

Summary of important PIB release: 05/09/2024

1. MeitY launches 2nd Cohort of Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is working for the growth of India's software product industry under the National Policy on Software Products (NPSP) - 2019. Indian software product industry including startups are being supported through various programmes such as Centre of Excellences, Technological Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) programme, Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS), ICT Grand Challenges, Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS) etc.

About SAMRIDH: Bolstering Indian Software Startups

SAMRIDH is a flagship programme of MeitY for startups acceleration under National Policy on Software Products – 2019. The SAMRIDH programme, launched in August 2021 aims to support **300 software product startups** with outlay of **₹99 crore** over a period of 4 years. SAMRIDH is being implemented through potential and established accelerators across India which provide services like making products market fit, business plan, investor connect and international expansion to startups plus matching funding upto ₹40 lakh by MeitY. The scheme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC).

Diverse Accelerator Network for SAMRIDH

As part of this programme, the **second cohort** SAMRIDH was launched yesterday (4th September, 2024) by Secretary, MeitY Sh. S. Krishnan. It is a part of the 100-day agenda of the Government of India to **select** and **support 125 startups** through potential accelerators so as to achieve the **target of nurturing 300 startups**. The interested accelerator may apply for 2nd cohort of SAMRIDH at

<https://msh.meity.gov.in/schemes/samridh>

In the **first cohort** of SAMRIDH, **22 accelerators from 12 States** were selected through open calls for proposals. List of accelerators comprises of Government Supported Organizations, Academic Institutions, Private sector and early-stage start-up funding platforms. These accelerators then select 5-10 startups each in the focused areas of health-tech, ed-tech, agri-tech, consumer-tech, fin-tech, Software as a service (SaaS), and sustainability through a multi-level screening process.

2. Intellectual Property Awards 2024: Celebrating Innovation and Excellence

The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade invites applications for the Intellectual Property Awards 2024. This prestigious initiative is dedicated to recognizing and honoring outstanding accomplishments in the field of intellectual property across a variety of sectors, including academia, R & D institutes, MSME, Start-Up, Corporations and Individuals.

The National IP Awards aim to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of innovators, institutions, and professionals who have significantly advanced the realm of intellectual property in India.

CGPDTM invites individuals, academic institutions, R&D institutions, large corporations, MSMEs, startups, and other entities to submit their entries and participate in this esteemed awards program. The awards provide a valuable opportunity for organizations to gain recognition for their groundbreaking research and innovations, thereby enhancing their reputation within academic, industrial, and public spheres.

For more information visit the official website or contact the CGPDTM office or write to Email: ipawards.ipo@gov.in

3. Global study by leading experts: Swachh Bharat Mission Drives Significant Reductions in Infant Mortality Rates in India

New Delhi- A recent study published in Nature, world's leading multi-disciplinary science journal, by leading experts reveals that the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), India's ambitious national sanitation program, has contributed significantly to reducing infant and under-five mortality rates across the country – averting 60,000 – 70,000 infant lives annually. The study, which utilized a quasi-experimental design, provides robust evidence linking increased toilet access under SBM with improved child survival outcomes. Launched in 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, SBM is one of the largest national behavioral change sanitation programs in the world, aimed at eliminating open defecation by providing household toilets across the country. This unique programme has now metamorphosed into ensuring Sampurna Swachhata in the country.

Study Overview and Key Findings:

The study analyzed data from 35 Indian states and 640 districts spanning a decade (2011-2020), focusing on infant mortality rate (IMR) and under-five mortality rate (U5MR) per thousand live births as the primary outcomes.

Key findings include:

Inverse Association Between Toilet Access and Child Mortality: Historically, toilet access and child mortality have shown a robust inverse association in India.

Scale of Impact: Toilets constructed increased dramatically across India following the implementation of the SBM in 2014. **Over 117 million toilets have been constructed since 2014 with a public investment of over 1.4 lakh crore.** Results from the analyses suggest that for every 10 percentage point increase in district level access following SBM corresponds with a reduction in district level IMR by 0.9 points and U5MR by 1.1 points on average. There is further evidence of a threshold effect wherein the district level toilet coverage of 30% (and above) corresponds with substantial reductions in infant and child mortality. The study revealed that districts with over 30% toilet coverage under SBM experienced reductions of 5.3 in the IMR and 6.8 in the U5MR per thousand live births. **In absolute numbers, this coefficient would scale to 60,000 – 70,000 infant lives annually.** This finding was supported by robustness checks and falsification tests, confirming the validity of the results.

SBM's Unique Approach: SBM's approach of combining toilet construction with substantial investments in IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) and community engagement represents a marked departure from prior sanitation efforts in India, which often lacked such comprehensive strategies.

Novel Evidence of Impact: The study provides novel evidence of reductions in infant and child mortality following SBM's comprehensive national sanitation program, indicating its transformative role in improving public health outcomes.

Methodology: The study employed two-way fixed effects regression models to control for sociodemographic, wealth, and healthcare-related

confounders at the district level, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between sanitation improvements and child mortality.

Broader Public Health Benefits: The study also highlights that expanded access to toilets under SBM likely reduced exposure to fecal-oral pathogens, contributing to lower incidences of diarrhea and malnutrition, which are key drivers of child mortality in India.

Implications for Public Health and Future Directions:

The findings underscore the critical role of sanitation in improving child health and reducing mortality. The evidence from SBM's implementation provides a powerful case for the continued expansion of sanitation programs as part of broader public health strategies. The study's results suggest that future efforts should focus on sustaining behavioral changes and ensuring that constructed toilets are utilized effectively to maximize health benefits.

4. Fishery Sector of India

The fisheries sector, a cornerstone of the Indian economy, plays a crucial role in national income, exports, and food security. Known as the 'Sunrise Sector,' it supports around 30 million people, especially from marginalized communities. As the world's second largest fish producer, India achieved a record production of 17.5 million tons (in 2022-23), contributing 8% to the global fish production. The sector's significance is highlighted by its 1.09% contribution to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) and over 6.724% to agricultural GVA. With immense growth potential, the fisheries sector requires focused policy and financial support for sustainable, responsible, and inclusive development.

The Government of India has spearheaded the transformation of the fisheries sector through various schemes and initiatives such as PMMSY, FIDF, Blue Revolution, PMMKSSY etc, with the highest ever investment of Rs 38,572 crore since 2015. As a result of these policies and initiatives, India proudly stands 2nd in global fish production. India's seafood exports touched an all-time high in volume during the financial year 2023-24 despite various challenges in significant export markets. India shipped 1.78 million tons of seafood worth ₹60,523.89 crore during 2023-24. In the last one decade, there has been a boom in shrimp cultivation and export. The shrimp exports have more than doubled with an increase of about 107% from Rs. 19,368 crore (in 2013-14) to Rs. 40,013.54 crore (in 2023-24). This has resulted in tremendous progress in

seafood exports, which has increased with an average annual growth rate of 14% in the last 10 years.

5. National Seminar by SSS-NIBE explores Challenges, Opportunities, and Developments in Biomass Supply Chain Management

A one-day “National Seminar on Biomass Supply Chain Management: Challenges, Opportunities, and Developments” has been organized at MGSIPA Complex in Chandigarh today, September 5, 2024, to understand and address the challenges and opportunities associated with the efficient management of biomass supply chains (BSC) in the country. The seminar has been organized by Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy Technology (SSS-NIBE), Kapurthala, an autonomous institution of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. The seminar seeks to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange to facilitate the development of cost-effective and efficient biomass supply chains to support India's transition to a circular bio-economy.

About SSS-NIBE

Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy (SSS-NIBE) is an autonomous institute of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India. The Institute is an R&D Institute with a mandate to focus on Bio-energy and develop innovative technology.

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