

# RURAL RESURGENCE THROUGH TRADE, TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGY

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A closer look at each announcement under the three heads (Trade, Tourism and Technology) will reveal that these are not only integrated with each other, they are also all-pervasive and they touch more than just the three sectors. This in itself accentuates the need for inclusive growth. Further, the three Ts entail development within the global, and not merely local, framework.

The three Ts, viz. Trade, Tourism and Technology, on which the Prime Minister has been focusing, play a meaningful role in boosting rural economic growth. Budget 2020-21 has an emphatic stress on these three Ts, both directly and indirectly. Announcements made in the Budget relating to each of these three Ts highlight the significance of reaping economies of scale; the importance of specialisation; need for inclusive growth and integrated development; and the possibility of balancing demographic dividend with technological growth.

## Tapping Trade Potential

Trade helps in an efficient and remunerative utilization of local resources, thereby promoting economic growth. A critical ingredient in

ensuring robust trade is to successfully ensure smooth connectivity between the area supplying the product and the area demanding it. For this purpose, the Budget has announced the launch of *Krishi Udaan* by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on both national and international routes. Another challenge in enhancing trade is to ascertain that products undergo minimum transition while transiting. Estimates of Ministry of Food Processing Industries indicate a mammoth Rs. 93,000 crore of harvest and post-harvest loss, including losses during transportation, in 2016. As per Ministry of Commerce & Industry, agricultural products account for 12 per cent of India's total exports. Underscoring the importance of maintaining the quality of agricultural produce, especially perishables, from their source to destination, the

UNION BUDGET 2020-21

# CULTURE AND TOURISM



NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation
- Five Archaeological Sites as Iconic Sites
- Museum on Numismatics and Trade
- Tribal Museum in Ranchi
- Maritime Museum in Lothal

Our vision is that all “public institutions” at Gram Panchayat level such as Anganwadis, health and wellness centres, government schools, PDS outlets, post offices and police stations will be provided with digital connectivity. So, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections through BharatNet will link 100,000 gram panchayats this year. It is proposed to provide Rs. 6000 crore to BharatNet programme in 2020–21.

Source: Union Budget 2020

Budget has announced the setting up of a *Kisan Rail* through Public-Private Partnership, which will have refrigerated coaches for products like milk, meat and fish.

The Budget announcement on *one produce one district*, i.e. adoption of a product each by a district, is undoubtedly an encouragement to specialisation of particular areas in exporting particular products. Producers can gain from the economies of scale which emerge by concentrating resources in the production of such products.

The intent of the Budget to involve youth in fishery extension through 3,477 *Sagar Mitras* and 500 Fish Farmer Producer Organisations is a step towards augmenting fishery exports. This initiative will have an added advantage of developing the coastal areas which effectively will be beneficial for tourism purposes.

Recognizing credit and refund requirements of exporters, the Budget has announced the launching of NIRVIK and the Scheme for Reversion of Duties and Taxes. The former will provide higher insurance coverage, reduction in premium for small exporters and simplified procedure for claim settlements, while the latter will digitally refund to exporters, duties and taxes levied at the Central, State and local levels, such as electricity duties and VAT on fuel used for transportation, which are not exempted or refunded under any other existing mechanism.

The Finance Minister announced in her Budget speech that it is the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister that each district should develop as an

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**Rs. 6000 crores** to be allocated for BharatNet programme 2020-21

**1,00,000 gram panchayats** to be connected under BharatNet through Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connection

Private sectors to establish **Data Centre Parks** throughout out the country

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export hub. For its implementation a process to prepare specific district export plans for every State and Union Territory has already started. Besides increasing exports, this will lead to specialisation, effective utilization of resources and employment generation.

### Promoting Tourism

Measures taken for economic growth can effectively be inter-twined with policies which are aimed at promoting tourism. Growth of tourism generates employment. Statistics released by Ministry of Tourism show that the number of foreign tourists visiting India have grown from 1,00,35,803 in calendar year 2017 to 1,05,57,929 in 2018. In the first six months of 2019, i.e. from January to June, the figures had already reached 52,66,898. The Budget has a number of viable proposals for promoting tourism in the country. It is proposed to establish an Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation which will have the status of a deemed University. Further, five archaeological sites, viz. Rakhigarhi in Haryana, Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Shivsagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu have been identified as iconic sites with onsite museums. The Budget has announced a museum on Numismatics and Trade and four more museums that will be taken up for renovation and re-curation, besides, support the setting up of a Tribal Museum in Ranchi. An innovative proposal is to set up a maritime museum in Lothal, the

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In the historic Old Mint building Kolkata, a museum on Numismatics and Trade will also be located. Four more museums from across the country shall be taken up for renovation and re-curation so that a world class experience can be offered to visitors. Our government shall also support setting up of a Tribal Museum in Ranchi (Jharkhand).  
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*Source: Union Budget 2020*

Harrapan age maritime site near Ahmedabad, by Ministry of Shipping.

The overall approach of the Budget in guaranteeing wellness, water and sanitation is a necessary pre-cursor to attracting tourists. Adequate infrastructure is another pre-requisite for tourism. As per the Budget a National Logistics Policy will be announced soon. The Policy will create a single window e-logistics market and focus on generation of employment, skills and make Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises competitive. The Budget has announced augmenting connectivity through accelerated development of highways, including 2,500 km access control highways; 9,000 km of economic corridors; 2,000 km of coastal and land port roads; and 2,000 km of strategic highways. It has also outlined measures important for railways, which carry as much as 40 per cent of the total freight in the country. A very vital of these measures is the announcement related to having more *Tejas*-like trains which connect attractive tourist destinations in India's hinterland. This assumes even more importance in the backdrop of the growing trend of people visiting and reveling in rural India, including hosting destination weddings there. This has been further bolstered by Ministry of Tourism's initiatives on promoting rural tourism.

### Technology and Integrated Development

There is no denying that there is a growing presence of technology, especially information technology, in both farm and non-farm related activities. The contribution of software and information technology-enabled services in the country's GDP, employment and exports has been rising in recent years. The Budget's vision is to provide digital connectivity to all

public institutions at Gram Panchayat level such as Anganwadis, health and wellness centres, government schools, PDS outlets, post offices and police stations. The target is to achieve Fibre-to-the-Home connections through Bharatnet which will link 100,000 Gram Panchayats in 2020-21. Further, the Budget seeks to improve efficiency of sea ports by using technology. Besides, the Budget also mentions about creating a digital platform which would facilitate seamless application and capture of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs); establishing a Centre in an Institute of Excellence to work on the complexity and innovation in the field of IPRs; setting up of Knowledge Translation Clusters across different technology sectors; scaling up Technology Clusters; and mapping India's genetic landscape through national level science schemes.

The importance of education in building a nation cannot be over-emphasized. Ministry of Human Resource Development's press release shows that the total enrolment in higher education as a percentage of the population in the 18-23 years age group in the country was 24.5 per cent in 2015-16. A pragmatic approach towards using technology in providing quality education has been adopted by the Budget for students of deprived sections of the society and for those who do not have access to higher education. The Budget proposes to start online degree level full-fledged education programmes by institutions which are ranked within top 100 in the National Institutional Ranking framework.

While the above paragraphs have summarised the Budget announcements pertaining to the three Ts, a closer look at each announcement under the three heads will reveal that these are not only integrated with each other, they are also all-pervasive and they touch more than just the three sectors mentioned. This in itself accentuates the need for inclusive growth. Further, the three Ts entail development within the global, and not merely local, framework. For enhancement of the three Ts, viz. trade, tourism and technology, the Budget has advocated the three As, viz. affordability, availability and accessibility.

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