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**News: Standup India Scheme**

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India has acknowledged the role that the Stand-Up India initiative has played in empowering the SC/ ST communities and ensuring women empowerment.

**Stand-Up India Scheme**

- The Stand – Up India scheme aims at promoting entrepreneurship among women and scheduled castes and tribes.
- The scheme is anchored by **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, and Government of India.**
- The scheme offers **bank loans** of between **₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore** to at least one **scheduled castes and scheduled tribes borrower and at least one women borrower per bank branch** for setting up a Greenfield enterprise outside of the farm sector.
- Government **does not allocate funds for loans under the Stand Up India Scheme.** Loans under the Scheme are extended by SCBs as per commercial parameters; Board approved policies of respective banks and extant RBI guidelines.
- This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services or the trading sector.

- **SC/ST and/or woman entrepreneurs above 18 years of age** are eligible for loans under the scheme.
- Loans under the scheme are available for **only green field project**. Green field signifies, in this context, the first time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing or services or trading sector.
- The scheme is operated **by all the branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India**.
- A total of 1, 16,266 loans amounting to Rs. 26204.49 crore extended under the Scheme since inception.
- Recently the Union Budget 2019-2020 has extended Stand-Up India Scheme up to 2025.