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# Info Capsule

## **TECH ENABLED INITIATIVES TO BRING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LABOUR LAWS, SAYS ECONOMIC SURVEY<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic Survey 2017- 18 highlights several Labour reform measures. The Survey mentions the specifics of technology driven initiatives that ensure delivery by reducing complexity in compliance and bring transparency and accountability for better enforcement of Labour laws. This was stated in the Economic Survey 2017- 18 tabled in Parliament by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley. The Survey takes stock of legislative reforms in Labour sector that are being implemented for creation of employment opportunities and for providing sustainable livelihoods for the population who are largely engaged in informal economy.

The Survey notes that the Government has undertaken numerous technology enabled transformative initiatives such as Shram Suvidha Portal, Ease of Compliance to maintain registers under various Labour Laws/Rules, Universal Account Number, and National Career Service portal in order to reduce the complexity in compliance and to bring transparency and accountability for better enforcement of the labour laws.

The Survey mentions that there has been highest ever budget allocation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during 2017-18. About 4.6 crore households were provided employment totalling 177.8 crore person days during 2017-18 as on January 14, 2018. Out of this, 54 per cent were generated by women, 22 per cent by Schedule Castes and 17 per cent by Schedule Tribes.

## **INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE REFLECTED IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ECONOMIC SURVEY<sup>2</sup>**

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley tabled the Economic Survey 2017-18 in Parliament.

The Chapter on Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate Change notes India's commitment to environment and climate change that is reflected in the number of actions in supporting sustainable development goals while retaining reliance on cleaner energy, including cleaner, greener coal. It states that India has strengthened its response to the threat of climate change in accordance with the principles of equity and Common; But Differentiated Responsibilities and in the light of national circumstances with the "Paris Pledge" to reduce the emission intensity of GDP by 33-35 percent over 2005 levels by the year 2030.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1518060>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1518043>

On the issue of sustainable development, the Survey says that India's urban population is projected to grow to about 600 million by 2031. It suggests that Urban Local Bodies generate resources through financial instruments such as municipal bonds, PPPs and credit risk guarantees. The Survey says that access to sustainable, modern and affordable energy is the basis of achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Stating that as on November 30, 2017, the share of renewable energy sources was 18 percent in the total installed capacity of electricity in the country and that the increasing share of renewables has trebled in the last 10 years.

Outlining India's commitment to address Climate Change, the Survey mentions establishment of 8 Global Technology Watch Groups, extending Climate Change Action Programme launched in 2014 for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a budget outlay of Rs. 132.4 crore and continuation of National Adaption Fund on Climate Change till March 31, 2020 with financial implication of Rs. 364 crore.

### ***Team ICSI***

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