

**Budget 2020: Economic activity along the river banks to be energised as per PM's Arth Ganga Concept: Finance Minister**

**JanAushadi Kendra Scheme to be expanded to all the districts in the country with product basket of 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals by 2024.**

**The budget for faster growth for the economy and welfare for the common people. Optimum focus on all sectors: MoS, Mandaviya**

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The Union Budget 2020 widely focused on developing the ease of living for the common citizen of India, with developmental initiatives proposed for Agriculture, rural India, railways connectivity, shipping, Tourism in Inland waterways, reforms in tax and financial market and bringing new education policy.

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget 2020 in the Parliament today stated that the government would set up an institute for heritage and tourism to benefit archaeology and history. Five sites to be developed as "Iconic Sites" within onsite museums at Rakhigadi (Haryana) Hastinapur (UP), Shiv Sagar (Assam) Dholeevera (Gujarat) and Adhichanalur (TN).

FM has also proposed to set up a landmark maritime museum at Lothal, the artificial dockyard of Harappa Civilisation and Tribal museum in Ranchi. As proposed, the Lothal museum will also be an independent research centre of underwater archaeology for reconstruction of maritime history, archaeology of boat building and materials traded. It will display salvaged material from shipwreck sites in the Indian Ocean waters. The museum is being set up with technical help from the Portuguese Maritime Heritage Museum. It is the site of one of the oldest ports in India dating to the Bronze Age.

Highlighting importance of National Waterways, FM stated that Inland Waterways have received a significant boost in the last 5 years. The Jal Vikas Marg (JMVP) on NW-1 will be completed by this year. Further, an 890 km stretch from Dhubri to Sadiya in the state of Assam NW- 2 in river Brahmaputra would be completed by 2022. Also, Corporatizing at least one significant ports and its listing on stock exchanges to be considered and government framework keeping with the global benchmarks needed for more efficient sea-ports has been stated during her budget speech.

Talking about affordable healthcare, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman also said that JanAushadi Kendra Scheme to be expanded to all the districts with product basket of 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals by 2024. The Budget has allocated health sector of Rs 69000 crores that is inclusive of Rs 6400 crores of PMBJP. "Tuberculosis Harega Desh Jeetega" campaign has been launched to strengthen efforts to end tuberculosis by 2025. There are over 20000 empanelled hospitals under PM Jan Arogya Yojana. There is a need for such hospitals in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities for poorer people. Viability Gap funding will be set up for setting up hospitals in PPP mode. Aspirations districts with no Ayushman empanelled hospitals to be also covered in phase 1.

**On the various provisions of budget 2020, Union Minister of Shipping (I/C) and Chemical & Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya said** *"This budget is the foundation for the new India. I would like to thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister & Finance Minister for bringing forth such a positive growth-oriented budget for the country and its economy. I am sure this budget will continue to lead our country's growth much faster along with welfare of the society with a strong focus on all sectors. This budget would also open a vast potential for all the foreign investment in all the businesses sector."*