

GENERAL AWARENESS

New CBI Director

Rishi Kumar Shukla, the former Madhya Pradesh DGP has been appointed as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years from the day he assumes office.

Interim Budget 2019-20

Interim Budget presented by the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal, Piyush Goyal in Parliament on 1st February 2019.

It is middle man and Kisan friendly. A big relief given to Income Tax payers also. India is now the 6th largest economy in the world from being the 11th largest in 2013-14 as per the statement of FM. In the budget, 12 crore small and marginal farmers to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs.6000 per annum under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme (PMSYM) to ensure fixed monthly pension to 10 crore unorganised sector workers. They get Rs.3000 per month after 60 years of age with an affordable contribution of only Rs.100 per month.

Under MUDRA Yojana, 15.56 crore loans have been disbursed amounting to Rs.7,23,000 crore.

Defence budget hiked to Rs.3,05,296 crore compared to Rs.2,82,733 crore provided in 2018- 19 Budget Estimates.

This budget also provided Rs.1330 Crore for the Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women allocated.

HRD Ministry was allocated Rs.93,847.64 crore which is more than 10,000 crore from previous year budget allocation. National Education Mission allocation increased by about 20% to Rs.38,572 crore and MSME Ministry allocated Rs.7011.29 Crore.

FM proposed to allocate Rs.60,000 crore for rural employment scheme under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in this Budget.

This budget also placed a sharp focus on protection and empowerment of women and children. Overall budget, the WCD Ministry allocations increased by Rs.4856 crores which is almost 20% higher than the previous year, amounting to Rs.29,165 crores.

Individual taxpayers having taxable annual income up to Rs.5 lakhs will get full tax rebate and therefore will not be required to pay any income tax.

Tax collections increased significantly from Rs.6.38 lakh crore in 2013-14 to almost Rs 12 lakh crore this year. The number of returns filed have also increased from 3.79 crore to 6.85 crore showing 80% growth in tax base.

On the eve of interim Budget, FM Piyush Goyal unveiled Modi govt's 10-point 'Vision 2030'.

Salt Satyagraha Memorial

PM Narendra Modi dedicated the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi in Navsari district, Gujarat to the nation on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on 30th January 2019.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0

PM Narendra Modi interacted with students, teachers and parents, as part of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi on 29th January 2019.

Global Corruption Index 2018

India has improved its ranking on a global corruption index in 2018, rose by three points to 78 (41 points) in the list of 180 countries in the world as revealed in the Transparency International said in its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018.

Denmark topped the index, with 88 points. It was followed by New Zealand, with 87 points and Finland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland with 85. Somalia was the worst with a score of 10 points, while South Sudan and Syria followed it up with 13 points each.

Carnot Prize 2018

The Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal, Piyush Goyal has been awarded the Carnot Prize 2018 for the transformational changes brought by him during his tenure as Union Minister of Power.

During his tenure as Union Minister of Power, coal, new and renewable energy and mines, the minister brought power in 18,000 remote villages, launched world's largest LED bulb distribution program UDAY .

GDP growth rate

Central Statistical Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation issued first revised estimates for the year 2017-18, revising GDP growth to 7.2% instead of the earlier 6.7%. GDP grew at 8.2% in 2016-17, 110 basis points more than the earlier figure of 7.1%, according to the second revised estimates released by CSO on 31st January 2019.

MODEL QUESTIONS

- The combination of Secretaries of Government of India given. The wrong combination is.....
 - Home Secretary - Rajiv Gauba
 - Foreign Secretary - Vijay Keshav Gokhale
 - Economic affairs Secretary - Subhash Chandra Garg
 - Defence Secretary - Sanjay Mitra
 - All of above correct
- In the interim budget, how much interest subvention declared to raise shrimp production and help in boosting the export
 - 4%
 - 5%
 - 1.5%
 - 2%
 - 6%
- Interim Budget 2019-20 has pegged the fiscal deficit for the year 2019-20 at of Gross Domestic Product
 - 1.4%
 - 3.0%
 - 1.6%
 - 3.4%
 - 5.0%
- Government of India promised in interim budget that it will make how many villages into Digital Villages over next five years?
 - Two lakh villages
 - One lakh villages
 - Four lakh villages
 - Ten lakh villages
 - Eight lakh villages

5. Allocation for the North Eastern Areas is being proposed to be increased byto Rs.58,166 crore in 2019-20 Budget Estimates
- 1) 21% 2) 41% 3) 18% 4) 24%
- 5) 45%
6. TDS threshold to be raised from Rs. 10,000 toon interest earned on bank/post office deposits
- 1) Rs. 20,000 2) Rs. 30,000 3) Rs. 50,000 4) Rs. 75,000
- 5) Rs. 40,000

ANSWERS: 1-5; 2-4; 3-4; 4-2; 5-1; 6-5.

Writer: Amara Veeraswamy