over Rs 4,000 crore of forex.

One crore litres of E10 reduces carbon dioxide emissions by about 20,000 tonnes.

For the ethanol supply year 2017-18, there will be lesser emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> to the tune of 30 lakh tones.

By reducing crop burning and conversion of agricultural residues/wastes to biofuels there

will be further reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The other benefits include a reduction in 62 million metric tonnes of municipal solid waste generated in the country, infrastructure investment in rural areas and job creation.

#### **RS 5, 000 CRORE DEDICATED FUND FOR MICRO-IRRIGATION**

The government on Wednesday approved a dedicated Rs5, 000 crore fund to bring more land area under micro-irrigation as part of its objective to boost agriculture production and farmer's income.

#### **Micro Irrigation Fund:**

'Micro Irrigation Fund' (MIF) has been setup with NABARD under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). An allocation of Rs2,000 crore has been made for this fiscal while Rs3,000 crore has been earmarked for the 2019-20 fiscal. NABARD will extend the loan to state governments during this period.

NABARD will provide this amount to states on concessional rate of interest. Borrowings from NABARD shall be paid back in seven years including the grace period of two years.

The lending rate under MIF has been proposed at 3% lower than the cost of raising the fund by NABARD. This cost would be met from the ongoing scheme of PMKSY-PDMC (per drop more crop component) by amending the existing guidelines.

The dedicated fund would supplement the efforts of PMKSY programme and help bring about 10 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation.

The fund will facilitate States to mobilise resources for their initiatives, including additional (top up subsidy) in implementation of PMKSY-PDMC to achieve the annual target of about 2 million hectares per year during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission.

The states might access this fund for innovative integrated projects, including projects in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and also for incentivizing micro irrigation.

Farmers Producers Organization (FPO)/Cooperatives/State Level Agencies can also access the funds with state government guarantee or equivalent collateral. Farmers Co-operatives may access this fund for innovative cluster based community irrigation projects.

#### **PMKSY:**

PMKSY is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

#### **CELL FOR IPR PROMOTION AND MANAGEMENT (CIPAM) AND NEW MASCOT IP NANI**

The government has launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot – IP Nani.

#### **IP Nani:**

The IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among people, especially children, in an interesting manner.

This character is also in line with the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) campaign for the World IP Day which celebrates the brilliance, ingenuity, curiosity and courage of the women who are driving change in our world and shaping our common future.

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) recently organized a conference on successful completion of two years of the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted by the Government of India in May 2016.

The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy, which was approved by the Union Cabinet in May 2016, is a significant move forward to encourage creativity and stimulate innovation in the country.

Outreach and Promotion is the first and foremost objective of the National IPR Policy and is critical to shaping an IP environment

that is conducive to fostering creativity & innovation in the country.

**CIPAM:**

Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) has been created as a professional body under the aegis of DIPP to take forward the implementation of the National IPR Policy that was approved by the Government in May 2016, with the slogan – “Creative India; Innovative India”.

CIPAM is working towards creating public awareness about IPRs in the country, promoting the filing of IPRs through facilitation, providing inventors with a platform to commercialize their IP assets and coordinating the implementation of the National IPR Policy in collaboration with Government Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders.

**WIPO:**

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations.

It was created in 1967 “to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.”

It has currently 188 member states, administers 26 international treaties, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

India is a member of WIPO and party to several treaties administered by WIPO.

**BHARAT INCLUSION SEED FUND**

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad’s (IIMA’s) centre for innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched ‘Bharat Inclusion Initiative’.

**Bharat Inclusion Initiative:**

The Bharat Inclusion Initiative aims to provide a continuum of solutions to inclusion-focused tech entrepreneurs across the pre-incubation, seed and scale-up stage and help them jump to the next orbit.

It is a \$25 million initiative that will look to mentor and invest in start-ups in the early

stage and seed segment over the next three-four years.

The fund will look at start-ups in areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education, agriculture, and health.

The initiative received an initial pledge of \$12.5 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and Omidyar Network.

**NETWORK FOR SPECTRUM (NFS) PROJECT**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for enhancement of budget by Rs.11,330 crore for the Network For Spectrum (NFS) project.

**Network for Spectrum (NFS) Project:**

Network for Spectrum (NFS) project is for laying of alternate communication network for Defence Services.

The project is being implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

The project will also have forward linkages to other related industries such as telecom equipment manufacturing and other telecommunication related services.

The NFS project will boost the communication capabilities of the Defence Forces in a major way leading to enhanced national operational preparedness.

The project is crucial since the armed forces will migrate all their communication needs to this optic-fibre network and free more bandwidth for commercial telephony services.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION AT BHOPAL**

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal.

**NIMHR:**

NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation. It will serve as an institution of excellence to develop capacity building in the area of mental health rehabilitation and also

help the Government to develop models for effective rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

NIMHR has been established as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

The main objectives of the NIMHR are to provide rehabilitation services to the persons with mental illness, capacity development in the area of mental health rehabilitation, policy framing and advanced research in mental health rehabilitation.

The Institute will conduct 12 courses to offer diploma, certificate, graduate, post graduate, M.Phil degrees in the area of mental health rehabilitation.

#### STARTUP RANKING FRAMEWORK

30 States and Union Territories have participated in the State Startup Ranking Framework 2018 launched by DIPP.

The participating States and UTs shall now be evaluated on a score of 100, against 38 action points categorized into 7 areas of intervention such as Startup Policy and implementation, Incubation support, Seed Funding, Angel and Venture Funding, Simplification of Regulations, Easing Public Procurement and Awareness & Outreach.

In order to evaluate States/UTs in a balanced and transparent manner, the assessment will be based on the aggregate score of the documentary proofs substantiating the implementation of action points by the State/UT Government and also feedback from Startup ecosystem beneficiaries/components.

**DIPP has appointed seven dedicated evaluation committees** involving members from all relevant departments and reputed players in the ecosystem, for evaluating States' responses in each area of intervention.

#### **Ranking Framework:**

The key objective of the Startup States and UTs Ranking Framework is to encourage States and UTs to take proactive steps

towards strengthening the Startup ecosystems at the local level.

The Ranking Framework will measure the impact of each step initiated at the local level for building a strong Startup ecosystem. The Ranking Framework will also enable continuous learning through the dissemination of good practices.

The Ranking Framework is based on the feedback collected from Startup ecosystem stakeholders, which include startups, mentors, investors, accelerators, incubators and the government bodies. Areas which should be given greater thrust like seed funding support, women entrepreneurship are given more score.

The Govt has to align its strategies to tap into the infinite potential of young entrepreneurial minds. Startups need help in the journey from idea to business and business to success. States will also have to take proactive steps to enable startup ecosystems at the local level.

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