

New Social Welfare Schemes in the Annual Budget 2014-15.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley submitted his maiden budget for the financial year 2014-15. Some new social development schemes to address the critical issues of the country have been introduced.

1. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

The FM announced this programme in the Budget as a measure to mitigate the risk of monsoon dependent irrigation. The scheme is aimed to give assured irrigation to farmers. The FM proposed to set aside a sum of 1000 crore for this purpose.

2. Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan

Total sanitation by 2019, is the slogan of this programme. Realizing the importance of the sanitation the FM has sought the help of every citizen to achieve this goal. The year 2019 also marks the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

3. Soil Health Card Scheme for Every farmer

The government has initiated this scheme concerning the deteriorating the soil health which leads to sub-optimal utilization of farming resources. The government will initiate to provide every farmer a soil health card a in a mission mode. A sum of Rs. 100 crore is allotted. An additional Rs. 56 crores have been allocated to set up 100 mobile soil testing laboratories across the country.

4. A Dedicated TV Channel for Farmers

Kisan TV, dedicated to the interests of the agriculture and allied sector will be launched in the current financial year. This will disseminate real time information to the farmers regarding new farming techniques, water conservation, organic and farming etc.,

5. Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

“Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana” for feeder separation will be launched to augment power supply to the rural areas and for strengthening sub-transmission and distribution systems. Its long-term aim is to provide 24×7 uninterrupted power supply to all homes. A sum of Rs. 500 crores has been set aside for this scheme.

6. Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana

For the welfare of the tribal people “Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana” is being launched with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore.

7. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana

Government has introduced a new scheme called Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, which will help in generating awareness and improving the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for women with an initial corpus of Rs 100 crore. The government would focus on campaigns to sensitize people of this country towards the concerns of the girl child and women. The process of sensitization must begin early and therefore the school curriculum must have a separate chapter on gender mainstreaming.

8. National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana

The programme called Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) is to be launched for conserving and preserving the heritage characters of these cities. For the beginning programme is launched in the cities such as Mathura, Amritsar, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Vellankani and Ajmer. A sum of Rs. 200 crores is set aside for this purpose. The Project will work through a partnership of Government, academic institutions and local community combining affordable technologies.

9. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission will be launched to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas. The scheme will also include development of economic activities and skill development. The preferred mode of delivery would be through PPPs while using various scheme funds. It is based on the example of Gujarat that has demonstrated successfully the Rurban development model of urbanization of the rural areas, through which people living in the rural areas can get efficient civic infrastructure and associate services.

10. Minorities

A programme for the upgradation of skills and training in ancestral arts for development for the minorities called “Upgradation of Traditional Skills in Arts, Resources and Goods” is to be launched to preserve the traditional arts and crafts, which are rich heritage.

An additional amount of ` 100 crores for Modernization of Madarsas has been in the Budget provided to the Department of School Education.

11. Neeranchal

To give an added impetus to watershed development in the country, a new programme called “Neeranchal” with an initial outlay of ` 2,142 crores in the current financial year. Pashmina Promotion Programme (P-3) and a programme for the development of other crafts of Jammu & Kashmir is also to be started. For this a sum of Rs. 50 crores is set aside.

12. Financial Inclusion Mission

To provide all households in the country with banking services, a time bound programme is to be launched as Financial Inclusion Mission on 15 August in 2014. It would particularly focus to empower the weaker sections of the society, including women, small and marginal farmers and labourers. Two bank accounts in each household are proposed to be opened which will be eligible for credit.

13. Housing for All by 2022

Government has proposed to set up a Mission on Low Cost Affordable Housing to be anchored in the National Housing Bank with a view to increase the flow of cheaper credit for affordable housing to the urban poor/EWS/LIG segment. The government has already outlined some other incentives such as easier flow of FDI in this sector and is willing to examine other positive suggestions. The government has included slum development in the list of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities to encourage the private sector to contribute more towards this activity.