

“Turn your obstacles into opportunities and your problems into possibilities.” Roy T. Bennett

NATIONAL**GUJARAT SET TO BE THE FIRST STATE TO OFFER SUBSIDIZED PNG TO POOR HOUSEHOLDS**

Gujarat is set to emerge as the first state to offer subsidized PNG to poor households.

Gujarat has an edge over other states in terms of PNG connections, due to its well-developed pipeline infrastructure and easy availability of gas.

The state has a pipeline network covering over 25,000km for city gas distribution. It will be an extension to Ujjwala Yojana.

Gujarat will launch the new PNG/LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) Sahay Yojana—an extension to the Ujjwala Yojana. The scheme is meant for below poverty line households.

The scheme for select urban areas will supplement Ujjwala for BPL-AAAY households not covered under Ujjwala to help supply households with clean fuel.

As per the scheme, the government will pay Rs1,600 as one-time subsidy per connection and Rs1,725 as loan to customers opting for a new PNG connection.

As a result, a beneficiary will have to pay only Rs118 to get a new connection and a refundable security deposit of Rs50 per month for a period of 100 months.

Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojna:

It is a scheme launched by the Central Government on May 1, 2016 with the aim of bringing happiness to the faces of women of poor families of India. Under this scheme, poor women will get free LPG gas connections.

One of the main objectives of the scheme is to promote women’s empowerment and protect their health.

To provide free LPG connections to the women members of the poor family, the Cabinet has approved a plan of Rs.8000 crore.

MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION LAUNCHED THE GOBAR DHAN SCHEME

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched the ‘Gobar Dhan’ scheme for Nation. The government is also planning to create an online platform for trading cow dung and agricultural waste under the scheme.

GOBAR-Dhan Yojana:

The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme was first announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during his budget speech on February 1. The scheme would focus on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, biogas and bio-CNG. It will help in keeping the village clean while increasing the income of farmers and cattle herders.

Benefits:

This is hugely helpful for the country as India is home to the highest cattle population in the world, close to 300 million in number, with a daily output of 3 million tonnes of dung.

The Scheme will encourage the farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as a waste but as a source of income.

It will provide many benefits to the rural people. It will be easier to keep the village clean and sanitized, livestock health will improve and farm yields will increase.

Biogas generation will increase self-reliance in energy utilized for cooking and lighting.

Farmers and cattle herders will be helped in augmenting their income. There will be novel opportunities for newer jobs linked to waste collection, transportation, biogas sales etc.

The scheme also provides a stable fuel supply in the market for oil companies and accessible credit in the market through government schemes and banks for entrepreneurs.

GOVT. HONOURED CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER TIBETAN STUDIES (CIHTS) TO MARK BUDDHA PURNIMA

PM has honored a prominent institute of Tibetan studies as part of celebrations to mark Buddha Purnima.

He awarded Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS) with the Vaisakh Samman Prasasti Patra.

This was done at the Buddha Jayanti celebrations organized by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

The government has also initiated the process for the development of the Buddhist circuit.

This will help in developing Buddhist spots in U.P., Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and A.P.

The Buddhist Circuits are the Places of all High Significance Holy Sites of Buddhism; where Lord Buddha was born, attained Enlightenment, preached the first Sermon and reached Nirvana.

Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)

CIHTS is a centrally funded institute that was started in 1967 following a discussion between Dalai Lama and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the early 1960s

This was later turned into an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture. It is situated in Sarnath.

15TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS TOL BE HELD IN VARANASI

The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi on January 21 to 23, 2019 with the Indian diaspora having an option to participate in Kumbha Snan and attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.

The event would be inaugurated by PM Modi and his Mauritian counterpart.

It will be organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Uttar Pradesh government.

The theme of the 15th PBD is “Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India”

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

It is a celebratory day observed on 9 January, biennially (after 2015) to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.

The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

It is sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Ministry of DoNER.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA'S GRAVITY RECOVERY AND CLIMATE EXPERIMENT FOLLOW-ON (GRACE-FO) MISSION

NASA is set to launch a pair of new spacecraft that will observe our planet's ever-changing water cycle, ice sheets and crust. The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO) mission, a partnership between NASA and the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), will take over where the first GRACE mission left off when it completed its 15-year mission in 2017.

GRACE- FO mission:

The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-on (GRACE-FO) mission is a partnership between NASA and the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ).

GRACE-FO is a successor to the original GRACE mission, which began orbiting Earth on March 17, 2002.

GRACE-FO will carry on the extremely successful work of its predecessor while testing a new technology designed to dramatically improve the already remarkable precision of its measurement system.

GRACE-FO will continue the work of tracking Earth's water movement to monitor changes in underground water storage, the amount of water in large lakes and rivers, soil moisture, ice sheets and glaciers, and sea level caused by the addition of water to the ocean. These discoveries provide a unique view of Earth's climate and have far-reaching benefits to society and the world's population.
