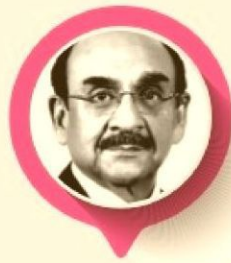




**HARSH PATI SINGHANIA**  
DIRECTOR, JK ORGANISATION

**The Budget** has reemphasised the journey outlined in the Economic Survey to a \$5-trillion economy... Almost two crore new affordable houses will be built in rural areas in addition to 1.5 crore already built



**AJAY S SHRIRAM**  
CHAIRMAN & SENIOR MD, DCM SHRIRAM

**The plan** to incubate 10,000 FPOs will help farmers reduce input costs and realise better prices... More marketable surpluses will be moving from rural to urban, and FPOs can be the critical link between producers & organised retail



**ANIL JAIN**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN & MD,  
JAIN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

**Under Pradhan** Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, allocation has been raised from ₹2,954 cr to ₹3,500 cr... The focus on setting up 10,000 farmer producer organisations will help create a better agri value chain

# High on rural livelihoods talk



ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM KUMAR PRASAD

Focus to be on fisheries, dairying & traditional industries; outlays, though, not encouraging

## SARTHAK RAY

**BUDGET FY20 IS** high on prescriptions to bolster rural livelihoods, especially farm-linked and non-farm ones. Pisciculture and fishing will be thrust in the coming fiscal, with the government proposing the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. FM Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech, said, "This will address critical gaps in the value chain, including infrastructure, modernisation, traceability, production, productivity, post-harvest management, and quality control."

From the ₹645 crore that the newly-created department of fisheries (under ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying) receives for "central sector expenditure other than establishment expenditure" and centrally-sponsored schemes, ₹560 will be earmarked for Blue Revolution — this is a climb from the FY19 (RE) spend of ₹501 crore (though Budget FY19 had allocated ₹642 crore) and the FY18 actual of ₹321 crore. The fisheries sector has grown from 4.9% in FY13 to 11.9% in FY18 and fish, and fish products exports accounted for ₹47,620 crore in FY19.

The Centre approved the creation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) last year, with a fund size of ₹7,522 crore to extend loans over FY19 to FY23 at concessional rates to states/UTs, state government entities, coop-

eratives, individuals and entrepreneurs, to achieve 15 million tonne production by 2020 under Blue Revolution and generate employment for 9.4 lakh fisherfolk.

Dairying will be another thrust area though the Budget allocates only ₹2,140 crore for White Revolution while FY19 (RE) allocation was of ₹2,430 crore.

The Budget also talks of the Scheme of Fund for Upgradation and Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) to set up common facility centres for traditional industries, especially bamboo, honey and khadi. While the National Bamboo Mission receives a marginally more significant ₹150 crore, the Khadi Grant falls from ₹413 crore in FY19 (RE) to ₹308 crore in FY20 (BE). Under SFURTI, which receives ₹125 crore, 100 new clusters will be set up in the current fiscal to enable 50,000 artisans to join the value-chain.

Another scheme, ASPIRE (Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship) will receive ₹50 crore, against ₹224 crore in FY19 (RE), to develop 75,000 skilled agro-rural entrepreneurs. The FM also said the government would support private enterprise working on other revenue streams from farm activities, such as the generation of renewable energy. While farmers can benefit from existing schemes on farm-based solar-generation and grid connectivity, unless the government subsidises the cost of solar panels, it is very difficult for these to take off.